

The Northern Forest Forum
POB 6
Lancaster, NH 03584
Address Correction Requested

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lancaster, NH
Permit No. 6

The Northern Forest Forum

Working for Sustainable Natural & Human Communities

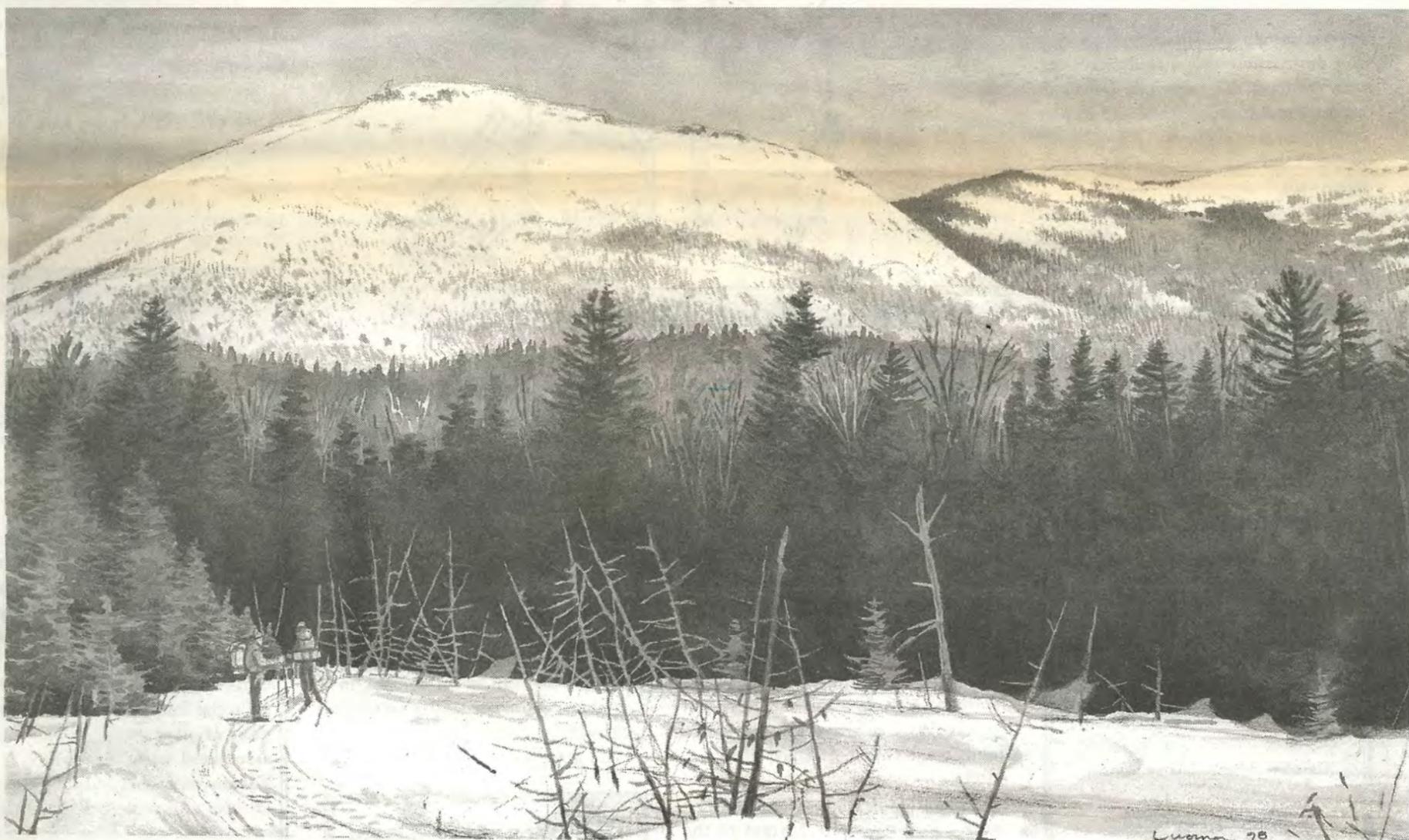
\$3.00

Volume 6 No. 4

Mud Season 1998

Wild Ideas

Wilderness & Wildlands Proposals for the Northern Forest
Special Section Pages 11-19



PROTECTED WILDLANDS IN MAINE'S BAXTER STATE PARK

Inside

➤ News from Across the Region

- Railway Herbicide Victory in Vermont p. 6
- Failure of Forest Practices Reform in Maine pp. 9 & 25
- Coastal Waters Watch p. 10
- Quebec Wilderness Under Siege pp. 20-23
- NH Liquidation Report p. 24
- Acid Rain Corroding the Adirondacks p. 28

& much more

Why Wilderness?

The recognition that Nature is greater and more awesome than humanity creates the unfortunate confidence that Creation can absorb whatever we throw at It.

Whether we consider human population, the burning of carbon, or the destruction of habitat, it has been long assumed that we could not destroy, merely defile.

We are thus at an awesome crossroads in at least human thought. The possibility that we could destroy Earth itself has crept into human psychology. The Grateful Dead in their song *Throwing Stones* suggest we shall leave our planet a blackened stone. Like Neil Young's silver seeds flying to a new home in the sun, some seek a transcendental way out—but whether any other planet in its right mind would welcome time-travelling humans is a good question. After expulsion from Eden the human stories just get worse . . .

Why Wilderness?

Here in the Northern Forest we enjoy a certain insulation from poverty and destruction—we already have the car. We have the economic power to export any distasteful wastes, to import destructive energy, and read about rather than experience most of the world's ills.

Environmental Apocalypse is not necessarily on our minds. We can

believe in the ultimate victory of Nature. But we do not know.

We can see however that our economic system is not content with limits. It will eat what it can. Every sizeable

town in the region has its strip, its new homes, its growing population. We do not live simply: we eat from stores, we burn gasoline, we consume paper.

Our developed landscape and its

dictates are more than external, however. Their internal corollary is the lobotomization of psyche. Our culture is marching; it favors the conforming; it stifles the expressive.

Wilderness will not make up for the untenability of human consumption—but it will address the survival of other species—and perhaps Life itself. Wilderness is also liberation of the human mind, a suggestion that it is not entirely paved.

Adirondack Model

If we were to apply the example of the Adirondacks to the wider Northern Forest, and the model of non-extractive reserves to our marine ecosystems as well, we could restore significant missing pieces of the region's ecology. We could ensure survival of bear, wolf and catamount and creatures that rely on big trees and decaying wood. Unmanaged forest could sequester more carbon than forty year rotation plantations.

Should it also be within humanity's capacity to unravel the life process of Earth itself, the wilderness areas we establish will also be a humble, fitting and untamed gesture. We occupy a chunk of Earth here; we have no other home. Trees, creatures and water may be able to knit back together what we so blithely assumed could never be destroyed.

—AW



How Now Brown Cow?

Some cows refuse to be milked and are soon hamburger. Perhaps this is the lesson of the failure of forest practices reform in the state of Maine and its intangible progress in New Hampshire (jury out in Vermont).

The conservation community, if this phrase is still apt, should turn to the more fundamental task of organizing the public support for creating wilderness. A coherent plan for purchasing paper company lands (and smaller parcels liquidated by contractors) as they come on the market across Northern New England should be put forward as a positive alternative to another referendum or failed legislative effort.

Sustainable silviculture and low impact forestry are important to the

future rural economic health of the region. An industry that down-sizes, mechanizes, pollutes, and runs down its resource base undercuts its own viability. But at present we are at a stalemate between reform and the status quo.

Wilderness transcends economic arguments and justifications. Challenging economic interests will continue to raise obstacles that a wilderness campaign for the region can sidestep altogether (well, almost). Bear, moose, wolves and catamounts are positive icons that can excite a public in a way that residual stocking standards never will.

—AW

NARP Mission Statement

The Northern Forest Forum is the voice of the Northern Appalachian Restoration Project (NARP), a non-profit grassroots activist network dedicated to promoting sustainable natural and human communities throughout the Northern Forest region of New York, Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire. For information about NARP or its individual projects, please write to: NARP, PO Box 6, Lancaster, NH 03584.

Editorial Staff This Issue

Andrew Whittaker—Editor
 Mitch Lansky—Assistant Editor
 Pamela Prodan—Assistant Editor
 Jamie Sayen—Publisher
 Kit Kuntze—Advisor
 Luke O'Brien—Circulation

Contributing Writers

Barbara Alexander, Peter Bauer,
 Jean English, Traci Hixson,
 Ron Huber, Mitch Lansky,
 Alexis Lathem, Alex Lee,
 Robert Long, Paula MacKay,
 Luke O'Brien, Grace Elena Phillips,
 Michael Phillips, Pamela Prodan,
 David Publicover, Jym St. Pierre,
 Caroline Snyder, Sharon Tischer

Photographers

Conrad Heeschen, Alexis Lathem,
 Gustav Verderber, Carol Westinghouse

Artists

Gary T. Causer, Carol Leslie,
 Jon Luoma, Rachel O'Meara,
 Pamela Prodan, Salmon Raven Deer,
 Amy Delventhal Saffian

The Northern Forest Forum is published six times a year by The Northern Appalachian Restoration Project
 A Non-Profit Organization

Illustration Credits

↳ Gary T. Causer—page 3
 ↳ Carol Leslie—page 2
 ↳ Jon Luoma—Front Cover, pages 9, 21, 23, 25, 27,
 ↳ Rachel O'Meara—Mast, pages 4, 30
 ↳ Pamela Prodan—page 28
 ↳ Amy Delventhal Saffian—page 31
 ↳ Salmon Raven Deer—page 7

Special Wilderness Section Begins on Page 11.

Forum Editorial Policy

The Northern Forest Forum journal is published bi-monthly and provides news, features and analysis of issues important to the Northern Forest and adjoining regions. Its editorial views are those of the Editorial Staff, and not necessarily those of other groups or individuals associated with the Forum. The Forum welcomes submissions of articles and news relating to the sustainability of life in the region; these are most appreciated on Mac-readable disk. Please address material to: POB 72, East St. Johnsbury, VT 05838.

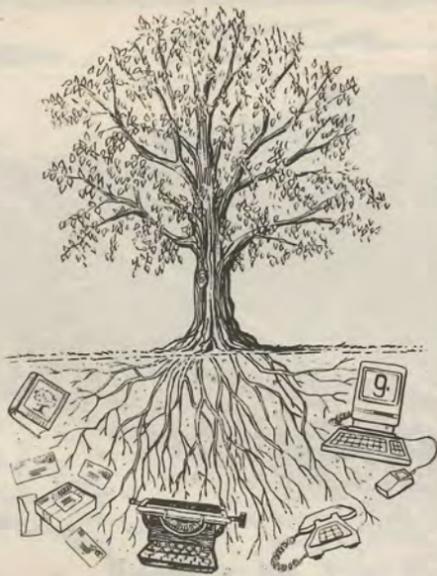
Please Subscribe to the Forum!

If you like what you see, or receive a complimentary copy of the Forum, consider a subscription. A subscription blank is provided on the back page.

LETTERS

TO THE

EDITOR



Forest Society Seeks Middle Ground

To the Editor:

Re. Caroline Snyder's recent letter to the editor regarding the position of the Society for the Protection of NH Forests on House Bill 1431, an act prohibiting the aerial application of herbicide in forestry.

We respect Ms. Snyder's right to disagree with the Forest Society on this complex issue. However, it is unfortunate that she chose to publicly disparage our policy director's credibility—and by implication the Forest Society's—without first checking on how, and why the Forest Society took the position that it did.

Our position to oppose HB 1431 was debated and approved by our Policy Advisory Committee, comprising both board and non-board members. It is consistent with positions taken by the Forest Society in 1994 and 1997, prior to Mr. Niebling's employment here, on legislation relating to aerial application of herbicides. Last year, the Forest Society opposed HB 463 in favor of a continuation of the regulatory review process undertaken by the Pesticide Control Board (PCB). We offered extensive comments to the PCB on new regulations concerning public notification, information required of the applicant, criteria for permit review, and appeals of the PCB decisions to approve or deny permits.

Our mission in land conservation and promoting sustainable forestry

requires that we weigh many issues in taking the position that we did on HB 1431, not the least of which is the comparative risk associated with the chemicals and methods used by Champion and Mead, the two landowners in northern New Hampshire who utilize this practice. It also reflects a commitment to let the regulatory review process run its course, consistent with our position, and the position of the NH Legislature, taken last year.

What is truly unfortunate about this debate is that the prohibition on herbicide spraying contained in HB 1431 forces the issue to be portrayed as either *black* or *white*. To those who oppose this practice, there is no middle ground. Ms. Snyder has chosen to interpret the Forest Society's position as *for* herbicide spraying, rather than *against* a prohibition on the practice. An organization which seeks to find a reasonable middle ground on this issue is thus vilified by those who support the prohibition.

Again, we respect Ms. Snyder's position and the dedication that she brings to advocating her perspective. Readers may contact the Forest Society at 54 Portsmouth St., Concord, NH 03301 for more information on this issue.

Sincerely,
Jane A. Difley
President/Forester

Allagash Wilderness Waterway Public Meetings

Public meetings for comment on Maine's Allagash Wilderness Waterway Management Plan have been announced by the Bureau of Parks and Lands.

The Waterway has unfortunately become a focal point in Maine's current controversy between "Sportsmen" and others who demand drive-in access and increased motorized recreation, and wilderness advocates who prefer limited access and a "remote" canoe and fishing experience. Anyone who knows or cares about the Allagash should try to attend one of these meetings. The Bureau needs to hear in no uncertain terms that there is a constituency for wildness and remoteness, as well as easy access.

There are many important issues to be addressed. Call Jon Luoma at (207) 586-5706 for information or details.

If you are unable to attend, please send written comments to: Tom Cieslinski, Bureau of Parks and Lands, State House Station #22, Augusta, ME 04333. Copies of the latest management plan draft can be obtained from this address.

Public Meetings will be held on:

- May 12, Black Bear Inn, Orono; 6:30 PM.
- May 14, Ashland High School Gym, Ashland; 6:30 PM.
- May 19, Ramada Inn, Lewiston; 6:30 PM.

Low Impact Forestry Workshop

Saturday, May 16, 1998
Ellsworth, Maine

Dear Editor:

Your readers might be interested in a low impact forestry workshop and demonstration we have planned for Saturday, May 16, 1998. This session, which will be held in Ellsworth, focuses on low-impact harvesting methods and should be of interest to woodlot owners, loggers and foresters.

A demonstration of equipment options will be held in the afternoon at The Black House in Ellsworth. Workshops are planned in the morning on various topics including wood utilization and product marketing options. Loggers attending may be able to obtain CLP (Certified Logging Professional) recertification credits.

Those interested can contact me at 207-667-7131 for additional information.

Thanks,
Ron Poitras
Hancock County Planning
Commission

SPNHF Does It Again

Dear Editor:

At a March 3 public meeting in the Sandwich Town Hall, concerned local citizens opposing the US Forest Service timber sale in the historical Sandwich Notch area (adjacent to a designated Wilderness area) were joined by members of the NH Greens, the Sierra Club of NH, and the Wilderness Society. The only person that appeared to be in favor of this 200 acre cut (which includes clear cutting 75 acres and "improving" 2.5 miles of the Notch Road, was a representative of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

Caroline Snyder
Sandwich

Patagonia International Design Competition

Patagonia, the outdoor equipment company, announces its International Design Competition, with a first place prize of 15,000 smack-ers. Design ideas for outdoor products will be judged on form, function, beauty and impact on the Earth. The entry deadline is August 3rd, 1998. For more information, call 888-344-4567 ext. 4809. Or visit <http://www.patagonia.com>.

FOREST ECOLOGIST LAUDS ICE STORM COVERAGE

To the Editor:

I enjoyed reading the articles on the ice storm in the recent Northern Forest Forum. Combating the knee-jerk reaction to salvage everything that gets damaged from any natural event is an uphill battle, but articles and suggestions like yours should help.

The enclosed article ["Forest Response to Disturbance and Anthropogenic Stress: Rethinking the 1938 Hurricane and the impact of physical disturbance vs. chemical and climate stress on forest ecosystems," by David R. Foster, John D. Aber, Jerry M. Melillo, Richard D. Bowden, and Fakhri A. Bazzaz, published in *Bioscience*, July/August 1997] summarizes the comparative research in our LTER [The Harvard Forest Long Term Ecological Research program, initiated in 1988] and strongly supports your perspective on salvage. We basically came to two conclusions: anthropogenic stresses like N deposition and global warming may be much more disruptive than "catastrophic" physical damage and, in retrospect, the aftermath of the 1938 hurricane was much like a massive logging event.

Best,
David Foster

Note: David Foster works at the Harvard Forest in Petersham, MA. He is one of the most respected researchers in forest ecology in the region.



January ice storm damage to a red pine plantation in western Maine. Photo © Conrad Heeschen.

Adirondack Park Report

by PETER BAUER



The Adirondack Park is a model for people living amidst wild areas in a way beneficial to both. At six-million acres in size—bigger than the State of Vermont—the Adirondack Park contains a checkerboard of publicly owned Forest Preserve lands (2.5 million acres), managed as wilderness, and 3.5 million acres of private lands, 2.5 million of which is commercially managed forests.

The Forest Preserve lands are “to be forever kept as wild forest.” This constitutional provision is the tightest wilderness protection in the U.S.; no timber harvesting, strictly limited use of motor vehicles. Created in 1885, lands in the Forest Preserve represent 85 percent of the total wilderness east of the Mississippi River.

130,000 people spread throughout more than 100 communities make their home and livelihood in the Adirondacks. The Adirondack Park is not only a place where people and wilderness systems coexist, but represents a successful model for large-scale landscape protection. Each issue the “Adirondack Park Report” details the most pressing recent issues facing the Adirondack Park.

Marylou (Whitney) Hendrickson Backs Out of Easement Agreement

The big news in the Adirondacks is that Marylou (Whitney) Hendrickson has backed out of the \$3 million “Preservation Agreement” with the Nature Conservancy on the southern 36,000 acres of her estate.

No reason was given. Last December Mrs. Hendrickson, besides selling 14,780 acres surrounding Little Tupper Lake to the state, had agreed to a 10-year Preservation Agreement on the remaining 36,000 acres of her estate with the Adirondack Nature Conservancy and Land Trust. In essence this Agreement was a lease for \$8.33 per acre for 10 years.

The hope was to build a positive relationship with Mrs. Hendrickson so that eventually more land could be protected either through state purchase for the Forest Preserve or by purchase of a conservation easement.

The main deal for additional Forest Preserve wilderness is still on and will be final around Memorial Day. Mrs. Hendrickson has already stated that she will be watching closely to monitor how the state manages the Little Tupper Lake property. She maintains public lands do not receive the stewardship that private lands receive; quite a statement from a woman who admits there will not be a tree worth harvesting on her property for another 30 years.

Active preparations are underway for management of Little Tupper Lake. One big obstacle facing the planning team at the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is that there are no facilities to accommodate the throngs of users expected, given the high profile of this purchase. It's likely that on opening day no carries will be in place, no trails, no picnic areas, no camping areas, no pit

privies either. The former Whitney Industries headquarters is located on the eastern end of Little Tupper Lake. It has an asphalt road off the county highway and contains some 20 buildings. DEC is working to have a parking area, interpretive signing, and a canoe launching area in place by the time the deal is final.

The idea of designation of the area for day-use only through 1997 has been floated. Trails and carries from Rock Lake to Lake Lila will also be cut during the summer of 1997, but probably will not be ready by the time the property is opened for public use.

The Town of Long Lake, where the property is located, has called upon Governor George Pataki to classify the new Forest Preserve land as Wild Forest, a classification under the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) Land Use and Development Plan. Under this classification the roads on the property would remain open to motorized use and the lakes could be open for motor boats. When a new piece of Forest Preserve is acquired, the DEC studies the property, may convene a

Right now 350,000 acres are for sale across the Adirondacks, including 144,000 acres by Champion International Corporation and 105,000 acres by Domtar Specialty Fine Papers.

public advisory committee for assistance, and develop a management plan and classification recommendation for the APA. The APA then votes to approve the classification or sends it back for more work.

Many others have called for the property to be classified as Wilderness, including Governor Pataki and DEC Commissioner John Cahill. Under the Wilderness classification the roads on the property would be closed and all motorized watercraft prohibited (electric trolling engines are allowed). Those opposed to the Wilderness classification complain that this classification “closes” the property. I fail to understand how a property being closed to one's truck or jet ski or snowmobile or all terrain vehicle makes a property closed. The Forest Preserve is open 24 hours per day, 365 days a year. It's free admission to any woman, man, bird, fish or quadruped who can walk (slither, fly, swim, run) paddle a canoe, row or ride in a boat. The Forest Preserve is the best deal New York State offers.

Deed covenants specified by Mrs. Hendrickson prohibit either the use of motor boats, jet skis, or float planes on any of the ten lakes and ponds that are part of the state purchase. To protect her property to the south, Mrs. Hendrickson has included language in her contract with the state that the Little Tupper Lake property be managed consistent with Wilderness, Canoe, or Primitive areas all official Forest Preserve land use classifications that prohibit motorized use.

This effectively mandates that the main road on the property be closed once the existing contract with International Paper Company, for use as a haul road, expires.

Pataki Comes Up Big

In his 1998-99 budget, Governor Pataki has proposed \$72 million for land acquisition statewide. These funds come from annual allocations from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), some \$32 million for land in this budget, and an additional \$40 million as the second installment from the \$150 million for land acquisition approved by public referendum in the 1996 Environmental Quality Bond Act. (With this allocation, a total of \$60 million of the \$150 million has been allocated to date.)

Governor Pataki budgeted this amount for land protection primarily because he is committed to further land protection in the Adirondack Park. Right now 350,000 acres are for sale across the Adirondacks, including 144,000 acres by Champion International Corporation and 105,000 acres by Domtar Specialty Fine Papers. The State of New York is looking to buy a mixture of Forest Preserve and conservation easements on the Champion lands and a large conservation easement from Domtar. A number of other projects are also being looked at (see back issues of the Forum for a listing).

These are opportune times for land protection in the Adirondacks. A number of positive factors have converged. The funding is in place. There's plenty of willing sellers. The Governor has demonstrated the political will to buy and protect land in the Adirondacks. While many local communities are supportive of increased land protection, some local political leaders and allies in the local property rights/anti-environmental camps will steadfastly oppose further land protection, regardless of how beneficial it will be to the local community.

Taxing Times

In the Adirondacks the State of New York is a big taxpayer, paying over \$45 million annually in county, town, school and other local taxes on Forest Preserve lands. Each parcel of Forest Preserve is assessed locally. Forest Preserve averages over \$15 per acre in tax revenues. In Long Lake, where the 14,780-acre Little Tupper Lake tract was just purchased, new tax revenues of \$110,000 to \$190,000 are estimated. The State of New York is a very generous taxpayer and this helps move local governments to be supportive of more Forest Preserve or conservation easements.

The great majority of corporate lands and large private land holdings in the Adirondacks are enrolled in one of two New York State Real Property Tax Law (RPTL) programs, sections 480 or 480a. These programs provide 80-percent tax reductions for landowners who keep their lands in forest production. This loss of local tax revenues is not made up anywhere. Consequently, most private commercial managed forest

lands generate an average of about \$4 per acre, far less than the state's average of \$15. The State of New York cannot grant itself its own exemption, so it pays taxes on the full local assessed value.

Pataki Proposes Relief from Forest Land Subsidies

At the end of 1997 Governor Pataki started hearing negative comments from some Adirondack and North Country local political leaders that he was too "green." After purchasing Little Tupper Lake, prohibiting the importation of garbage, booting anti-environmental APA Chairman Gregory Campbell, and moving a proposed prison out of the Adirondacks, some local leaders sharply criticized him. To soften these blows Governor Pataki has been talking a lot about economic development for the Park. He has proposed a new \$3.3 million program to reimburse some taxes lost with lands enrolled in the RPTL 480/480a programs.

Under the proposed formula a town is eligible if enrollment in these programs causes a shift of one percent or more in total tax revenues. About twenty Adirondack towns will benefit. Long Lake, where the state just purchased Little Tupper Lake, should see new revenues of about \$350,000 in school, town and county taxes.

The "Local Veto" Exercised

Under the 1993 Environmental Protection Act, which created the Environmental Protection Fund, no monies from the fund can be used for state purchase of land in a given town if a town registered its opposition. The so-called "local veto" has been used sparingly to date. Often towns take no position. Over the past five years better than 25 state purchases have been approved by local governments.

Two months ago the Town of Moriah exercised the "local veto" to deny state purchase of 340 acres of forest lands around Ensign Pond. This land is bordered on three sides by the Hammond Pond Wild Forest (Forest Preserve) and controls the right-of-way to Trout Pond, a popular place for fishing. The Town Board vetoed the sale because it felt the state already owned enough land in the Adirondacks. It owns about ten percent of Moriah.

This is an ironic situation. Some on the Town Board are avowed property rights adherents and one of their core principles is that one should be able to do with their land as they please. But here they're denying the free exercise of this principle for an 80-year old widow who simply wants to sell the land to the state, something her late husband, a noted sportsman and conservation writer in the area, had always planned to do. Further, she and her husband had never posted the property and it has been widely used by local people for years. The land is enrolled in RPTL 480a so state purchase would generate an estimated \$2,000 in new local tax revenues for the Town.

The Town Board is now reconsidering its position. Many local conservationists and sportsmen have called for state purchase; they want the road access to Trout and Ensign ponds—and they have made their opinion known to the Town Board. The Town Board has now stated that its principal issue is that state purchase will eliminate use of the roads. Yet, roads are allowed in Wild Forest areas. Members of the Town Board are now meeting with DEC to see if some kind of agreement can be reached for state purchase.

New APA Chairman

Richard Lefebvre (R-Fulton County) has been named the new Chairman of the Adirondack Park Agency. Lefebvre has been an APA commissioner since 1993 and has recently been chairing the rules and regulations revision process. Lefebvre will be a breath of fresh air at the APA, bringing credibility and integrity to the position. He is expected to run a highly public and efficient process for this land use regulatory agency.

Mount Serkil Grows Higher

The Adirondack Mountains are a growing geologic area, about an inch every 100 years. The effects



Rowers in the Saranac Lake Chamber of Commerce Icebreaker on the snowy first day of spring. For a full schedule of 1998 canoe races write the Chamber at: 30 Main St, Saranac Lake, NY 12983.

of this leavening can be seen in the generally strong environmental infrastructure in the Adirondacks. Lately though Mount Serkil in Lewis has been growing at a rate faster than Mount Marcy, about four feet a day.

Mount Serkil is the garbage mound in Essex County that's being filled by out-of-state garbage (thank you Addison County, Vermont, among others) and out-of-Park garbage by an outfit currently leasing the landfill. Serkil LLC is being investigated for dozens of violations of daily overdumping. It's estimated that Serkil has brought in nearly double the legal limit.

It's a good deal for Serkil. They got the landfill in a lease for a dollar, despite the County's \$5 million in landfill bond indebtedness, and the promise to accept all Essex County solid waste for \$35 per ton (the going

Essex County has given Serkil taxpayer-financed landfill capacity to sell on the open market.

rate is about \$48 to \$55 per ton). Essex County generates about 20 tons of garbage on a big day. The permits stipulate the landfill can receive 95 tons per day and Serkil has been taking in much more. Essex County has given Serkil taxpayer-financed landfill capacity to sell on the open market.

Serkil and Essex County have never bothered to submit actual applications for this hairbrained idea to either the DEC or APA, although they did bring a lawsuit against both regulatory agencies for allegedly illegally asserting jurisdiction over the project to expand the daily limit from 95 to 500 tons, build new cells for disposal, and import garbage from outside the Adirondacks. DEC is slowly bringing the hammer down. Ever so slowly. DEC has stated that there's less than 60 days capacity remaining at the landfill. Cell one was at just one-fifth capacity when Serkil assumed control. Now it's full. (Serkil may have grossed better than \$4 million in just over two years.)

Governor Pataki has provided funding to close the landfill, pay off Essex County landfill indebtedness, and help the County develop a new system to transport waste to other locations. Maybe they should try Addison County . . . DEC is completing an agreement that should be announced soon; time is running out. An agreement should stipulate the end of solid waste entering the landfill, closure schedule, fines against Serkil, and a transportation plan for County waste.

Governor Pataki stood up against the trashing of the Adirondacks. He lined up funding to bail out Essex County to back up his position against importation of garbage into the Adirondacks. But DEC enforcement has been nowhere. Two years to wrap up an investigation, while violations continued flagrantly and unabated, is a joke.

Vermont Mercury Bill Addresses Contamination, Prevention

The Vermont State Senate passed S. 181 this February, a piece of legislation aimed at addressing the increasing threats of mercury contamination in the state's air, land, and aquatic environments. The Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee was considering the mercury bill at the same time that a special environmental conference was held in Portland, Maine to address mercury and acid rain contamination in the Northeast. The conference and the Vermont Senate bill, seek to address concerns for the health of the region's inland fisheries, bird populations, and human populations. Mercury contamination has been compounded over the last century through human use and is released into the environment through combustion, solid waste, and other non-point pollution sources. Mercury bio-magnifies in the food chain and has begun to affect loon, eagle, and fish populations and threatens the human central nervous system, particularly in pregnant women and children.

The Vermont legislation is an attempt to promote public education and awareness on the mercury issue and hopes to accomplish this through a number of initiatives. The Mercury Bill mandates that man-

ufacturers of mercury-added products label them so that consumers will know and be able to choose which products they want to buy. It also establishes a list of mercury-added products that must be labeled and it requires the consumers to source separate these products so that they may be recycled or properly disposed of.

The bill contains language that requires solid waste management districts to implement collection programs no later than June 1, 1999. The legislation provides support for municipalities and consumers by designing and disseminating a public information program to be adopted and implemented through the ANR and the Department of Health and establishes an advisory committee on mercury pollution to assess the risks of mercury contamination and how best to address these issues in Vermont and the Northeast.

The list of mercury-added products includes 1) thermostat and thermometers 2) switches 3) medical and scientific instruments 4) electric relays and other electrical device 5) lamps 6) batteries. The bill now goes to the House of Representatives for approval.

Herbicide Free Rail Lines

Vermont is on the Right Track

by Barbara Alexander

Vermont is poised to eliminate another non-essential use of industrial toxins from our environment and from the way we do business in our state. On February 27th, the Vermont Pesticide Advisory Council (VPAC) held a hearing on the use of herbicides along railroad rights-of-way in response to a request by a coalition organized by the Vermont Citizens' forest Roundtable (VCFR).

The coalition, consisting of VCFR, Brigitte and Elizabeth Graham, and the Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG), has been working with legislators since January to develop policy (House Bill 729) which would place an indefinite moratorium on the use of herbicides for weed control along railroads and would address a citizen's right to know through policy mandates including "the identification of and usage dates regarding each individual application of a herbicide permitted by the commissioner [of agriculture] since July 1, 1960."

The Grahams, who for thirteen years have been battling the ill effects of multiple herbicide sprays along a railroad right-of-way which bisects their small farm in Norton, Vermont, are no longer fighting alone. During the recent VPAC hearing, the council listened for six hours to a number of experts and over two dozen concerned citizens, most of whom called for a state-wide adoption of alternatives to the use of herbicides by railroad companies in Vermont.

Toxic Soup

In 1984, an illegal herbicide application of atrazine, diuron and bromacil by the former owners of the railway, Canadian National, left the Grahams' farm severely contaminated. (The spray was conducted in violation of state regulations and statutes and without the requisite permit from the VT. Dept. of Agriculture.) Residues of these herbicides were detected in well water and in vegetation samples located more than 1,000 feet from the track.

Atrazine, which is persistent and mobile in soil, is one of the most common pesticidal contaminants of water, including rivers, groundwater, and even rain and fog. It is highly toxic to both aquatic and terrestrial animal species and has been linked to two forms of cancer in humans.

Diuron is also highly mobile and can migrate to surface waters where it has been shown to bioaccumulate in fish, especially in the livers. A recent study conducted by the VT Dept. of Health showed that diuron has a propensity to leach into ground water. Long-term exposure to bromacil may cause mutations and may lead to miscarriage, birth defects, and cancer.



Brigitte and Elizabeth Graham. Photo © Carol Westinghouse

Bromacil is also dangerous to wildlife; animal tests have shown evidence of thyroid abnormalities after chronic exposure to this compound.

Dead Animals

In her statement before VPAC, Elizabeth Graham described some of the realities of life on the farm after the

limb defects, many of which resulted in death. We saw many of the same effects in the local wildlife. Following the spraying, dead bees littered the ground along the railway; birds and squirrels literally fell out of the sky or trees. There were bodies scattered all over the property; mice, moles, weasels, rabbits and foxes. Dead fish floated in the river."

The 1984 application of atrazine, diuron and bromacil represents only part of a chemical legacy which has been left along the 1,440 foot track crossing the Graham property.

chemical exposure in 1984: "In the months and years that followed the spraying, we and our animals were plagued with a seemingly endless array of illnesses: skin rashes, respiratory and digestive problems, chronic headaches and general debilitating weakness. Many of our smaller animals died; sheep, ducks, geese, and cats. By the following spring, our livestock began to develop severe birth defects in their offspring. Cattle, sheep, ducks and geese were born blind or with heart, lung and

The 1984 application of atrazine, diuron and bromacil was only part of a chemical legacy which has been left along the 1,440 foot track crossing the Graham property. Other harmful chemicals sprayed include the known carcinogens 2,4 D, nitrofen and amitrole as well as triclopyr, imazapyr, hexazinone, picloram and glyphosate.

Cooperative Effort

VCFR has been working with St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railway

(SL&A), the current owners of the thirty mile Sherbrooke Spur which includes the line that runs through Norton, to develop a pilot project for a vegetative management plan that would replace herbicide use for weed control along the rail line.

Matt Jacobson, vice president of SL&A, has formed a partnership with VCFR to investigate alternatives which would protect Vermont residents like the Grahams from the chemical trespass which has devastated their quality of life. Mr. Jacobson, whose company has taken a leadership role in this initiative, has agreed to investigate new technologies in alternatives so that other railway companies that do business in Vermont will learn from this project and will also adopt a zero herbicide management policy.

Vermont's entire Congressional delegation is supporting the cooperative effort by VCFR and SL&A by asking for federal appropriations to fund the pilot project. Congressman Bernie Sanders stated in a letter presented to VPAC at the February 27th hearing, "I think Vermont, once again, is leading the nation in the area of environmental health, by looking at the very serious health implications of the deployment of chemicals into our environment. On the topic of railroads, I appreciate the cooperative approach that has been taken thus far by the Vermont Citizens' Forest Roundtable. I think that a real cooperative effort between railroads, environmentalists and communities is the approach that is going to lead to the quickest, safest, most cost-effective solution." Senators Leahy and Jeffords have also backed the initiative.

Herbicide Alternatives

At their last regular meeting on March 9th, VPAC established two sub-committees to research the impacts of herbicide use along railroad rights-of-way. One committee will address environmental issues, with a focus on wetlands, and the other will address human health issues.

A third committee, consisting of two VPAC members, representatives from VCFR, representatives from the railroads, and an expert on Integrated Pest Management strategies, will explore in detail the state-wide adoption of alternatives to herbicides along rail lines in Vermont. The establishment of these committees marks a dramatic, and positive, shift from the way VPAC has functioned in the past.

VCFR is working with the House Natural Resources and Energy Committee to write a joint resolution which would commend SL&A for their efforts and would encourage other railway companies which operate in Vermont to become herbicide free. ♻

For more information about VCFR's Railroad Herbicide Project or a copy of a 32-minute video depicting the Grahams' moving story, please contact VCFR's Barbara Alexander at (802) 586-2288.

SALTY CANCER WARD

Dr. John Harshbarger, PhD, wants to have tumors—collected from unhealthy fishes, shellfishes and other "lower animals." Director of the Registry of Tumors in Lower Animals at George Washington University's Pathology Department, Harshbarger is charting the mounting cancer epidemic in our water breathing cousins.

Several years ago, he examined softshell clams from mudflats along Washington County's Downeast Maine coast, and found a strong correlation between blueberry field herbicide spraying and the occurrence of gonadal tumors in clams living at the base of the watershed. Many clams also sported double snouts and other deformities. Ominously for we "higher animals", Harshbarger noted in a paper he published that, "the germinomas in clams from Dennysville coincided with increased human mortality from testicular and ovarian cancer in the same county. . ."

Dr. Harshbarger wants to continue his study with additional tumors found by anglers, commercial fishers or others interacting with "lower animals." But wait! Don't just wrap 'em up and mail! Contact Ron Huber at the Coastal Waters Project for the proper sample gathering protocol. You can also reach Dr. Harshbarger with your questions, or sightings, by email at <tumors@gwis2.circ.gwu.edu> or tel: (202) 994-1056.

NH=HERBICIDES=BAD FORESTRY

by Jamie Sayen &
Andrew Whittaker

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire's Forests testified before the New Hampshire legislature this winter in opposition to House Bill 1431, an act to establish a moratorium on spraying of herbicides in forestry.

Appearing before the House Committee on the Environment and Agriculture on January 21, Charles Niebling of SPHNF—the state's pre-eminent forest conservation organization—stated that "The Forest Society believes that herbicide release and high yield softwood management has a place in New Hampshire forestry."

Limited to brief testimony, up against the reputation that the Society enjoys in Concord, and appearing before members of a committee pre-disposed to the wishes of industry, spray opponents were unable to make the case that herbicides have no place in forestry. HB 1431 never made it out of committee.

Industry Rationale

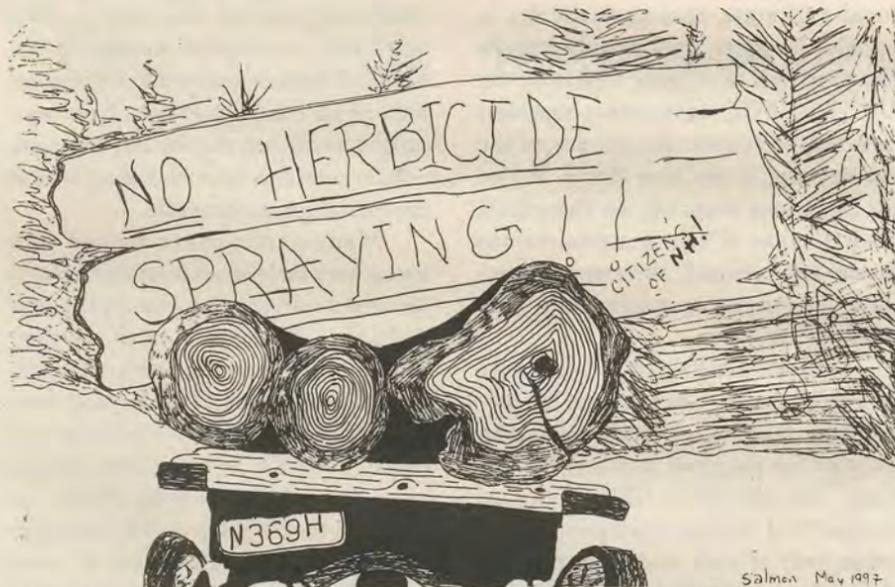
Mr. Niebling excused intensive management with the premise that "high yield softwood management is integral to a land management strategy where comparable land area is dedicated to less intensive forest management or areas where little or no management occurs and where non-timber forest values are given high priority."

Mr. Niebling and industry colleagues imply that only intensive management can produce high yields that will allow lighter management elsewhere. Fallacies in this argument are that:

1) only minor areas of overall land-holdings are sprayed, 2) spraying in fact leads to a more productive forest, and 3) reserved, non-managed or wilderness lands are contingent on industry achieving high yields elsewhere. (Mr. Niebling however implied only that intensive management would allow lighter management—not unmanaged reserves.)

While the last argument may involve a quarrel of values rather than fact—a debate in which the Society is advocating values contrary to forest conservation—the first is directly refutable by industry's own arithmetic. Although claims are made that spraying occurs but once in the intended forty year rotation, industry practice in Maine—by admission of no less an expert than Monsanto lobbyist Max McCormick—indicates a high rate of re-spraying. Mitch Lansky found a re-spray rate of one-third of treated acreage.

Champion, which has retained Mr. Niebling as a lobbyist for its spray program in the past, indicated in Vermont that it intends to spray "only" one percent of its land in a given year. With the forty year rotation paper companies desire, the Forest Society therefore is endorsing a program subjecting 76,000 acres of Champion's 190,000 and 44,800 of Mead's 112,000 acres or over 120,000 acres of Coos County to intensive management. (These numbers presume the suitability of acreage for industrial management and the sustainability of forty year rotations in the



Northern Forest—and ignore whether industrial management is suitable for the forest or the region.)

Tree Farming the Forest

While industry will argue that the overall acreages will be far less, part of their reasoning is based on the assumption of higher productivity from sprayed acreages ("if we practice forty year rotations productivity will be so high we won't have to practice forty year rotations").

Such reasoning is a corruption of classic silvicultural approach as well as biological common sense. Industry proposes to capitalize on faster growth rates of young softwood with a forty year rotation geared to maximum annual growth rates of softwood, rather than overall volume accretion.

Softwood grows most rapidly in its initial decades but adds more volume when trees get larger. Rather than sacrifice-and wait the necessary decades for

the forest to recoup from over-cutting, however, the paper industry has shifted the basis of silviculture from the building up of growing stock to the maximization of growth rates. Herbicides are a buttress to this illusion.

Herbicide may however lower site productivity. These include lowered plant resistance to disease, reduced leaf litter and other contributions to soil organic matter, and microclimatic effects on soil temperature and moisture.

Consequences are not limited to timber productivity but also involve impacts to wildlife habitat and species survival—matters that neither SPHNF, industry, nor the state of New Hampshire itself have taken into full consideration. Conservation biology, meanwhile, increasingly cautions against the introduction of novel stresses with which forests have not evolved and to which they may not be able to adapt. Even if herbicides were good for

Maine's Pesticide Reduction Policy

by Jean English

Maine now has an official policy requiring that reliance on pesticides be minimized in the state.

The BPC (Board of Pesticide Control) is to report by October 1, 1998, and annually thereafter, on the amounts of products sold in the prior year, with the data sorted by sector of use when possible.

Camden activist and MOFGA (Maine Organic Farming Association) member Beedy Parker argued [during hearings on the bill] that pesticides should be called 'biocides' because of the widespread damage to nontarget organisms that many can inflict and because of the increasing evidence that tiny amounts of many pesticides can harm the endocrine systems of nontarget animals—including humans.

She argued that EPA labels and tolerances are inadequate, as is funding for alternatives for pesticides. She told of her discomfort after watching representatives from the chemical industry, applicators, users and sympathetic members of the Maine agricultural establishment argue for the use of more pesticides during a decade or more while she observed and reported on BPC meetings. "Less is safer," she concluded. "Much less is adequate. We can do it and still grow food and fiber."

MOFGA executive director Russ Libby explained that LD 1726 originated because of a BPC hearing in which it "became clear that the Board didn't consider pesticide reduction to be part of their mission. . . . We believe that a clear expression of that goal by the Legislature, the representatives of the citizens of the State of Maine, will help to focus attention towards how we can achieve that goal, not just in agriculture, but with homeowners, forestry and other sectors that use pesticides."

[The above article also mentions that the pesticide reduction legislation gained support when it was re-drafted to eliminate specific reduction targets. Supporters referred to Nancy Oden and CLEAN's proposed referendum on pesticides (banning the aerial spraying of pesticides and making illegal their entry into state waters) as further incentive to implement a reduction policy.]

Shortened from *Maine Organic Farmer & Gardener* Sept./Nov. 1997 with permission of the author.

timber production, they are not good for forests.

Smothering Dissent

The Legislature and the Society also deferred to the recommendations of the Aerial Spray Review Committee (ASRC) established last spring by the Pesticide Control Board. However, the ASRC's proposed rule changes do not address substantive issues raised by spray opponents. These include:

•Impacts on the forest, waters and wetlands from direct and indirect effects of spraying (all of Mead and Champion lands lie in the moosey and mossy headwaters of the Connecticut and Androscoggin).

•The long term and synergistic health effects of spraying herbicide mixtures. The ASRC ignored a 1994 EPA memo recommending no aerial spraying of ALS inhibitors and the implications of a Vermont aerial drift incident in which non-detectable amounts of pesticide nonetheless ruined crops on a neighboring farm. (The VT permit itself was issued by the Department of Agriculture despite concerns expressed by Agency of Natural Resources staff about nearby wetlands.)

•Inadequate spray monitoring. The NH Division of Pesticide Control was not aware of Champion's spraying of 10 acres in the state of Maine on lands of International Paper for one year; test water from spray aircraft was sprayed on a Milan resident in 1996. Does drift occur? Do waters get sprayed?

•Squelching of spray opponents and an imbalanced policy review. The ASRC included no resident of Coos County and only one environmental representative, who, however, was not authorized by his organization to oppose spraying. The 6 person committee did include a Champion employee, a professional herbicide sprayer and a lobbyist for pesticide users and manufacturers. This conflict of interest did not prevent Murray Mackay of the PCB from assuring the House Committee on February 5 that the DPC had not excluded critics, an assertion which flies in the face of several attempts by Daisy Goodman and myself to convince Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Taylor to broaden the ASRC composition.

•Moreover, the entire apparatus of New Hampshire government has simply ignored the basic fact that an informed majority of people simply do not trust pesticides and favor a policy of reduced and not expanded use.

The New Hampshire Way

Charles Niebling concluded his testimony opposing HB 1431 by stating, "Prohibiting aerial application is a rash and unjustified measure that would deny these and potentially other landowners an important silvicultural tool." SPHNF executive director Ms. Difley's own statements on the issue (see "Letters") conflict with her past leadership of the Vermont Natural Resources Council, which vigorously supported Vermont's indefinite moratorium on herbicides in forestry. What was black and white west of the Connecticut River has over here assumed shades of gray.

Hardwick Debates Telecommunications Tower

A tower hearing in Hardwick, VT this March featured a line-up of federal representatives and a full house of concerned citizens gathered to discuss the future of telecommunications tower regulation in Vermont. Federal Communication Commission (FCC) Chair, William Kennard, was present to both listen to the citizens concerns and to present his own thoughts on the matter. The meeting was sponsored by U.S. Senator James Jeffords and was also attended by U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy and U.S. Representative Bernard Sanders and several local representatives. Citizens gave testimony concerning the placement and regulation of cell towers and in some cases the need for cellular technology in Vermont.

The hearing was a result of mounting pressure by Vermont representatives and citizens concerned with federal preemption of local and state zoning authority to regulate the development of telecommunications facilities. The

recent Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 has mandated that, although local and state zoning authority is upheld, no party shall unduly impede the provision of cellular service in the U.S. The FCC envisions a seamless network of cellular service across the country within the near future. Fueled by consumer demand, an incredible proliferation of telecommunications towers has occurred, threatening thousands of pristine mountain tops, hill-sides, and valleys.

Senators Leahy and Jeffords have sponsored Senate bills to repeal the preempting language and Congressman Sanders has proposed matching legislation. The new FCC Chair Kennard insisted that federal preemption would occur only if state and local officials refused to cooperate with cellular providers and stonewalled the process.

This was little reassurance to individuals who don't want cell towers at all. Small at-risk communities like

Hardwick all over the country have been bombarded by large out-of-state cellular corporations who want to get a quick hold on regional market shares. Many of these communities, with either little or no zoning authority, have been caught totally unaware by the corporate cellular providers who are hiding behind the federal preemption rule.

Many participants argued that towns have little or no resources to fight the recent rash of cell tower applications and feel as if the environment and their communities are suffering as a result. Several people noted that no long term health studies have been conducted and others, including Senator Leahy, felt the tower technology would be obsolete in the near future anyway. Furthermore residents emphasized the need to invest in local, state, and federal planning so that the issue can be resolved with as little risk and intrusion as necessary.

Some proponents of cellular technology spoke out in favor of the services

saying that cellular phones and pagers were often found essential in emergency situations where remote communication is critical. However, most people attending the hearing recognized that some consensus must be reached and that local power needs to be preserved.

The meeting gave a clear indication that Vermonters want the right to determine their future but also don't want to be left behind in the information age. The representatives showed a clear interest in exploring alternative technologies and regional planning while recognizing the need to preserve local power and minimize the threats to the State's viewsheds, mountain ecosystems, and human health. In addition to the federal legislation several bills are being proposed in the Vermont legislature that will help check mountain development, protect viewsheds, and support local planning efforts.

—Luke O'Brien

Vermont Factory Farm Bill Weakened

A bill in the Vermont State House designed to bring large non-traditional farming operations under closer regulatory review has been substantially weakened recently and faces failure as the legislative session comes to a close. The bill, drafted by Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee and accompanied by similar draft bill in the House, is an attempt to prevent large scale factory farms from developing in Vermont. The high density housing and waste operations can lead to water and air pollution and pose health and safety problems if not properly designed and sited. Currently all agricultural operations are exempt from Vermont's development regulation law, Act 250, and any local zoning authority as well.

The Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee originally drafted a bill which evaluated pollution concerns, nuisances, traffic impacts, and noise. It also recommended an administrative working group composed of top officials within the Department of Agriculture, Agency of Natural Resources, the Environmental Board, and the Water Resources Board. The Committee narrowed the bill, however, and removed several of the review criteria, the independent appeals panel, and party status for anyone other than the applicant and the Commissioner.

The House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committees are working on a bill closer to the stronger original Senate draft while the senate bill sits in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Vermont May Pass Downtown Bill

The Vermont State Legislature has been working on a bill that will attempt to put the brakes on urban sprawl, a phenomenon that has been eating away at the countryside and drawing business out of Vermont's downtowns.

The bill is a step toward curbing the recent proliferation of big box retailers and the steady decline of many of Vermont's once thriving downtowns. The bill provides incentives in the form of tax and technical assistance to communities and businesses that want to reinvest in historic downtown districts, buildings, and village centers. Some restrictions on rehabilitation of historic buildings will be eased and funding for infrastructure improvements such as parking, signs, and pedestrian facilities provided.

The push to focus development in existing downtowns and village centers comes in response to the recent movement of large retailers into former agricultural and rural areas such as Tafts Corners, Williston. These "big box" developments have hit communities twice as hard by developing once productive farmland and leaching business away from established retail centers.

The Downtown Bill was introduced last year in the House of Representatives and is currently in the Senate awaiting approval; it has a very strong chance of passing into law by the end of this legislative session.

Democracy Alive & Well in Tamworth, NH

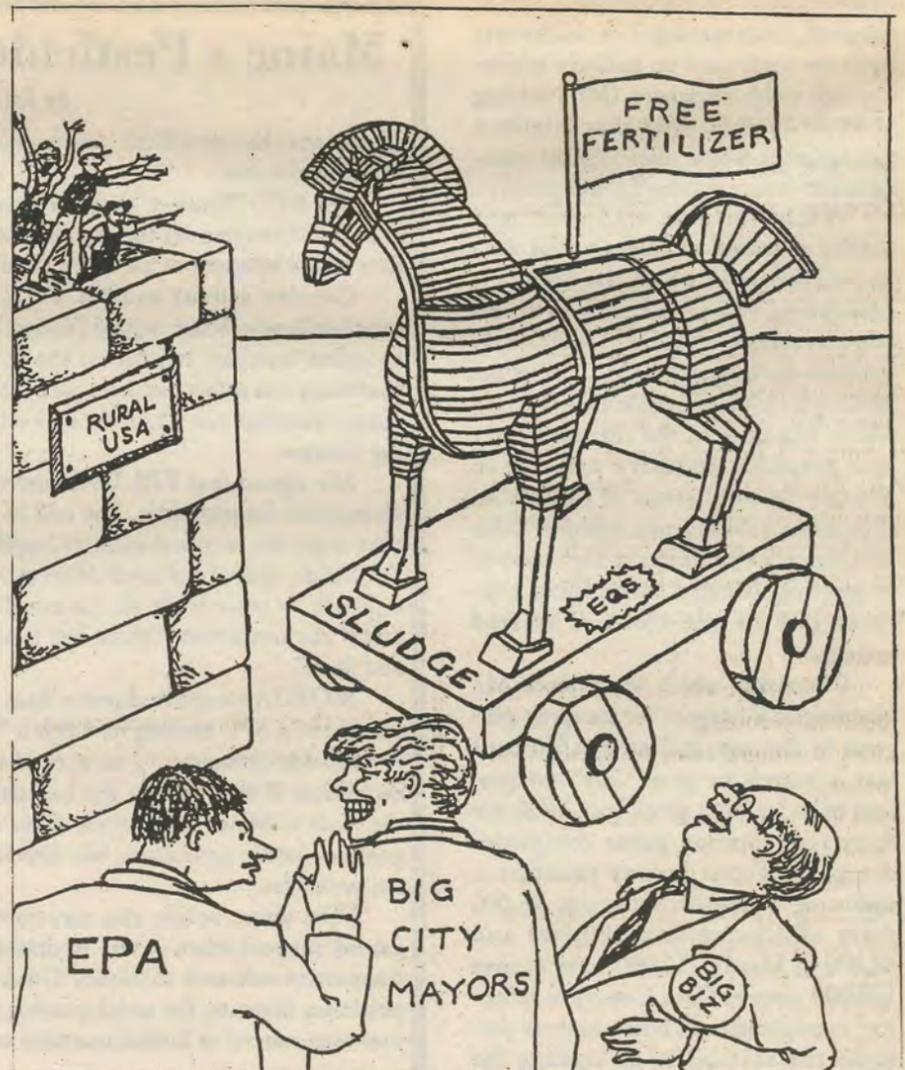
The sludge industry has formed yet another well-financed lobbying group (the New England Biosolids and Residuals Association—NEBRA) which is run in Tamworth by long-time sludge enthusiast Ned Beecher of RMI.

After a lively debate at town meeting (over Ned Beecher's objections) Tamworth citizens voted 130 to 39 for for a moratorium on land application of municipal sewage sludge and industrial paper mill sludge.

With this vote Tamworth has joined forty other NH towns which have voted for bans, moratoria, or strict ordinances, because they believe that current federal and state rules on land application are not protective enough.

Towns that would like help in organizing on this issue should contact with Citizens for a Future NH at 603-225-2252 or 284-6998.

—Caroline Snyder



Looks like they're going to take it | Now remember, not a word about all those heavy metals, toxic chemicals, disease germs, and parasites that are still in the stuff.

NAMASTE ECOVILLAGE

Permaculture landtrust internships, camping/study—Strawbale solar community building for 1998. Aquaculture, cluster housing, organic gardens. Write: Namaste 373 Peacham Rd. Ctr. Barnstead, NH 03225.

Sludging NH Forests

The NH House Environment & Ag Committee is considering rules that would allow the spreading of paper mill and sewage sludge on forest lands. Citizens for a Future NH have called for a moratorium on such applications until further study of ecological impact.

Maine Legislature's Forest Policy = More Studies

by Mitch Lansky

Majority bill

With two contentious referendum debates finally in the past, the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee of the Maine Legislature has been taking its turn at creating forest policy. A majority bill (written by the Maine Forest Service and in the Senate at press time) will:

- *tinker with the Forest Practices Act (FPA), changing the definition of clearcuts and separation zones;
- *add more staff and funding to the Maine Forest Service to enforce the FPA, and do more frequent inventory assessments and remote sensing;
- *have the MFS and the State Planning Office do computer generated supply/demand models of the forest;
- *create technical advisory committees to set benchmarks with which to assess changes in the forest (by 2005);
- *require the MFS to report annually on the clearcutting activities of large landowners; and
- *report biennially to the legislature on the state of the forest.

Alternative bills

In recommending this bill, the committee rejected 11 bills that had been tabled last year to await the outcome of the Compact vote. Key committee members had no intention of considering these bills, but instead planned to create a committee bill.

The hearing on the bills was more of a diverting pep rally than an exercise in democracy. The participants had five minutes to comment on all 11 bills. There was no order in which the bills were discussed, and thus no debate. Instead there were sound bites, bumper

The hearing on the bills was more of a diverting pep rally than an exercise in democracy.

stickers, banners, and slogan buttons.

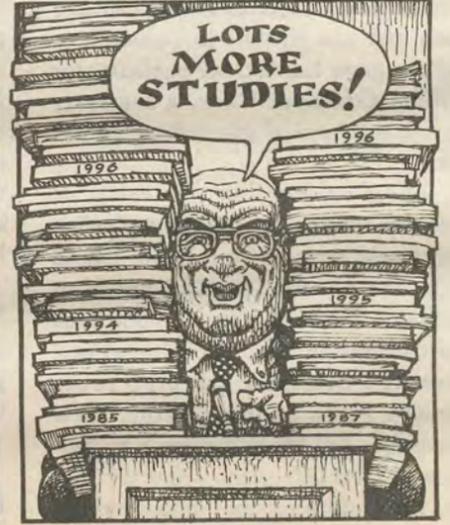
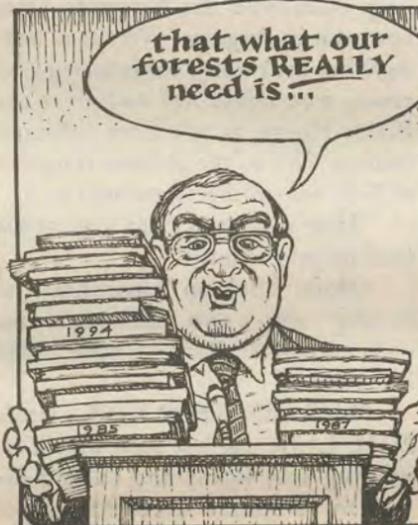
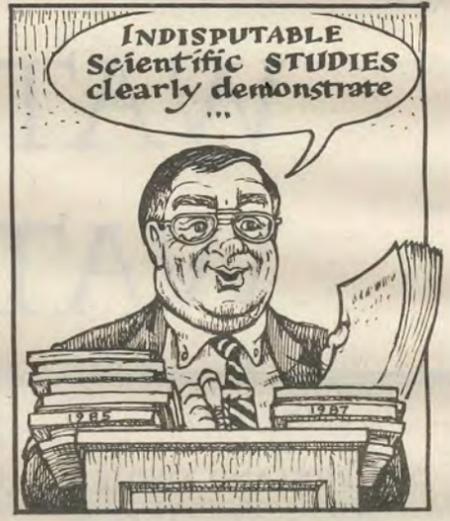
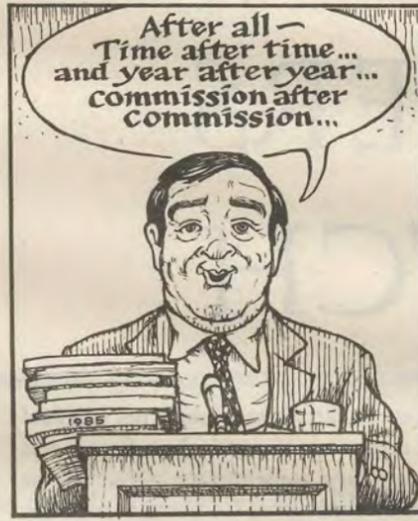
The media played along, telling of the drama of Jonathan Carter's attempt to pass a toned-down ban-clearcut bill, more establishment environmentalists backing a "Compact junior" bill, and Mary Adams rallying the troops against any policy changes.

The media failed to report the content of the bills, especially the three that would have significantly improved

Maine forest policy¹ by:

- *ending Tree Growth Tax subsidies for liquidation cutting;
- *setting a rational basis for silvicultural policy; and
- *providing a roundtable to address economic and labor issues.

These three bills, LD 1200, LD 1395, and LD 1518 were voted down (with no debate and no mention by the media) by 12-1, even though they were based in part or in whole on recommendations from the Maine Council on Sustainable Forest Management.



The Coalition Bill

The committee also voted down (3-10) a bill created by a new environmental coalition. This coalition combines enviros who supported the Compact with greenies who supported the Ban Clearcut referendum. [See related article on page 24.]

Despite past rhetoric about liquidation, the coalition bill did not address the subject, except as it might occur on industry land. MFS data indicates that although 80% of clearcuts are on industry land, two-thirds of heavy highgrade cuts are on contractor-owned and other private woodlands. Apparently the "timing" isn't right for such legislation, even though the coalition's slogan buttons read, "the woods can't wait."

To promote their plan, the coalition used full-page newspaper ads, radio ads, telephone campaigns, and a paid lobbyist.

Of course, industry had dozens of lobbyists promoting their agenda. To add a little spice to this stew, Mary Adams, representing the property-

rights movement, has vowed that if the committee bill passes, she will initiate a citizen's veto, saying, "The influence of the radicals needs to stop."

Don't Worry, Mrs. Adams

Although Mrs. Adams fears that the majority bill is "a road map to more regulations," we have some recent history of similar initiatives that may cheer her up. The bill's tinkering with the FPA, for example, will still allow landowners to mismanage their holdings with little restriction.

The FPA only addresses the size and distribution of clearcuts. It does not address sustainable cut, highgrading, understocking or other silvicultural issues. More money and more enforcement will not affect what the FPA does not address. The MFS did a random survey of cutting practices 1991-1993 that showed seriously substandard cutting happening on tens of thousands of acres every year—all legal within the FPA. The ACF committee chose not to review such findings, however.

A major forest inventory assessment of the Maine woods was recently released by the US forest Service. The committee did have a presentation from a researcher from the US Forest Service, but chose not to spend more time discussing the policy implications of the findings. This should please Mrs. Adams because it indicates that more such inventories may not be a serious threat, given how few people pay atten-

Mary Adams... has vowed: "The influence of the radicals needs to stop."

tion to all those numbers.

Over ten years ago, in reaction to public clamoring over clearcutting and herbicides, the legislature created the Forest for the Future Program. This "balanced" committee was mandated to project supply and demand, to determine if there was potential for shortfalls, and if so to recommend policy to address the shortfalls. The FFP did its work, the studies are on file, and who besides me can remember what they said? Oh, by the way, the projections did identify the possibility of spruce-fir shortfalls, and one of the solutions is more "intensive management"—which means clearcuts, plantations, and herbicides.

The Forgotten Benchmarks

For those of you who have short-term memory problems, we just had a government-appointed committee, the Maine Council on Sustainable Forest Management, that set criteria and benchmarks for sustainable forestry.

Continued on page 25

So, You Want an Audit?

For those environmentalists eager to see an audit of sustainable forest practices, Bill Vail, head of the Maine Forest Products Council, has a legislative solution—the "Sustainable Forestry Resolve." This Resolve asks the Maine legislature to challenge the implementation committee of industry's Sustainable Forestry Initiative to develop and implement a third-party process that verifies compliance with industry-generated performance standards.

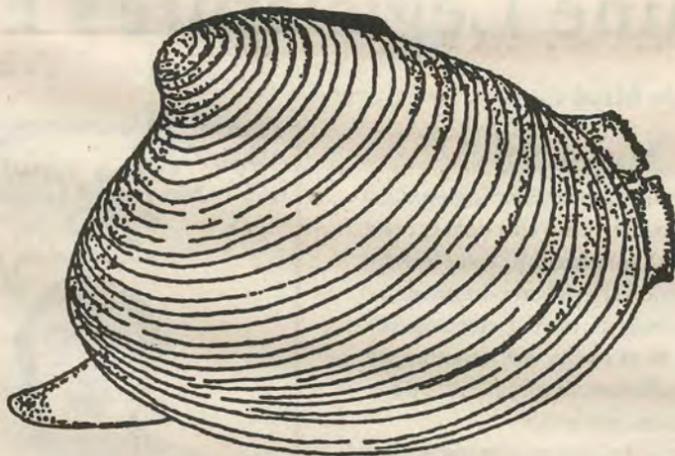
The Resolve tells us that a five-member advisory committee (with one public member) will "provide input and advice" on the performance indicators. A second five-member panel will "monitor and observe" the development of the verification process. The implementation committee will report its progress to the legislature's Joint Standing Committee having jurisdiction over forestry by March 31, 1999.

There, don't you feel better already?

—ML

¹ I wrote them. ML

COASTAL WATERS WATCH



by Ron Huber

ONE IF BY LAND, TWO IF BY SEA... There's product a'plenty out there at Sable Island off Nova Scotia, so much that one pipeline isn't enough to reap the gassy harvest, say publicists for Tatham Offshore Corp, a formerly Texas-based natural gas drilling operation.

Their solution to this crisis of underexploitation: an undersea pipeline that would stretch from Sable Island across the North Atlantic directly to Seabrook, New Hampshire. The idea was thought to have been torpedoed when the overland gas pipe route through Nova Scotia, Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts was chosen over Tatham's plans a few months ago. But, following the money, energy stock analysts are waxing thrilled over the Texans recent sell-off of all its holdings in the Alamo State, and their decision to literally sink TOFF's assets in the North Atlantic, to the great joy of Nova Scotian gas lords and the great ire of Gloucester fisherman Joe Sinagra (email: sinagra@shore.net) who is waging a lonely campaign to arouse the public and fishing industry to meet this latest threat off the Gulf's seafloor.

NO BONES ABOUT IT... With the disappearance of finny marketables, commercial fishers along the Gulf of Maine coast have discovered markets for all sorts of underutilized invertebrates. Sea slugs, whelks, even zooplankton are now profitable commodities for those with the wherewithall to capture, process and market these ecological holdouts of the well-swept seas.

Happy news: Japan has just announced a new national craze for

canny fisherfolk to exploit: pet jellyfish! "It relaxes me to watch them float," one happy new coelenterate collector was quoted concerning her living lava lamps. "Jellyfish never disturb you," a Tokyo pet shop employee agreed. Or was that Angus describing the Maine legislature? Jokes aside, that the Gulf's surviving invertebrates might be important foundations for the restoration of its vertebrates, seems to have been lost in the scuffle for ways of keeping mortgaged boats from the repo-man.

Look out, Moon Jellies, Lion's Manes, Angled Hydromedusae and other Gulf of Maine megaplankton, your days of bobbing around lobster buoys may be numbered....

DULCE ET DECORUM EST, PRO PATRIA MORII. . . The best defense is often a good offense; hence the Navy's awarding Bath Iron Works a

"It relaxes me to watch them float," one happy new coelenterate collector was quoted concerning her living lava lamps." Jellyfish never disturb you," a Tokyo pet shop employee agreed.

contract to build a dozen of the world's most powerful offensive weapons—the Aegis Missile Cruiser—at a planned new drydock to be built by filling in part of the Kennebec River at Bath, Maine.

But the Pentagon has adopted "Environmental Security" guidelines as a new subset of National Security doctrine, and when the National Marine Fisheries Service challenged the plan due to the existing use of the river area by the federally endangered shortnosed sturgeon, the Army Corps of Engineers, the final decisionmaker, made unhappy

noises. BIW is back at the drawing board; their newest idea is to wait till the sturgeon are elsewhere, and THEN fill in their home. They also promise to help dismantle the Edwards Dam upstream in Augusta. (Weapons testing?) But don't worry, our farseeing governor, who chose not to live at the Blaine House, is safe from collateral damage. Not so the luckless sturgeons of Bath, who in effect have been told:

"How sweet and good it is, to die (out) for your country."

(Note: Look up "environmental security" with a web search engine for more on DoD's gallant "Charge of the Life Brigade".

WHALES WEEP NOT... wrote D. H. Lawrence, but soon they'll be rubbing sore heads and calling for aspirin. Maine's Department of Transportation has announced plans for giant high speed catamaran ferries to

zip back and forth between Portland, Rockland, Belfast and Bar Harbor. At speeds of up to 50 miles per hour, capable of toting 900 passengers at a time, the ferries will reduce traffic on congested Route 1, MDOT believes.

The company has assured the public and the press that the engine noise of their craft would warn marine mammals out of the way, and that in any event, the catamaran design would safely slide over the backs of whales jaywalking across the shipping lanes, but critics noted that noisy moving ships are accompanied by a sphere of white noise

up to twenty miles around that effectively scrambles cetacean's sonar, rendering them blind, incommunicado, and unable to figure out which way to go to avoid getting spiked on the new ferries' harpoonlike double prows, especially on those (frequent) days when fog blankets the coastal waters. Ferry owners take note: Lawrence may have written: "the sea contains the Hottest blood of all/ And the wildest and most urgent" but he was referring to ol' Moby, not your ferry skippers....

LET'S WAIT 'TIL THERE'S A DISASTER, THEN WE'LL So what if exotic fish, germs and parasites dumped into port waters by in-loading foreign woodchip ships and other bulkers has cost other coastal areas hundreds of millions of dollars in lost fisheries and constipated municipal water pipes? So what if Maine, New Hampshire and Nova Scotia are poised to massively increase log and woodchip exports? So what if the feds are practically begging the New England States to send them info on future wood export shipping and on resources at risk so that Uncle Sam can open his wallet and give them lots of bucks to implement infestation prevention? Let's do nothing! We do things different here, after all. Maybe the exotics that have put a permanent dent in coastal prosperity elsewhere will act differently as well! That seems to be the hope that the Gulf of Maine Council and the New England states are following as they hem and haw about adopting a resolution calling on the Gulf states and provinces to avail themselves of the federal largesse. Maybe there's more money in disaster aid than in disaster prevention.....? ❧

BAY ferries

EXTINCTION CRISIS INSPIRES THE WILDLANDS PROJECT

We Need to Think Big to Stem the Tide of Species Loss

Michael Soulé, current president and co-founder of The Wildlands Project, visited Vermont and Maine recently from the University of California at Santa Cruz where he is a professor of conservation biology.

Several hundred people packed a hall at the University of Vermont to hear Soulé address the causes and Wildlands solution to the current spasm of extinctions, the third major extinction event in earth history and the first caused by an animal species—us.

Soulé did not belabor his biocentric point of view: "There are too many people destroying Nature rapidly, wiping out creation."

The Wildlands Project arose from a similar recognition of the bare facts. North American conservation biologists' asked themselves what could be done here and now to prevent and reverse species loss.

Chain of Causes

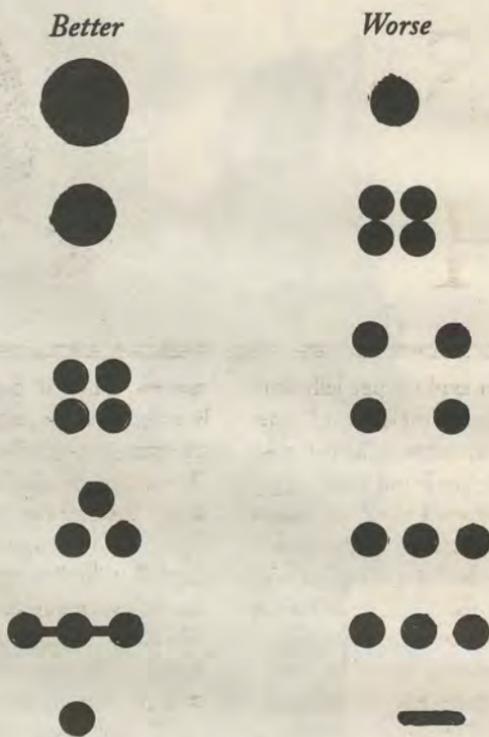
Soulé emphasized the complexity of causes driving humanity's destruction of other species. Habitat destruction and fragmentation, global climate change, invading exotic species contribute as do the globalization of commerce, the population explosion and technology. With human numbers expected to double by 2050, and technology "multiplying the impact of every individual," the outlook for large mammals in particular is bleak.

"We are all rich [in North America]," said Soulé, "and contribute to over-exploitation and cause exotic invasions." The appetite for coffee, for instance, is causing rain forest destruction; so too the demand for fresh produce through the northern hemisphere's winter. "Half of rain forest destruction is by logging; half is by subsistence farmers." "There is no such thing as sustainable development," concluded Soulé.

Cascading Effects

The insights of island biogeography have informed conservation biology. Islands since the 1600s have lost 25% of their bird species. What biologists

Principles for Design of Nature Reserves



From Noss & Cooperrider, *Saving Nature's Legacy*. They note that though these principles have been controversial, "most have been validated by experience."

have learned and are able to demonstrate is that species numbers "relax" over time in response to habitat destruction, that such decline affects larger species first, and that loss of top predators has a cascading impact on species numbers, balance, and the surrounding ecosystem.

Perhaps the central insight of conservation biology is that dynamics of island populations apply as well to species within islands of terrestrial habitat, fragmented by development. The key to species conservation is enlarging and linking these islands.

Soulé noted the example of wolf extirpation in Yellowstone, to which elk have responded by wintering in greater concentration and virtually eliminating the willow forage of beaver, who are unable to colonize the region, with resulting loss of specific vegetative communities. Re-introducing wolves will disperse the elk, alleviating pressure on the willow, allowing return of the beaver and associated wetland communities.

Large predators, noted Soulé, prey on smaller ones, so that where coyotes hunt house cats, song birds enjoy higher rates of survival.

Similarly, the impact of mankind, especially our roads, leads to unanticipated (perhaps unnoticed) consequences ecologically. Packed snowmobile trails allow coyotes to winter in areas where formerly they could not survive the snowfall, and outcompete lynx in their diminishing range. Among other road impacts Soulé noted siltation of western salmon runs from logging roads, increased predation, fragmentation and isolation of habitat, and other edge effects.

Wildlands

The constructive response to habitat destruction lies beyond species by species or community by community initiatives and small reserves.

The problem with such "10%" solutions is that 90% reductions of habitat will lead to 50% species loss. The larger the area we preserve intact, the greater species diversity will be maintained, the more likely that natural disturbance regimes (wind, fire, storms) will exist at their natural scale.

Bigger, coherent, connected and integral habitat is better than smaller, broken, isolated and fragmented. Is connecting, enlarging, restoring habitat and re-introducing species romantic and unrealistic, asked Soulé?

In reply, Soulé pointed to the example of Florida, where voters have approved a \$3 billion bond act to implement landscape restoration and re-wilding. "Restoring nature in all its living glory is an idea whose time has come."

—A.W.

The Wildlands Project

by Paula MacKay and Robert Long

The Wildlands Project (TWP) looks to the long term recovery of the natural landscape. Founded in 1992, our mission is to help protect and restore the ecological richness and native biodiversity of North America through the establishment of a connected system of reserves. Our goals can be summarized as follows:

- Restoring and maintaining native ecosystem types
- Restoring and maintaining viable populations of native species
- Maintaining ecological and evolutionary processes
- Providing connectivity to allow for environmental change

A wildlands reserve system has three essential components: Core reserves, buffer areas, and landscape linkages. Core reserves are wilderness areas extensive enough to permit the natural functioning of ecological processes. While ecologically functional, buffer areas allow for intensive human uses compatible with the protection of cores which they surround. Landscape linkages connect buffer and core areas and facilitate the movement of animals, plant propagules and abiotic resources such as water and nutrients

within an otherwise fragmented landscape.

Rewilding is at the heart of TWP's vision: restoring large roadless areas, native carnivore populations and landscape connectivity. A rewilded North America will feature large, connected core reserves with a full complement of native species including wide ranging carnivores such as pine marten, lynx, timber wolf, cougar. Under the umbrella of these and other focal species most of a region's biodiversity should be protected.

Greater Laurentian Projects

The Greater Laurentian Wildlands Project (GLWP) is working to accomplish TWP's vision throughout the Greater Laurentian region (New England, New York, and Canada's eastern provinces.) Within the Northern Forest, more than a quarter of native plant species and one third of reptiles and amphibians are rare, threatened or endangered. Less than 0.5% of the Northern Forest's old growth remains.

GLWP is incrementally piecing together a reserve design for the region. Our most ambitious effort to date is the Maine Wildlands Reserve Project (MWRP). Through MWRP, we are working to create and refine an ecologi-

cal reserve design representing an interconnected system of conservation lands capable of sustaining Maine's ecosystems over the long term.

Among its other projects, GLWP is working with wildlands collaborators to develop "A2A", a bi-national effort to restore ecological connectivity between New York's Adirondack Park and Ontario's Algonquin Park. We believe, as do our Canadian colleagues, that the A2A process must be bottom-up if it is to be successful; thus initial efforts will be aimed at gaining a groundswell of support for the A2A concept in the region. We are planning to host a workshop within the U.S. boundaries of A2A to encourage involvement from land trusts, universities, conservation groups, and citizens.

Meanwhile, GLWP has coordinated an effort to map a "priority conservation zone" between the Adirondacks and Algonquin. The project is nearing completion and is based on the needs of the Eastern timber wolf—a top level carnivore native to both areas but now extirpated from most of its historic range in the U.S. GLWP will present this work at the Fifth Annual Conference on the Adirondacks in May.

Note: The best way to keep abreast of

Wildlands developments is to subscribe to *Wild Earth* magazine. Please contact *Wild Earth* at POB 455, Richmond, VT 05477.

Saving Wildlands by Saving Species

Re-wilding the Northern Forest will not be complete, if history is a benchmark, until we have restored such top predators as the catamount and timber wolf, such keystone species as the Atlantic salmon, and secured intact habitat for our large mammals like the black bear, moose and (extirpated) woodland caribou. And what of smaller creatures? Salamanders are responsible for the processing of incredible amounts of biomass, relative to their size.

Intact, connected and extensive habitat will be lobotomized wildlands unless species are able to recolonize and thrive. Acid rain, water pollution and global climate change belong on the environmental agenda every bit as much as habitat protection.

—A.W.

FINDING MORE GMNF ROADLESS AREAS

by Jim Northup

On our National Forests the greatest conflicts among land uses occur between timber production—roadbuilding and logging—and backcountry wildness.

When public land is dedicated to intensive timber production it cannot provide backcountry or wildland conditions, and vice versa.

In developing the official management plan for the Green Mountain National Forest, the USFS decided that National Forests in New England should emphasize providing backcountry and wildland conditions over timber production.

Balancing Wildlands and Timberlands

The Clinton administration has proposed a temporary moratorium on building new National Forest timber roads in "inventoried" roadless areas larger than 5,000 acres. To qualify as an inventoried roadless area, lands must have met the criteria established during the Forest Service's nationwide Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE), Phases I and II. There are no inventoried areas in Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest, but recent computerized analyses indicate there are several areas—small and large—that are or could be roadless. These areas deserve protection from roadbuilding until their wildland potential can be studied further.

Relatively few large, roadless areas exist in Vermont and the rest of New England, and they are becoming more and more scarce as the number of people, houses and roads increase each year. Public lands represent the best, and perhaps the only, opportunity to provide large roadless areas over the long-term.

Roadless Areas in the Green

Within the Proclamation Boundary of the GMNF there is an average of 8.1 miles of road per square mile of private land and 2.9 miles of road per square mile of public land. This means that private land in this relatively rural part of Vermont has nearly three times the road density of public land.

Private land in the more urbanized regions of Vermont is likely to have even higher road densities. Clearly, GMNF land presents one of the best opportunities in Vermont for providing areas with few or no roads, and it should be managed accordingly.

Given the present system of permanent roads, the GMNF has nineteen roadless areas of 3,000 acres or more in size. These nineteen areas cover about 164,000 acres—nearly half the total GMNF. Permanent closure of infrequently used, seasonal logging roads could expand the size, sometimes significantly, of most of these NF roadless areas.

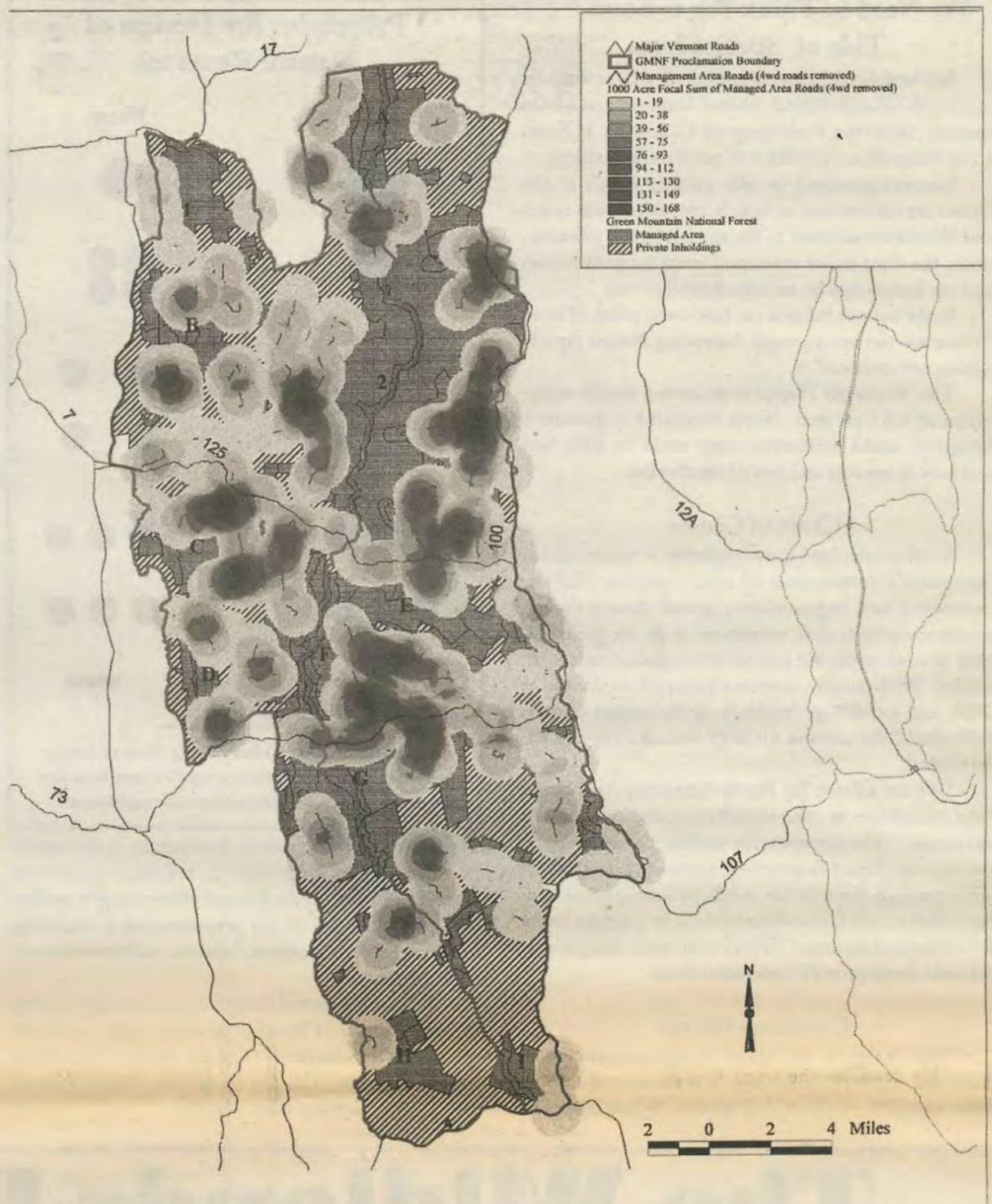
85,000 Unprotected Acres

Seven of the nineteen roadless areas are permanently protected from future roadbuilding. Six are federally designated Wildernesses and total about 60,000 acres. The seventh is the White Rocks National Recreation Area, containing another 19,000 roadless acres. The act creating the NRA prohibits additional roadbuilding, but allows for some logging.

The remaining twelve areas do not have any long-term protection of their roadless conditions. They range in size from 3,000 acres to 23,000 acres, and cover a total of 85,000 acres—25 percent of the GMNF. The GMNF Plan designates large portions of three of these roadless tracts as "primitive" areas—no logging or roadbuilding allowed. However, the USFS could decide to change this designation and allow logging in the future.

Glastenbury and Lamb Brook Wildlands

The 23,000 acres of NF surrounding remote, rugged Glastenbury Mountain comprise the largest unprotected roadless area on the GMNF. The USFS has not yet made decisions about the best long-term management of this area since most of the land was



Analysis of Roadless Areas in Management Areas in the GMNF (Northern Section). Note: darker areas indicate higher road density. Courtesy of National Wildlife Federation and Vermont Natural Resources Council.

acquired a short time before the adoption of the current management plan. All existing evidence indicates that Glastenbury Mountain would make an outstanding addition to the federal Wilderness system. Until studies are done, the USFS should avoid any actions that would reduce the potential size of this roadless area or impair its recovery as a wildland.

The 5,500 acres in the vicinity of Lamb Brook present another outstanding opportunity to create a roadless wildland on the GMNF. A coalition of environmental organizations—Audubon, Sierra Club, Conservation Law Foundation, RESTORE: The Northwoods, Green Mountain Forest Watch and a few individual citizens—brought a lawsuit against the USFS to keep the agency from building a logging road deep into the heart of the area. Fortunately, the federal courts upheld the plaintiffs' claims and prohibited the agency from roadbuilding or logging unless additional environmental and economic analyses indicate it is wise to do so.

Let's be sure to keep our future options open by not building timber roads into the remaining large roadless areas on the Green Mountain National Forest. The US forest Service's 5,000 acre minimum may be appropriate for large, western National Forests, but it is not appropriate in the densely settled Northeast. Vermont's 3,200 acre Bristol Cliffs Wilderness is living proof that smaller wildland areas work here.

Jim Northup is director of the Vermont Natural Resources Council's forest program.

New Blood for New Hampshire

New Hampshire needs new direction and energy in forest conservation. The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, in its accommodation of industry, is compromising its many years (and ongoing effort) in worthy forest preservation. What is needed is an organization that would reflect and focus the new priorities and realities:

- Ecological integrity rather than political expediency should be at the center of conservation efforts.
- Wilderness and low impact forestry should be at the heart of the policy agenda.
- Democratic involvement and community welfare should be promoted by lively cooperation between community and mainstream groups.
- Ecologic values and limits should be the basis of economic initiatives that are directed to meeting needs of local communities rather than absentee, resource-sucking corporations.
- An agenda for New Hampshire's most timber-dependent county, Coos, should be developed on the above principles, recognizing the ongoing loss of opportunity with every year of unchecked timber liquidation. A diversified, value-adding economic approach based on wilderness and long rotation forestry could replace its current Third World stature.

—JS

Opportunity Lost?

Debsconeag Lakes Region

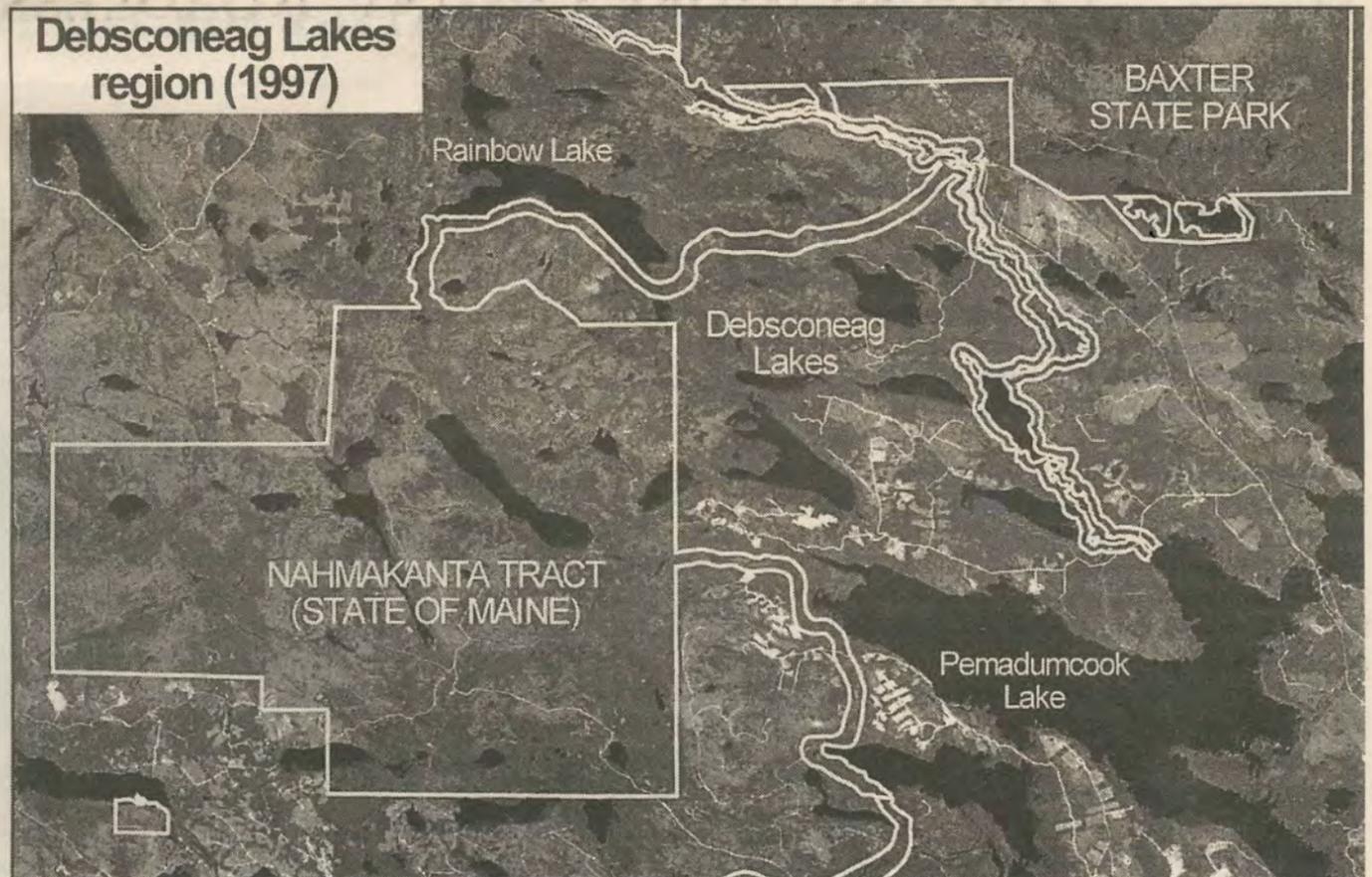
by Elderberry Youngman

This image of the Debsconeag Lakes Region is derived from satellite imagery dated 1997. It shows the southern portion of Baxter State Park and the state's 40,000 acre Nahmakanta Tract. Water is black, mature forest dark gray, and open areas (roads and recent clearcuts) white and light gray.

The protected corridors along the Appalachian Trail and the West Branch of the Penobscot River are outlined. The Golden Road (to Unlimited Devotion) runs from the top center southwest to the lower right. Millinocket is just off the lower right corner of the image.

The Debsconeag Lakes region lies between Baxter Nahmakanta, from north of Rainbow Lake to Pemadumcook Lake. Five of the many remote ponds and lakes which dot the area were listed in the State Planning Office's list of "Maine's Finest Lakes."

The area escaped the extensive clearcutting that occurred nearby in the



'70s and '80s and has remained relatively remote and inaccessible since the last round of harvesting decades ago.

It has been one of the largest privately owned, essentially roadless areas in the state, and was long managed as a "Remote Recreational Area" of about

50,000 acres by Great Northern (now Bowater).

The 1997 image indicates that significant changes have taken place even in the recent past. Extensive new road construction has occurred in the eastern portion of the region, and numerous

clearcuts now surround Pemadumcook Lake. It is likely that these trends will continue.

Ten years from now Debsconeag may be like the rest of the Maine Woods—lakes, rivers and trails isolated in a sea of heavily roaded clearcuts.

Mt. Sunapee Old Growth

New Hampshire forest ecologist Chris Kane reports re-discovery of old growth forest on state owned Mt. Sunapee within a 150 acre tract near the summit.

He describes the stand as a mix of red spruce (ranging to near 30" in diameter and at least one specimen having 249 growth rings) and yellow birch.

Kane's research found that the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests purchased 656 acres of Mt. Sunapee in 1911 following a local fund-raising effort to save the forest from logging. Since then, "awareness of these old-growth forests faded from memory."

Sunapee State Park land man-

agers now oversee the forest land and have agreed that the old growth stand merits special protection. The New Hampshire Natural Heritage program will be conducting research and developing recommendations, presumably in advance of state plans to lease the Sunapee ski area to a private outfit.

From Vol. 2/No. 1 of *Eastern Old Growth Notes*, a quarterly publication of the Eastern Old Growth Clearinghouse; POB 131, Georgetown, KY 40324; available for \$30 annually. Edited by Mary Byrd Davis, *Notes* provides a regular summary of important research and findings related to old growth protection and restoration.

Kearsage Timber Sale Appeal Resolved

The White Mountain National Forest has resolved an appeal of the Kearsage Project timber sale lodged by Earthworks, a Massachusetts based environmental group. The US Forest Service has agreed to refrain from logging in the Kearsage Brook watershed, where commercial thinning had been planned in management units adjacent to a 100 acre area of old growth and other communities exhibiting old growth characteristics.

The New Hampshire Natural Heritage inventory identified some of the areas of concern. Earthworks

Forest Coordinator Frank Shea cited inadequate study and protection of the Kearsage old growth as grounds of the appeal. He pointed to the example of Mt. Wachusett in central Massachusetts where researchers continue to find evidence of more old growth than was initially recognized.

A RESTORE: the North Woods appeal of the wider timber sale remains with the Regional Forester, with a decision expected in June.

—A.W. (from an Earthworks press release)

ROADLESS AREAS OF THE WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

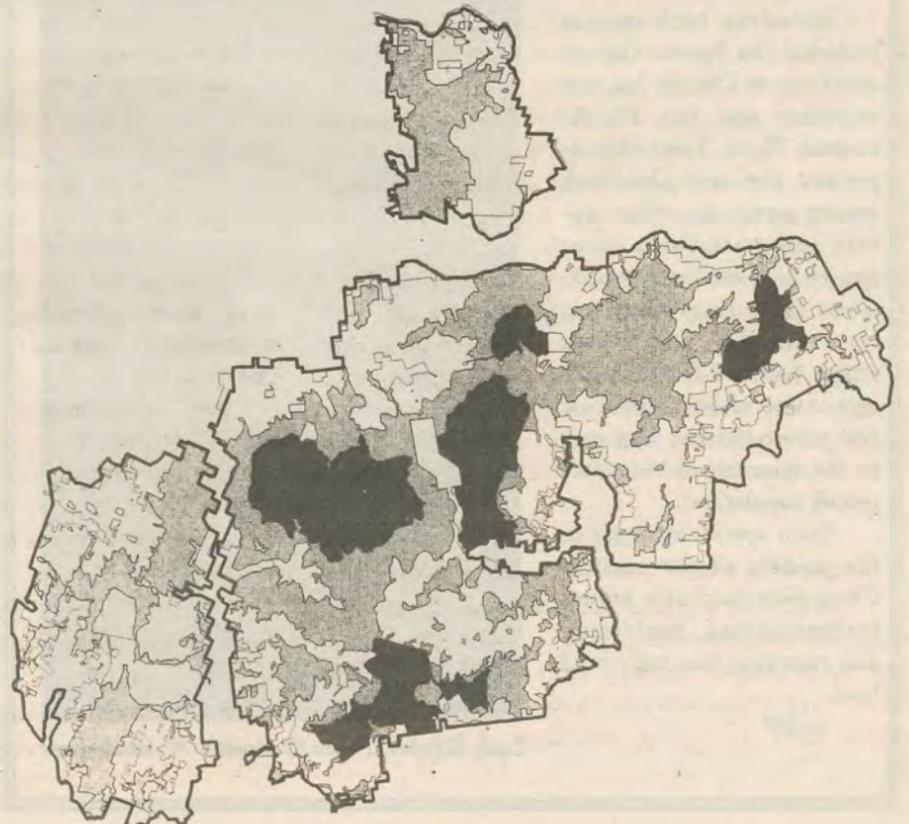
Map (at right) and Information Courtesy Dave Publicover and The Appalachian Mtn. Club

WMNF Map Legend

- Darkest—Designated wilderness areas
- Dark Gray—Designated to remain unharvested and roadless within the management plan (also includes areas designated "holding areas," i.e., not classified but management deferred until next plan)
- Light Gray—Timber harvesting allowed: more than 1/2 mile from existing roads
- White—Timber harvesting allowed; within 1/2 mile of existing roads (includes the 2 experimental forests and private lands within the WMNF boundary)

Notes: White Mountain National Forest staff are awaiting the final outcome of Washington's roadbuilding moratorium; they do anticipate some impact from it, particularly in areas adjacent to Wilderness.

Areas greater than 1/2 mile from a road would probably require some additional roadbuilding. The total timber base on the WMNF is about 345,000 acres (45% of the Forest). 70% of this is within 1/2 mile of a road; 30% is more distant but only 5% is over a mile from a road.



WILDLANDS: A CONSERVATION STRATEGY FOR THE NORTHERN FOREST

By Andrea Colnes

In January 1997, the Northern Forest Alliance proposed creating a series of Wildlands as the cornerstone of a conservation strategy for the Northern Forest. We view Wildlands as part of a trilogy—along with sustainable forest management and robust local economies and communities—that are essential for protecting the Northern Forest.

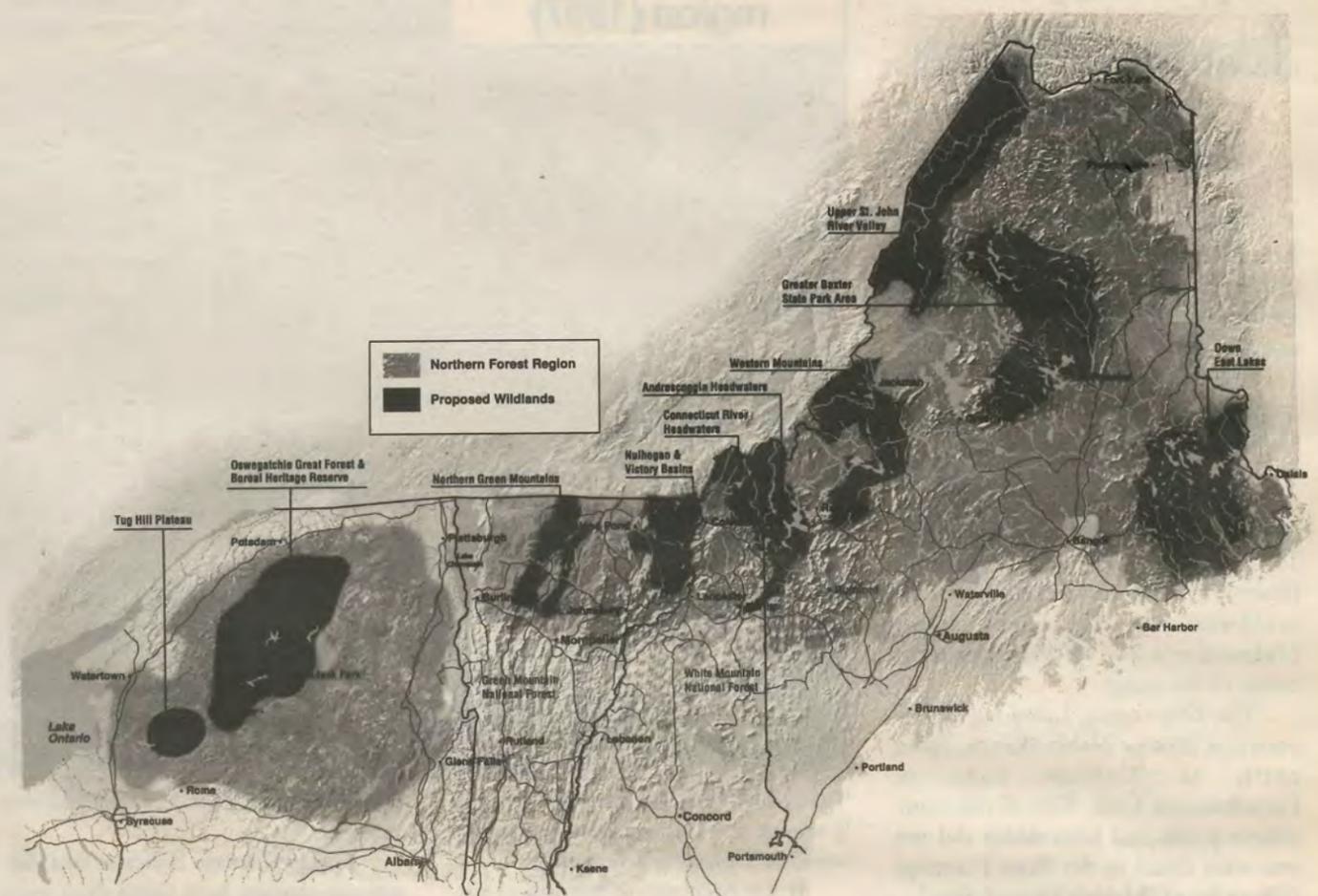
Stresses within the forest-based economy of our region and ever growing population pressures have brought the Northern Forest to a point of great risk, and of great opportunity. High grading has reduced timber quality; profit taking has superseded concern for long-term stewardship; and forest liquidators and developers threaten to turn the forest into house lots.

Large land sales, such as Champion International's plan to sell 325,000 acres in three states, remind us that distant corporate executives owe their allegiance to shareholders, not to the people of the Northern Forest.

But with the risk comes opportunity. As we enter the 21st century, the people of the region have the chance to act, to leave a whole, healthy, productive forest to future generations and ensure that our way of life is not reduced to exhibits in a theme park of "the way things used to be."

The Wildlands Proposal

The Wildlands concept that the Alliance proposes will protect important lands within the Northern Forest for environmental, recreational and eco-



nomics. Our goal is to conserve and restore the wild character, ecological integrity and productive value of these areas so they can continue to support our economy and way of life. Identifying a system of Wildlands is critical to maintaining the forest's ecology while ensuring that it continues to provide high quality recreation and timber products.

We believe that the Wildlands should:

- Continue to provide open public

access for traditional recreation activities;

- Support sustainable timber harvesting;
- Include permanent protection for ecologically and recreationally important areas; and
- Remain largely free from new development.

Within each Wildland, the most ecologically and recreationally important areas should be permanently protected. We believe these areas should be treated as wilderness. Visitors would continue to enjoy hunting, fishing, camping, and other traditional, non-motorized recreation. These sanctuaries would help maintain biodiversity and satisfy the human urge to explore untamed, beautiful places. The wilderness here will give refuge to wildlife, and leave nature with the space it needs to thrive.

Each Wildland also should support sustainable timber harvesting that meets clear ecological guidelines and contributes to the forest-products economy. In time, larger, higher grade trees will provide increased opportunities for value-added manufacturing, strengthening the overall local and regional forest-based economy.

The Wildlands' managed forests also will provide opportunities for the region's forest-based recreation industry to expand. Unparalleled hunting, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling and camping will draw residents, tourists and sportsmen, contributing to this growing part of the economy. To preserve these qualities, timber harvesting in Wildlands should support the forest's overall ecological integrity, and new road building should be minimized.

Managed wisely, the Wildlands will enrich and perpetuate the wild character of the Northern Forest.

The vision we present in the Wildlands proposal calls for creating a mosaic of wild and working forestlands. Based on the best available scientific information, we have identified those areas that we believe have the highest

concentration of outstanding ecological and recreational resources and the least fragmentation and development (see map). We offer the Wildlands proposal to stimulate public discussion and encourage constructive action by everyone concerned about the future of these places.

In the year since we first proposed the Wildlands concept, important portions of several of these high priority areas have been offered for sale, including the Nulhegan Basin in Vermont, the 15,000-acre Whitney estate property in New York, and 144,000 acres of Champion lands in New York's Oswegatchie Great Forest. Beyond these lands, hundreds of thousands of acres for sale across the region offer an exciting opportunity to shape the future of the Northern Forest. As land sales continue—7 million acres, or more than 25% of the Northern Forest since 1988—we need a thoughtful, real-world approach to conserve the forest and the region's character.

Our proposal recognizes that there is no single way to protect the Wildlands, and that a mix of public and private conservation strategies, ranging from private landowner initiatives to conservation easements to public purchase, should be used to protect important values and meet local needs.

The Wildlands proposal is not a neat, tidy answer—we do not suggest who should own what and how it should be managed. It is not a call to lock up lands and shut people out; it is just the opposite. Our vision is that these Wildlands will help restore and enhance the ecological health of the forest, provide open public access, quality wildlife habitat, and a flow of high quality sustainably produced timber. Above all, the Wildlands proposal is not an end point, but a call for thoughtful, open public discussion about how to conserve the Northern Forest.

Andrea Colnes is the executive director of the Northern Forest Alliance.

Naturalist's Field Work & The Nulhegan Reserve

Naturalist Frank Oatman of Craftsbury, Vermont undertook an inventory of a 2,000 acre parcel in the Nulhegan Basin in 1977. The work he and others did there helped lay the basis for eventual state and Nature Conservancy acquisition of the land which contained unique bog and boreal habitat.

Oatman wrote a "Proposal for an Island Pond Nature Preserve" in which he stated that the entire property deserved protection "not only as a buffer zone to protect the wilderness and the watershed of Moose Bog, but also because all of it represents a prime sample of a scarce and fragile ecosystem harboring many rare or endangered species."

Breeding bird species included the Spruce Grouse and Gray or Canada Jay, rare warblers and the Black-backed Three Toed Woodpecker, the rare Goshawk among numerous other raptors and waterfowl; plant species of boreal-bog associations including Rhodora, Labrador Tea and a rare sedge. Oatman found ample sign as well of deer, black bear and moose (Moose Bog may be the epicenter of Vermont's moose population).

Such species richness in the middle of the current Champion land sale argues for purchasing, protecting and reserving this truly wild land.

—AW



Lady Slipper. Photo © Gustav W. Verderber.

Big Wilderness for a Strong Economy

Excerpts from an open letter to Gov. Angus King on the desirability of establishing a Maine Woods National Park

Dear Governor King:

In the eastern United States the Maine Woods is legendary as the last remaining really Big Place—more than ten million acres of wildlands.

There are plenty of compelling environmental, aesthetic and social arguments for big wild areas. However, I know you are especially interested in the plight of rural Maine. So, I want to focus on the economic reasons we need big, permanently protected wilderness.

Decline of Manufacturing & Rise of Tourism

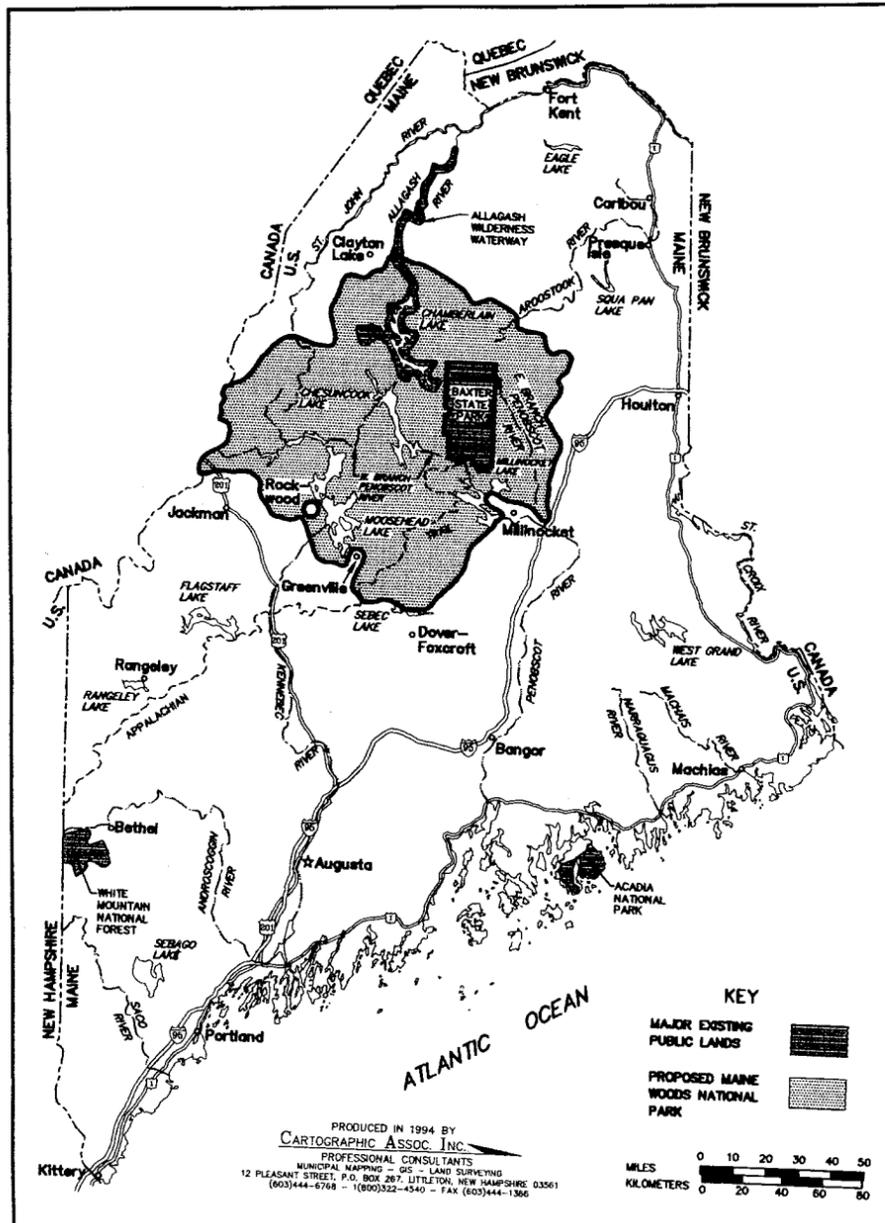
The natural areas in the North Woods are the basis of future jobs there.

Study after study has found that forest industry jobs have been declining, despite increased logging, and that more forestry jobs will be lost in the coming years whether our mills are modernized or not.

In the Katahdin-Moosehead region, for instance, over 3,500 forestry industry jobs were lost from 1984-94, a 44 percent drop. Logging jobs alone fell even farther, down 54 percent.

Northern Maine is where tourism is growing most rapidly. Tourism is the fastest growing industry in the world, and tourists, whether domestic or foreign, want to visit big, beautiful, natural places.

We need to be clear about our choice of paths. We can have a few people profit in the short-term by chopping up and overbuilding our unspoiled lakeshores while absentee paper companies turn the Maine Woods into fiber farms. Or we can preserve the famous



Maine Woods as the basis of a sustainable economy for northern Maine.

The Vision of Thoreau

A century and a half ago, after vis-

iting the Maine Woods, Henry David Thoreau proposed the creation of national preserves to safeguard the wilderness qualities of the region. An idea worthy of Thoreau would be the

returning at least 20 percent of the land in northern Maine to public conservation by the year 2020.

We need public ownership, acquired on a willing seller basis, of big backcountry areas.

I know you have heard about the 3.2-million acre Maine Woods National Park & Preserve proposed for the Katahdin-Moosehead region. An economic study of this park idea shows that it could help generate between \$109 million and \$435 million in annual retail sales, and it could support 5,000 to 20,000 jobs in Maine.

Such a vision is no pipe dream. There is federal money available through the Land and Water Conservation Fund for purchase of public lands. There is also public support. Recent polls show that a substantial majority of Mainers support large protected areas in the North Woods. A simple, but crucial, first step would be a full public study of all the benefits and costs of a new park.

In the tradition of Governor Percival Baxter, who preserved the lands around Katahdin in a wilderness park for the people, I hope you will consider how to preserve the public interest in the lands around Baxter Park before it is too late. That could truly get Maine on the move.

Sincerely,
Jym St. Pierre, Maine Director
RESTORE: The North Woods

Jym St. Pierre holds a master's degree in natural resource economics from the University of Maine. For more information about RESTORE: the North Woods National Park proposal, contact Jym St. Pierre, 7 North Chestnut St., Augusta, ME. 04330.

Bob Marshall Great Wilderness Would Be East's Largest

Map and Text adapted from the Adirondack Council's "A Gift of Wilderness" by Michael G. DiNunzio 1992

History: As a youngster and later as a forestry student, Robert Marshall summered in the Adirondacks where he spent free time hiking and exploring remote and wild forest.

In his later career with the U.S. Forest Service and as a founder (with Aldo Leopold and Robert Sterling Yard) of the Wilderness Society, Marshall was a great advocate for wilderness.

Before his life was cut short at the age of 38, Marshall undertook a survey of roadless forest areas greater than 300,000 acres in the United States. The 380,000 acre Cranberry Lake-Beaver River tract in the western Adirondacks was the largest such area east of the Mississippi River.

In 1935 Marshall wrote: "It is almost the rarest thing a human being can do today to escape the signs of mechanization. It is of inestimable value to make it possible for people to get where they know they must be competent to cope with nature without any possible help from the machine. The values which exist in such wilderness areas are very delicate. The mere knowledge that mechanization lies over the top of the hill is enough to destroy some

of the finest inspirational values of the wilderness."

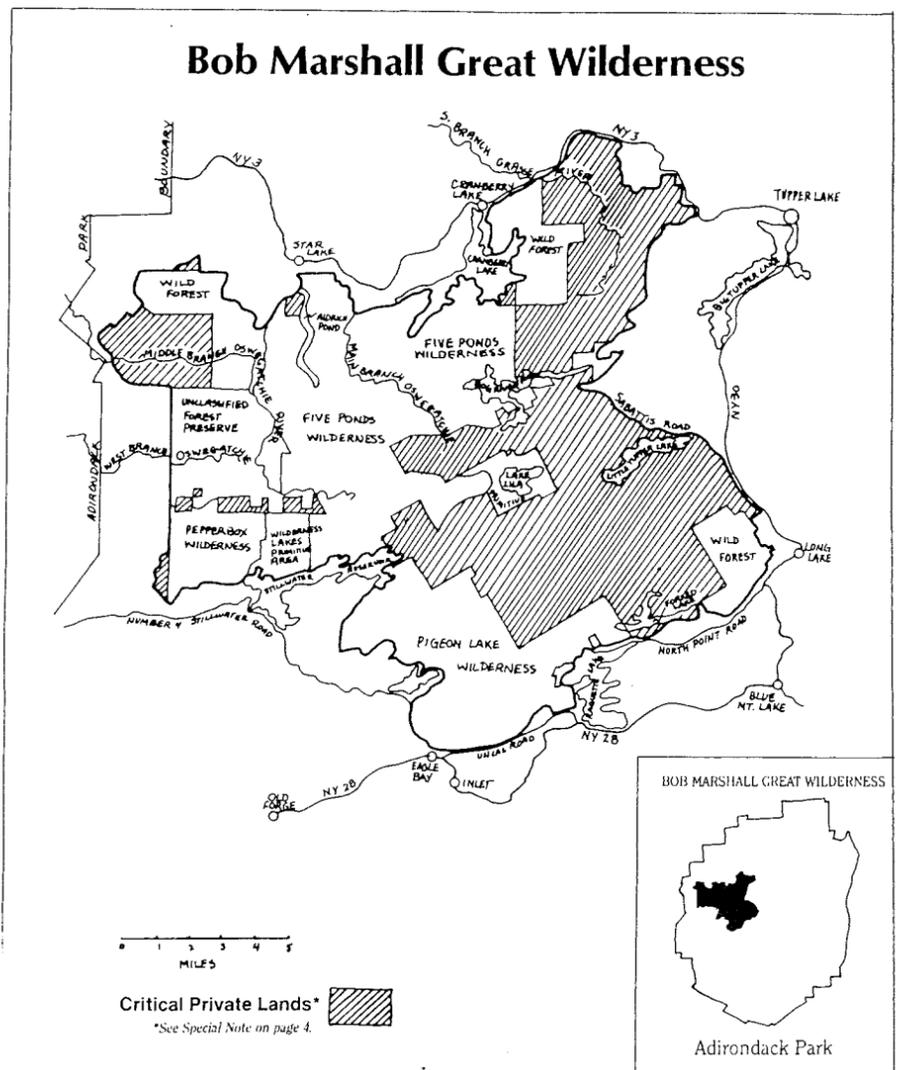
Present Status and Future Possibilities: The Adirondack Council has designed an expansion and consolidation of the existing Five Ponds, Pigeon Lake and Pepperbox Wilderness areas into a Bob Marshall Great Wilderness that would total over 400,000 acres—a truly world class reserve possibly capable of sustaining populations of wolf and catamount.

Recently the state of New York reached agreement to buy 15,000 acres of the Whitney Tract, including the eight mile long Little Tupper Lake in the heart of the "Bob."

Additionally, Champion International is offering 144,000 acres for sale in the Adirondacks including 30 square miles on the western boundary of the Bob Marshall Wilderness—an opportunity for New York to secure through management easements a buffer around this core wildland.

To complete the Bob Marshall will require a commitment from the State to purchasing about 160,000 acres from willing sellers as lands become available.

We will soon be observing the 100th anniversary of Bob Marshall's birth in 1901. What better way to commemorate it than re-commit to a big Adirondack wilderness in his name?



"Room for the Wild"

Several years ago, Brad Meiklejohn, a field biologist, wrote a letter home to the Northern Forest Forum (v.4 #3) from Alaska. He lamented the "ecological amnesia" that plagues New Englanders who must travel to a place teeming with wildlife to experience what their own home was once like.

Meiklejohn points out that "because of its temperate climate, New England was at one time biologically richer than Alaska. Now, after 200 years of degradation, it is but a shadow of its former self." He concludes:

"New England should have several wildlands each greater than a million acres. We can close some roads, remove dams, leave more areas alone. Anything less condemns New England to a greatly diminished future."

"As the trees have proven, New England is resilient. Abundant wildlife will return. If we give it room."

The Future Promise of Recovering Wilderness

Bill McKibben in his afterword to *Eastern Old Growth Forests* (edited by Mary Byrd Davis, Island Press, 1996) reflects on the recovery of forest in the East, and sees the promise of landscape renewal in "future old growth." What McKibben observes of the Adirondacks could apply to the Headwaters if we established Wilderness here:

"[But] history no longer outshouts the other noises of these woods; they hum along again on some deeper tune. They are not old growth forests—there is lots of paper birch, and the trees are not yet enormous, and the land is a little flatter than perhaps it should be. And surely the soils lack certain invisible life, and the woods no longer echo wolf-cry. But it will be old growth again, barring new human intrusion."

"The concept of recovery, of renewal, of future old growth, can revitalize conservation campaigns in this part of the world. . . . Old growth is not simply a marker of past glory, an elegy for all that once was. It is a promise of the future, a glimpse of the systemic soundness we will see completed in our lifetimes but that can fire our hopes for the timelessness to come."

A Carbon Reserve for an Aggrading Ecosystem

Consider the 8,000,000 acres of the Headwaters Reserve in the context of the central fact of their biology: they are young, recovering forest. According to F.H. Bormann and G.E. Likens in their *Pattern and Process in a Forested Ecosystem* (Springer-Verlag 1979), the heavy, periodic disturbance associated with clearcutting keeps knocking these woods back toward less ecologically organized states.

Older, more organized forests are rare and atypical in northern New England. Such forests represent higher phases of ecosystem development about which we know little. What we do know is that, in terms of simple accumulation of biomass, our forested ecosystem has unfulfilled potential—at least one century of net carbon sequestration.

Forest protected within the Headwaters could be the Nation's first gesture toward reducing the threat of global warming; the Nation's first Carbon Reserve.

Headwaters to a Region's Rivers

The Northern Forest Headwaters Reserve contains within it the headwaters to the wildest rivers of New England: the Connecticut, the Androscoggin, the Kennebec, Penobscot, the St. John and Allagash.

Lands for Sale

Paper company lands are routinely for sale within the Headwaters. More than half of the lands in the proposed Headwaters Reserve have been sold at least once since 1980. Presently these include Champion International holdings in Vermont and New Hampshire.

Given industry intransigence to regulatory reform in Maine, the conservation community should focus its collective efforts on uniting the citizenry behind declaring a Northern Forest purchase boundary. We need to collectively lobby our Congressional representatives for their support of willing-seller acquisitions across the Region.

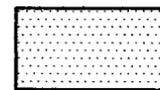
Headwaters Proposal Available

The Headwaters Reserve proposal was first published in 1995 (volume 3 #5). To procure a copy of the full proposal, contact: Northern Appalachian Restoration Project, POB 6, Lancaster, NH 03584.

PROPOSED NORTHERN FOREST HEADWATERS REGIONAL WILDERNESS RESERVE

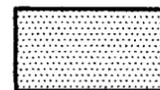
KEY

MAJOR EXISTING PUBLIC LANDS

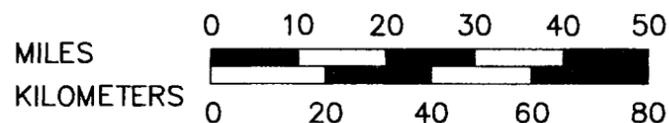


⑤

PROPOSED RESERVES

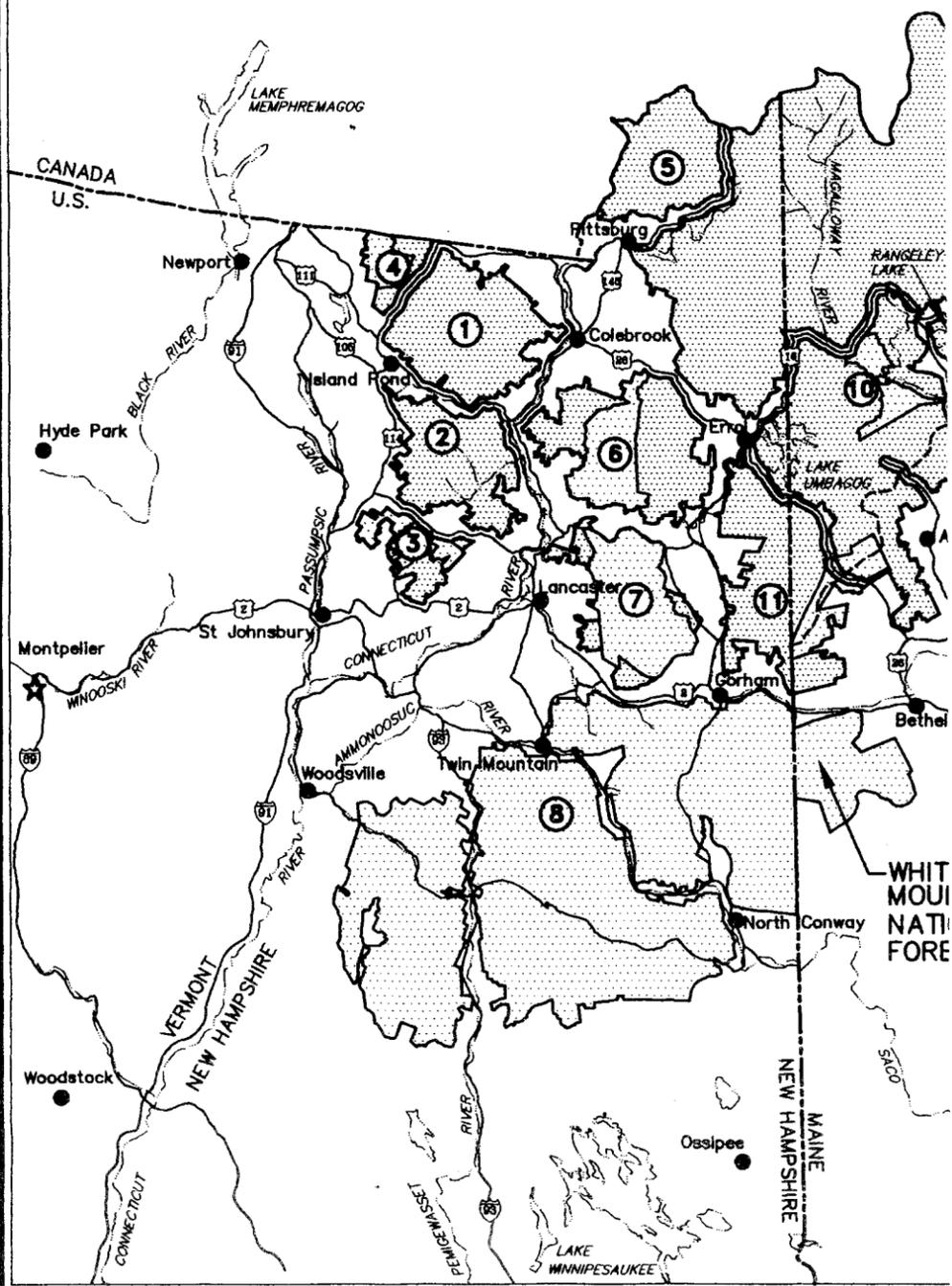


APPROX. SCALE 1 : 1,230,000



PRODUCED IN 1995 BY
CARTOGRAPHIC ASSOC. INC.

PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS
MUNICIPAL MAPPING - GIS - LAND SURVEYING
11 PLEASANT STREET, P.O. BOX 267, LITTLETON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03561
(603)444-6768 - 1(800)322-4540 - FAX (603)444-1366

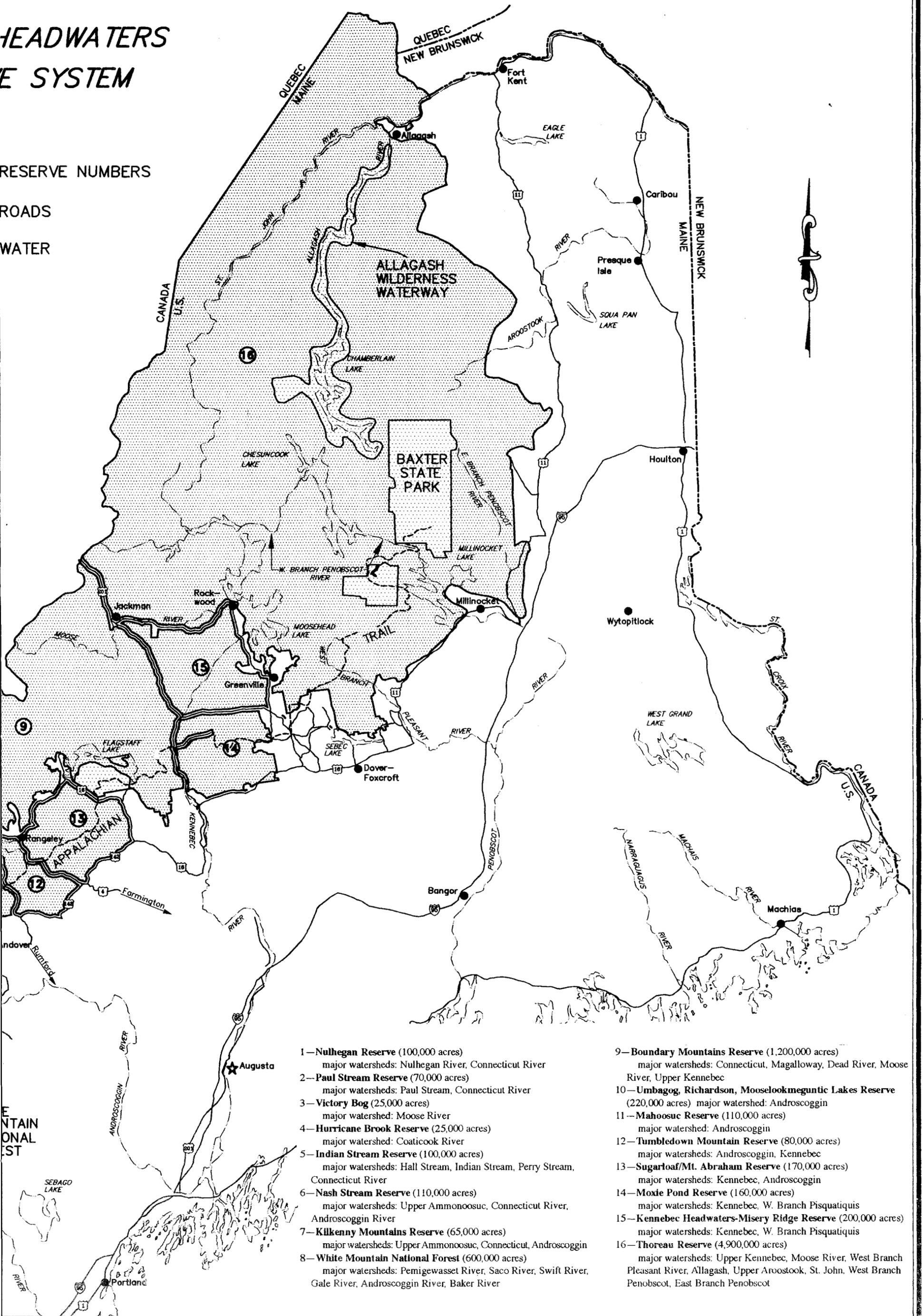


HEADWATERS SYSTEM

RESERVE NUMBERS

ROADS

WATER



- 1—Nulhegan Reserve (100,000 acres)
major watersheds: Nulhegan River, Connecticut River
- 2—Paul Stream Reserve (70,000 acres)
major watersheds: Paul Stream, Connecticut River
- 3—Victory Bog (25,000 acres)
major watershed: Moose River
- 4—Hurricane Brook Reserve (25,000 acres)
major watershed: Coaticook River
- 5—Indian Stream Reserve (100,000 acres)
major watersheds: Hall Stream, Indian Stream, Perry Stream, Connecticut River
- 6—Nash Stream Reserve (110,000 acres)
major watersheds: Upper Ammonoosuc, Connecticut River, Androscoggin River
- 7—Kilkenny Mountains Reserve (65,000 acres)
major watersheds: Upper Ammonoosuc, Connecticut, Androscoggin
- 8—White Mountain National Forest (600,000 acres)
major watersheds: Pemigewasset River, Saco River, Swift River, Gale River, Androscoggin River, Baker River
- 9—Boundary Mountains Reserve (1,200,000 acres)
major watersheds: Connecticut, Magalloway, Dead River, Moose River, Upper Kennebec
- 10—Umbagog, Richardson, Mooselookmeguntic Lakes Reserve (220,000 acres) major watershed: Androscoggin
- 11—Mahoosuc Reserve (110,000 acres)
major watershed: Androscoggin
- 12—Tumbledown Mountain Reserve (80,000 acres)
major watersheds: Androscoggin, Kennebec
- 13—Sugarloaf/Mt. Abraham Reserve (170,000 acres)
major watersheds: Kennebec, Androscoggin
- 14—Moxie Pond Reserve (160,000 acres)
major watersheds: Kennebec, W. Branch Pisquaticus
- 15—Kennebec Headwaters-Misery Ridge Reserve (200,000 acres)
major watersheds: Kennebec, W. Branch Pisquaticus
- 16—Thoreau Reserve (4,900,000 acres)
major watersheds: Upper Kennebec, Moose River, West Branch Pleasant River, Allagash, Upper Aroostook, St. John, West Branch Penobscot, East Branch Penobscot

Closures Won't Help Unless We Protect Habitat

by Ron Huber

The latest government initiative to restore the Atlantic cod and its wild cousins inhabiting the half of our Gulf of Maine watershed that lies under saltwater—a Maine state proposal to close Maine's public seas to bottom fishing for 90 days—seems at surface to be a good idea. Give the cod, and other bottom fish, a chance to gather, mate and spawn in peace during their annual gatherings atop the great ledges and banks dotting the Gulf.

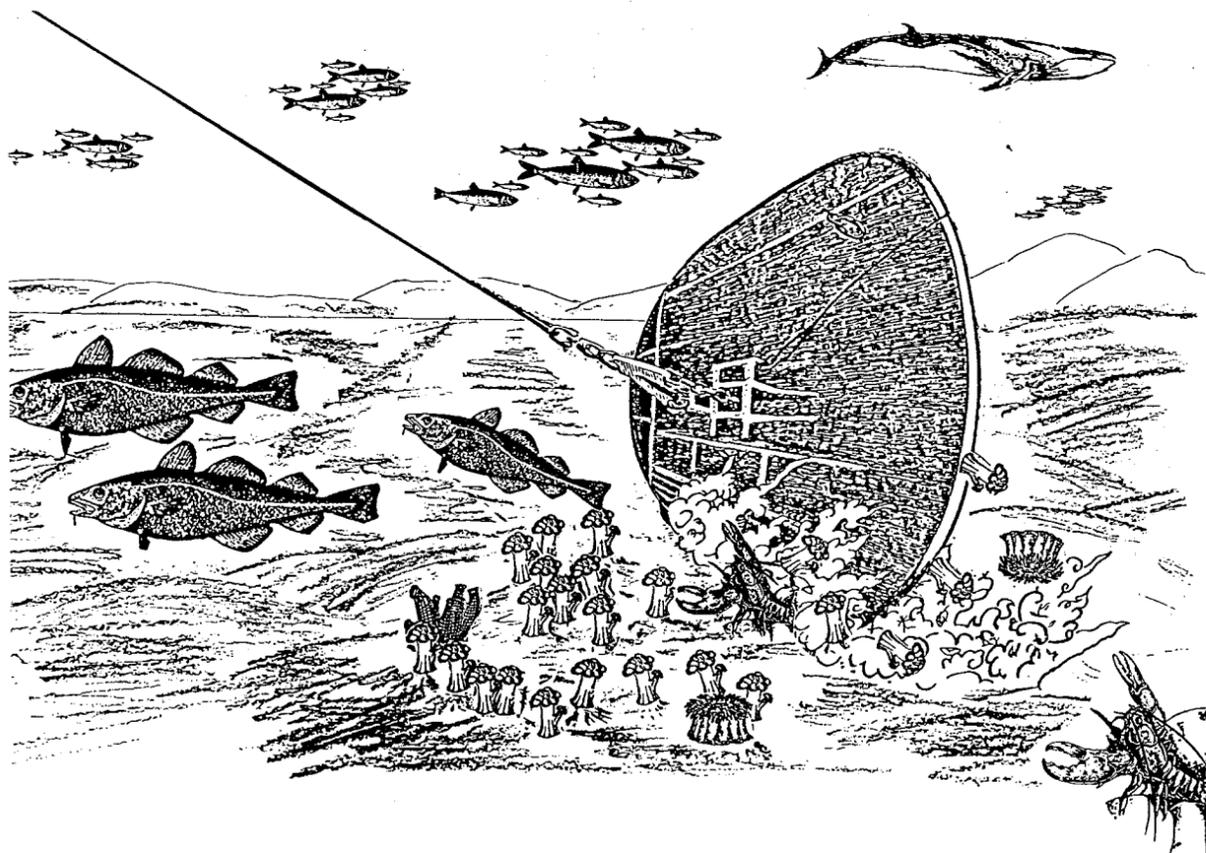
For courting and nesting cod are skittish beasts. A trawl passing through their midst surely spoils the mood of those not caught up in the net. Once this critical lovefest is past, the theory goes, and the great congregation disperses, the fish catchers may fill their boats, confident that a new generation of cod is on its way.

But what about the kids? Once hatched, larval cod travel on the currents and tides before settling down to life on the bottom. There, amid the Gulf's "short forest" of sponges, sea anemones, shells, worm tubes and other "live bottom" they live a wary infancy, safe from dogfish and even their hungry parents. Feeding on smaller inhabitants of this patchy wilderness, young cod and other ground fish soon grow big enough to live safely in the vast open spaces of the Gulf.

This critical early time in their lives isn't protected at all by Maine's 90 day closure plan. Come day 91, as otter trawlers return to sweep the sea floor, the juvenile fishes' essential cover habitat will be torn away. Scallop dredges are similarly habitat-unfriendly. Even if the juveniles slip through the net, their home and hideouts are gone. Without cover, a juvenile cod quickly becomes dogfish food. This preferred mobile bottom fishing technology makes clearcutting fellerbunchers look like delicate surgical tools.

We know if we deprived wildlife on land of their habitat, we would have no wildlife. But that is precisely what we do in the Gulf of Maine. With the exception of working harbors and dump sites there is no permanently protected area in the immensity of the Gulf of Maine that exists below the tide line. Temporary closures and dump zones aside, virtually every square inch of the public saltwater environment is open to exploitation.

Particularly vexing to marine scientists, on whom fishery decision makers rely, is that with no 'control' areas to work from, they can only guess how the marine ecosystems of the Gulf of Maine are supposed to work. What is the link between various types of habitats, various species? What are the associations



"Dragging along with force over considerable areas of marine bottom, it tears away, promiscuously, hosts of the inferior beings there resident, bringing destruction on the multitudes of smaller fishes; the whole of which, be it observed, are the appointed diet of those edible species sought as human food."—James Bellamy, 1842

"There is virtually no underwater spot on the North American continental shelf that is not trawled for fish at least once a year"—Richard Malatesta, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, 1994.

between bottom species and those riding the currents above? No one knows. How could they? The results are self evident to anyone who has followed the downward spiral of the majority of our saltwater species, despite the best efforts of regulators and industry to sustain the fishery.

The solution—agreed to by virtually every marine biologist in our region and elsewhere—is simple: designate permanent no-fishing, drilling or dumping places in our public lands and waters we call the Gulf of Maine. Let areas of the Gulf reconstitute themselves. Many of the Gulf's biological processes move at lightning speeds compared to those on land. A twenty year respite from industrial exploitation in the Gulf may bear the same fruits as two hundred years on land.

Unless we follow Percival Baxter's lead and designate wild places throughout the Gulf of Maine and on Georges Bank, the regulatory guessing game will con-

tinue, as will the downward spiral of our fish and fisheries. A permanent closure of at least 10% of our public sea is the simplest, fairest, most easily enforced way to do so.

Making the leap to understanding that the Gulf and all its wild inhabitants—every codfish, deep water coral, diatom, scallop and lobster, and all their relations—belong to all of us—or none of us—is the necessary and important first step. Then we can come to see that, no less than on land, the Gulf of Maine's vast and rugged underwater seascape, from muddy clam flat to cod-prowled offshore bank, is a part of our heritage worth preserving.

Let areas of the Gulf reconstitute themselves. Many of the Gulf's biological processes move at lightning speeds compared to those on land. A twenty year respite from industrial exploitation in the Gulf may bear the same fruits as two hundred years on land. ♪

More About Mercury

In 1971, Maine granted a chlor-alkali plant on the Penobscot River, three miles below Brewer, an exemption from the new laws forbidding the dumping of mercury into state waters. Three owners later, the Penobscot River sports the most mercury-laden mud in North America directly offshore the plant. Following yet another accidental donative of thousands of gallons of mercury broth to the river, the present owners, midwestern US based Holtra-Chem took swift action: firing the careless employees who ignored the plant's warning klaxon for 30 minutes, and hiring noted mercury non-expert Richard Barringer from his Muskie Institute lodgings as Holtra Chem's "Environmental Overseer". Dick may know little about the chlor-alkali process, but at \$100 per hour, he's sure to produce some impressive rhetoric as he wields his overseer's knout among the merc-workers.

Not to be outdone in the appearance-of-action department, Maine Governor Angus King has sent LD 2269 "An Act to Reduce Mercury Use and Emissions" to the Maine legislature. While the bill would end HoltraChem's 27 year exemption, and even threatens to jerk the company's operating license if another mercury spill happens, it also mandates across the board reductions in mercury air emissions by waste incinerators, and in useage of mercury as an industrial chemical. Unsurprisingly, phalanxes of black-suited waste industry lobbyists charged the podium at the legislature's hearing room, clashing their powerful weapons of uncertainty and dilatory amendments with great effect. At press time, no information was available on how the Natural Resources Committee's members fared under the assault.

REWILDING ATLANTIS

Students at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Maine, have just completed a study of the feasibility and prologemena to designating a non-extractive marine reserve straddling the US-Canada oceanic border. The report reviews the (somewhat inadequate) legal underpinnings for such a reserve, and notes that the proposed area fulfills the eight criteria agreed upon by the Gulf of Maine Marine Protected Areas Project: representativeness, diversity, ecological importance, ecological sensitivity, uniqueness, naturalness, integrity and biological productivity.

An excerpt from the portion of the report written by Traci Hickson appears on the following page. Readers accustomed to following the complex set of laws and regulations governing forest protection will see

many parallels in those laws designating marine wilderness—with the additional wrinkle that the Gulf spans three states, two provinces and two nations. The key to restoring the great wild Atlantis that so delighted our region's early colonists lies in gaining this understanding.

Meanwhile, marine conservation heavyweight Center for Marine Conservation has set its sights on creating the other vital element needed for marine reserve designation in the Gulf—public support. Instrumental in marshaling the public support that initiated most of our nation's (multiple use) national marine sanctuaries, including Stellwagen Bank NMS off Cape Cod, CMC's new focus on the Gulf of Maine bodes well for raising public enthusiasm for genuinely protected marine wilderness here.

Marine Reserves for the Gulf of Maine

A Legal Primer for Restoring Marine Ecology

By Traci Hickson

Despite current efforts to regulate fisheries and protect marine habitat, the world's estuaries, oceans and coastal waters are increasingly threatened. The Marine Conservation Biology Institute cites as significant threats: 1) over exploitation of species 2) physical alterations of ecosystems 3) pollution 4) introduction of alien species and 5) global atmospheric change.

Many in the scientific community support the creation of a system of marine protected areas (MPAs) to protect, restore, manage and research marine resources. MPAs are areas of marine ecosystems granted legal status and protections. They can include permanent bans on extraction or restriction of specific activities.

Approximately thirty countries, including New Zealand, Australia, the United States, Great Britain, South Africa, France and Belize have established 1300 MPAs over the past 60 years. Since the passage of the National Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, the United States has established twelve National Marine Sanctuaries, which represent barely half of one percent of the ocean territory under US jurisdiction. In Canada, one-tenth of one percent of the oceans are designated as MPAs.

An International Peace Park

A 1995 Dalhousie University symposium on MPAs and sustainable fisheries issued a declaration endorsing MPAs and calling for the establishment of an MPA along the Hague Line between Canada and the United States.

Martin Willison, one of the idea's original advocates, has suggested that the MPA be designated an International Peace Park (see Northern Forest Forum v.5 #6 p20).

The United States and Canada established the first such park in 1932 to recognize the ecological connection between Glacier National Park in the United States and Waterton Park in Canada and as a gesture of international good will.

For a joint MPA to be created along the Hague Line, the Canadian and US governments need to first designate separate no-take MPAs. What federal statutes would enable the creation of such areas along the Hague Line?

The Canadian Oceans Act

Canada's Oceans Act creates a viable means of establishing a no-take MPA along the Canadian side of the Hague Line so long as promoters can organize widespread support.

The Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) may designate MPAs to protect: A) commercial and non commercial fishery resources B) endangered and threatened species C) unique habitat D) areas of high biodiversity and biological productivity and E) any other marine resource or habitat necessary to fulfill the mandate of the

minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

At the regional level, DFO will identify candidate sites, create collaborative arrangements with local user groups, governmental and non-governmental interests, and establish and manage individual MPAs. Candidate sites may be nominated by interest-groups or through DFO regional overviews.

Site nomination (and involvement in subsequent management) by stakeholders will help build constituency in support of a particular MPA.

Regional overviews, conducted by an interdisciplinary scientific team, have the goal of identifying a network of MPAs that would fulfill the purpose of the Oceans Act. This overview process would complement the interest-group nominations, identify knowledge gaps, involve stakeholders, and cumulate into a database of MPA-related information.

However nominated, the MPA proposal must be prepared through a cooperative process involving coastal communities, organizations and government agencies. Nominators of an MPA are thus required to organize diverse community support, especially from stakeholders who may regard the MPA as a potential threat.

An Area Identification List (AIL) lists potential MPA candidates for further evaluation. The DFO has compiled a preliminary AIL but has not released the information.

Currently, the DFO has not officially conducted regional overviews. They will offer advice and facilitate the interest-group nomination process at the community's request. The DFO is aware of the Hague Line MPA propos-

al, but depends on its promoters to organize support among stakeholders and submit a preliminary proposal for review.

A final advantage of the Oceans Act is its precautionary approach. When considering MPA proposals, the DFO should err on the side of caution. "... the lack of scientific certainty about where to put MPAs, or how big they should be, or how many are needed, should not be used as a reason not to establish MPAs"(DFO 1997).

US Statutes Inadequate

Unfortunately, the United States does not have an Oceans Act that identifies the need for a system of MPAs in US waters. Two statutes do have limited potential for establishing no-take reserves.

Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA): The Secretary of Commerce may establish National Marine Sanctuaries under authority of the federal Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) manages the sanctuaries, which must be of national cultural and ecological significance.

Although the legislation stresses the need to "maintain, restore, and enhance living resources...", it also encourages multiple use (MPRSA 1972 Section 1431). As researcher Douglas Chadwick recently acknowledged, "...Marine sanctuaries are by no means underwater parks. They are multiple use areas, not surprising given that NOAA is a branch of the Department of Commerce." NOAA "regulates fishing

in only about one percent of the area" protected in the twelve National Marine Sanctuaries according to Martin Willison. Given the multiple use precedent and that Stellwagen Bank in the Gulf of Maine was the most recent area to be established as a marine sanctuary, the likelihood of NOAA establishing a no-take area in the Gulf of Maine is remote.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA): The Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, amending the Magnuson-Stevens Act, emphasizes the importance of protecting habitat to sustain fisheries. These amendments require the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to "identify and describe the essential habitat for fish species managed by the council."

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) is broadly defined as "those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity." After identifying EFH, NMFS must then "describe adverse impacts to that habitat from fishing activities; describe adverse impacts to that habitat from non-fishing activities; and recommend conservation and enhancement measures necessary to help minimize impacts and protect and restore that habitat."

The NMFS's primary charge under this legislation is to prevent proposed federal projects, such as drilling, from adversely affecting EFH.

The New England Fisheries Management Council, which is responsible for fisheries management in the Gulf of Maine, must identify EFH and recommend conservation measures for Atlantic herring, sea scallops, Atlantic salmon, and fifteen species of ground fish. Although preliminary EFH designation was tentatively scheduled for February 1998, NEFMC is still in the process of collecting information.

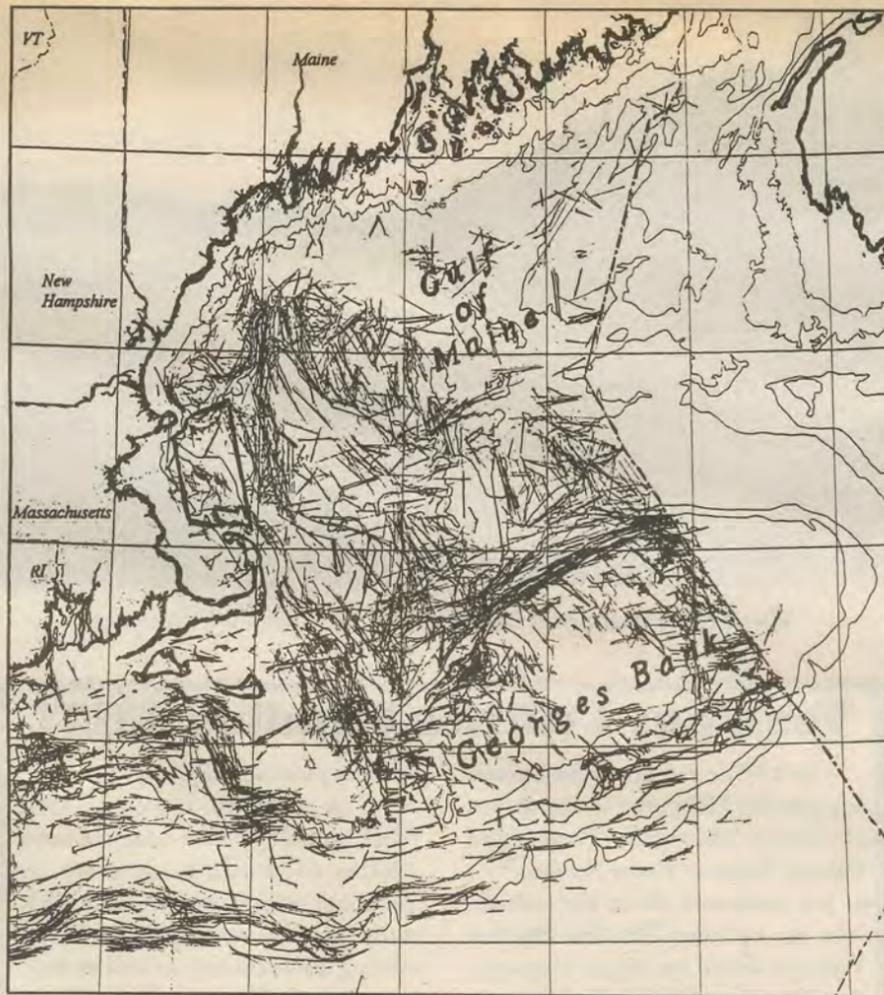
If EFH were designated within the proposed MPA along the Hague Line, NEFMC must recommend conservation measures for these areas, which could include no-take designation during spawning, migration, foraging and nursery activities. There is a possibility that part of the proposed MPA could be established through the legislation.

The other major issue of concern is that "fishery management plans must include fishery impact statements which assess the likely effects of measures on fishing communities." Community support would increase the likelihood of establishing a no-take MPA despite the present insufficiencies of U.S. law.

Public Support is Key

Bill Ballantine, Goldman Environmental Prize winner and long-time proponent of no-take MPAs in New Zealand, has been most successful when working directly with people. "I don't spend much time talking with politicians or government departments. In a democracy, if you want to change something, you have to change people. They will tell government. Government officials and politicians just do what we tell them, and we would not want [it] any different."

Traci Hickson is a student at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor.



Spatial distribution of 14,908 trawl and scallop dredge tows in the Gulf of Maine/Georges Bank region, 1989-1994, as compiled by NMFS sea samplers traveling on fishing boats. Note heavy fishing within Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (irregular rectangle above Cape Cod). Non extractive marine reserves will free large areas of the Gulf from the destructive effects of industrial fishing. No Canadian or state fisheries data available. Source: National Marine Fisheries Service.

Birth & Death of a Movement: The Story of SM3

Hydro-Quebec's plans for expansion did not die with the cancellation of Great Whale; the utility hydra sits atop a wilderness that it intends to fully exploit

by Alexis Lathem

"Soon, there will be no great and beautiful wild rivers left in Quebec, the entire territory will be crisscrossed with a network of powerlines, which like spider webs will spoil the beauty of our mountains and valleys."

—Innu traditionalist

In December 1998, the St. Marguerite River valley will begin to flood. The river that for thousands of years cascaded through a series of wild rapids before emptying into the St. Lawrence will back up behind a 160 meter high embankment dam, forming a deep, stagnant lake. It will take three years for the waters to fill the once magnificent river valley, already stripped of its forests, much of it old-growth, to become the site of a reservoir more than 400 meters deep.

When in 1994 the Premier of Quebec announced that the well-publicized Great Whale project would be put "on ice," activists viewed HQ as a slain giant. What the Natural Resources Defense Council called "the largest construction project in the western world" was at least temporarily defeated. HQ, however, was conducting business as usual; the 800 MW, three billion dollar St. Marguerite 3 (SM3) project in eastern Quebec was under construction, with up to 2,000 workers at the site. HQ's giantism attracted the criticism of the world but its "smaller" projects proceeded virtually unnoticed, dwarfed in comparison to the massive James Bay projects.

The SM3 project is approximately the size of the Hoover dam, one of the largest in the American West, and many times the size of the largest hydro dam in New England. Construction involves the promethean reconfiguration of the landscape: tunnels blasted, forests cleared, rivers diverted, and a deep, magnificent canyon submerged, blotted out of all memory.

Although the St. Marguerite River is not pristine (there are two existing dams on the lower stretch of the river and the salmon have not returned for decades) the project constitutes a violation of significant wildlands: a biologically rich river valley with roadless boreal forest, habitat for wolves, moose, eagles, and numerous small mammals. The most contested aspect of the project threatens a pre-eminent stock of wild Atlantic salmon in North America.

St. Marguerite Diverted

Before the railroad was built to service the iron ore mines at Schefferville and Wabush, the St. Marguerite and Moisie rivers were busy thoroughfares. Every autumn, Innu families dismantled their summer camps by the "sea" (the St. Lawrence) and headed up river to their winter hunting grounds. Some traveled to Lake Kaniapico, some to

Lake Michimakua, and some as far as Ungava Bay.

About 70 kilometers from its mouth, the St. Marguerite river plummeted tumultuously through a steep gorge. The Innu had to portage around 13 kilometers of rapids, ascending the rugged terrain with all their gear on their backs. This was the *Uemashtan*, the Great Portage. Paths are visible in the rocks, worn down by the passage of moccasined feet over the millennia. Above the rapids, the river meanders gently, shouldered by magnificent mountains cloaked in lush conifer forests, rising on either side like great sighs.

Into this landscape, which even HQ admits is "magnificent," HQ has carved a 100 km access road, through

The SM3 project is approximately the size of the Hoover dam, one of the largest in the American West, and many times the size of the largest hydro dam in New England.

the mountain, across numerous lake and rivers, involving 350 culverts, some more than 6 meters wide and over 90 meters long. The work camp (recycled from the James Bay projects), accommodating 1,200 workers sits at kilometer 64, with offices, stores, a recreation center, and a bar. Six million cubic meters of material, "enough to fill Montreal's Olympic Stadium 2 1/2 times," has been excavated and transported to the site. A tunnel has been blasted through a mountain, into which the St. Marguerite river now flows. A second tunnel is being blasted, through

which water will flow from the reservoir to the powerhouse.

The rapids are gone. Where the roar of white water, as it passed through the deep gorge, echoed for miles around, the voice of a great spirit—is a mound of dry earth upon which earth-moving machinery crawls. The great pulse of the river that determined the rhythm of life here since time immemorial has been stopped.

Moisie to Feed SM3

Although the project is well underway, HQ has still not acquired all the necessary permits. The SM3 project, as originally proposed, required the diversions of the Carheil and aux Pekans rivers—tributaries of the renown Atlantic salmon spawning river, the

diversions posed no risk to the salmon.

In April 1997 the public was caught off-guard when a federal-provincial committee assessing the potential impacts on the salmon ignored the objections of salmon biologists and concluded that the risk was minimal. The required 60-day period for public comment was initiated, although the public was not informed "leading to suspicions" commented Montreal activist Tom Holzinger, "that the government wanted to slip the project past its critics."

Fortunately the government did not succeed. Hundreds of faxes were sent to the environment Minister, David Cliche (before he was mysteriously removed from his post last July); as of this writing, the Aux Pekans and Carheil River diversions are still pending.

1993 BAPE Review Ignored

In authorizing the project, the first ever that they ever reviewed, the Quebec government went against the Board's recommendation that SM3 not be approved. In the Panel's (the BAPE) report submitted in 1993, the potential impact on the incomparable Moisie salmon was not the only criticism of the project. The report stated that HQ's EIS focused exclusively on the salmon with no attention to other ecological and wildlife impacts, and was therefore inadequate.

The Panel recognized the need for a cumulative study of all the existing dams on the North shore—totalling 19 dams, all of them built without environmental review—and that HQ needed to review its bloated energy demand forecasts. The Panel also concluded that the project would exacerbate already high social tensions between native and non-native communities in the region.

In other words, the project presently under construction—so far without the river diversions—is proceeding essentially without environmental assessment. Concerns raised by native people testifying to grave impacts of deforestation, mercury contamination, loss of wildlife and the complete erasure of their history, were ignored.

"Our patrimonial route, the Grand Portage, will be drained, but, according to [HQ], that's not serious. It will produce an audio-visual document so that our children can see what was there when the place was alive, it would be a 'collective and archival memoir'. Only the disappearance of sites with an archaeological potential and the disturbance of the Grand Portage site are considered heritage areas. The Montagnais [Innu] heritage, apparently, can be reduced to archeology. What a great acknowledgment to our culture and our traditional way of life!" [Testimony recorded in the BAPE report]

Destruction in the Name of Pulp

Among the most serious concerns was the anticipated deforestation as new access roads punched deep into vast virgin forests. Forestry impacts, however, were considered a positive economic benefit and not examined from an ecological perspective. The forest industry testified that the access roads would open up "new, exploitable areas" that would justify the re-opening of the Port Cartier pulp and saw mill, closed since 1991.



Moisie River near Mani Utenam. Photo © Friends of Nitassinan.

Vermont Utilities Funding SM3?

In 1995, a recently retired power engineer for HQ wrote to negotiators at Green Mountain Power and Central Vermont Power Service. Two of his comments about the contract were eye opening: The first was that Vermont should not expect to renegotiate the price of the contract because HQ needed Vermont's \$3 billion to pay the construction costs of the \$3 billion SM3 project. The second was that, the most viable option for Vermont utilities for price re-negotiations was to trade transmission access to HQ—that is, what HQ requires

for its expansionist agenda.

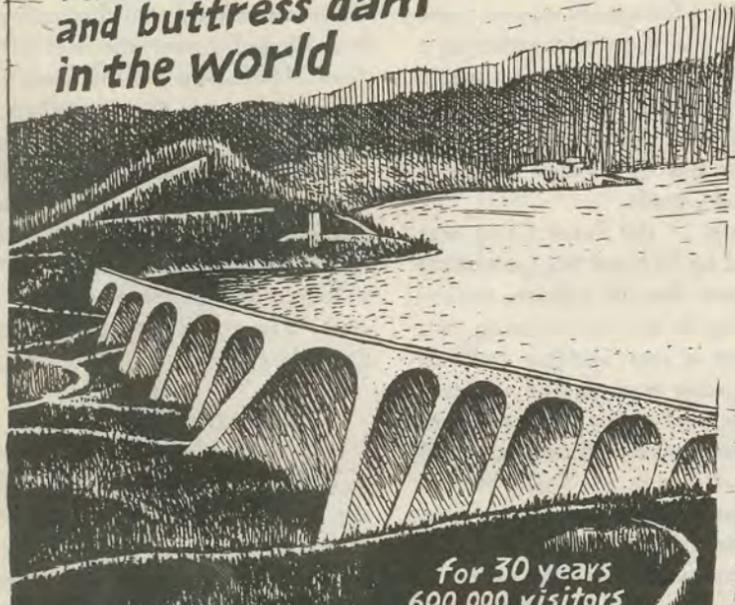
This is only the beginning. HQ, GMP, and CVPS have done extensive studies of possible increases in Vermont's transmission capacity. This study includes both upgrades of the existing infrastructure, as well as construction of new transmission lines. The total possible increase could be from 500 MW to 6200 MW!! (Vermont's total electric consumption is between 750 and 1000 MW.)

—John Clark

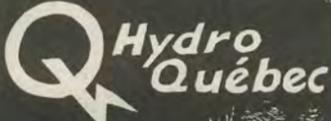
From the March 1998 Nitassinan News

★ THE DANIEL JOHNSON DAM IN MANIC-5

The largest multiple-arch and buttress dam in the world



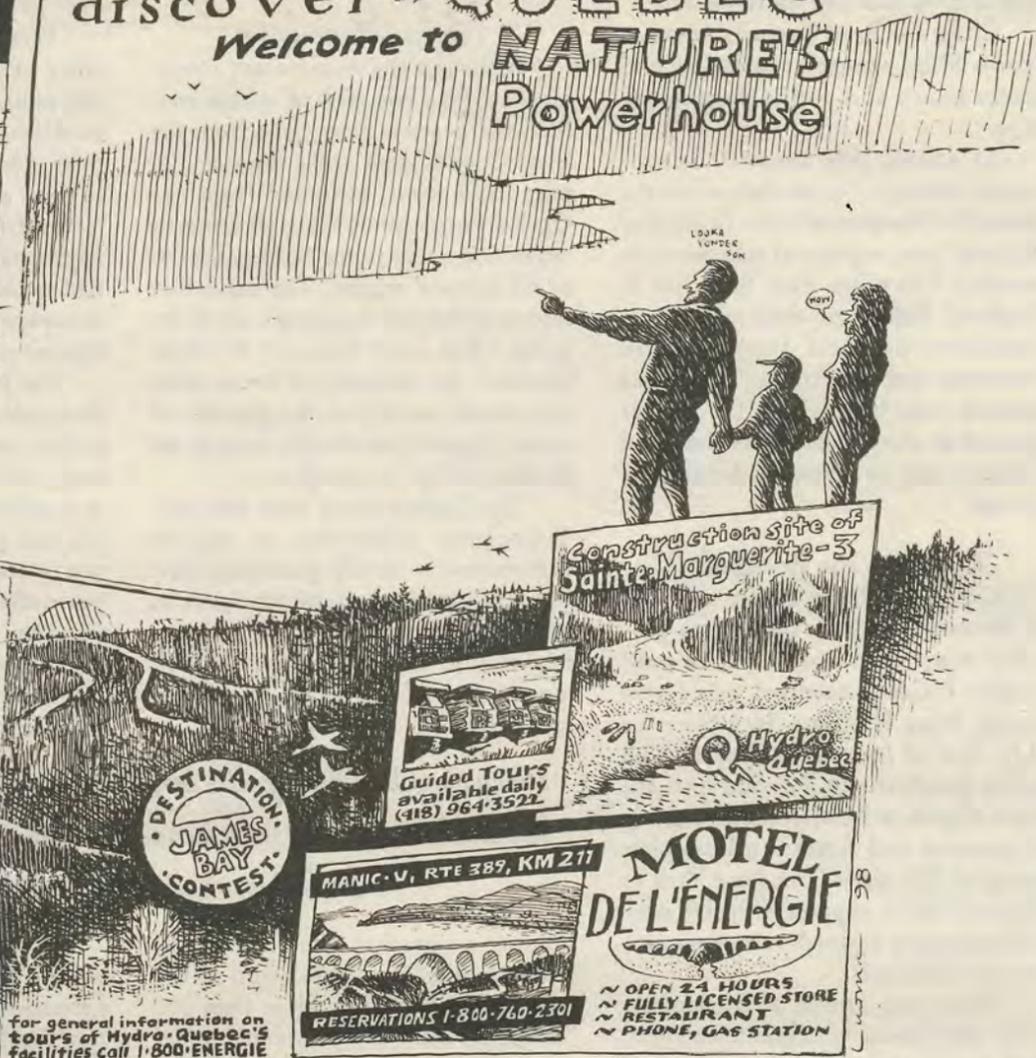
for 30 years
600,000 visitors
Guided tours
available daily
mid-June to Labor day



MANIC-2
30 minutes from
Baie-Comeau

Advertisement

discover → QUÉBEC
Welcome to NATURE'S
Powerhouse



LOOKS UNDER SON

Construction site of
Sainte-Marguerite-3

Hydro-Québec

Guided Tours
available daily
(418) 964-3522

DESTINATION
JAMES
BAY
CONTEST

MANIC-5, RTE 389, KM 217

MOTEL
DE L'ÉNERGIE

OPEN 24 HOURS
FULLY LICENSED STORE
RESTAURANT
PHONE, GAS STATION

RESERVATIONS 1-800-760-2301

for general information on
tours of Hydro-Québec's
facilities call 1-800-ENERGIE

(As was foreseen, the Port Cartier pulp mill has re-opened, and has been operating 24 hours a day since 1995, churning the St. Marguerite valley into pulp. The newly accessible areas have been parceled out to a Montreal timber company, Uniforet, in the largest forestry accession in Quebec history.)

Innu testimony protested a fundamental violation of their human rights by their environment's contamination and the demeaning way in which the problems were said to be "mitigated."

From what we hear, we will have to learn to eat less contaminated fish and to be examined from every aspect. We will become subjects of observation at the service of advancing technology for controlling methyl mercury effects and of experimentation in the medical monitoring of human beings. It will be our pleasure to follow the little nutritional guide that will be made available to us. [BAPE report, 1993]

The project's detractors—which included sports-fishing and wilderness outfitters as well as natives—were a minority in a region that was enthusiastically, even aggressively in support of it. The Quebec Manufacturers Association stated openly that "the people of Sept Iles are more important than the salmon."

At the entrance to the city, the Sept Iles Chamber of Commerce erected a billboard which said "Oui SMIII. Pour the travailleurs. Pour les familles. Pour les entreprises. Merci Daniel Johnson..." (Yes SMIII. For the workers. For the families. For the businesses)

Sept-Iles

A city of approximately 10,000, Sept Iles grew in the early 1950s to service the iron ore mines at Wabush, Labrador and Schefferville, Quebec. The City has experienced the boom and bust cycle characteristic of resource-extraction economies, and in the early 1990s was in a deep economic depression. With its promise of hundreds of (temporary) jobs, the controversy that

surrounded it was volatile and often violent.

When the BAPE released its report, trade unionists stomped on the report and buried it under the path of bulldozers. The Mayor of Sept Iles, M. Dion, expressed shock that a government appointed panel could come out against a project that had "nearly unanimous" support in the region.

On the hydro-project and industrial development, the native people of the region, the Innu, have not been united. The four-year battle over SM3 has left deep scars in the communities. In response to its critics, the Quebec government states that it has reached an agreement with the native community, negotiated by the democratically elected Band Council chief, implying that the government has the Innu's consent. A review of the tortured process in which this piece of paper was obtained, suggests a story familiar to anyone who has perused the history of the treaties on which the European domination of native America was built.

Innu Reserves and Industrialization

The largest First Nation in eastern North America, the Innu people are scattered in eleven communities in Quebec and Labrador, seven of them on the Quebec North shore at the mouths of the major rivers that flow into the St. Lawrence. The first reserve, Betsiamites, dates from the 19th century, but most were created after 1950 and the last, St. Augustine, was built in 1972.

Where the reserves sit beside

dammed rivers, the Innu live in the shadow of pulp mills, smelters and strip malls. The Bersimis, Manicougan and Outards projects, built by HQ in the 1950s, 60s and 70s, have destroyed these rivers' once prolific salmon runs, and have led to intensive deforestation and industrialization.

In a 1974 interview, Barnabe Vachon, an Innu hunter, described what the construction of the Manic 5 project (the largest dam of its kind in the world) meant to his hunting way of life:

It is the forest that gave me life, the animals that my father hunted. He said to me: "This is the way that you will live, you

The Panel recognized the need for a cumulative study of all the existing dams on the North shore—totalling 19 dams, all of them built without environmental review—and that HQ needed to review its bloated energy demand forecasts.

also, you will live in the forest." And that is what I did. And now I can no longer live like this, the area where I hunted is destroyed and they have even ruined the hunting on the coast, it's completely desert, there are no trees. How are we supposed to find animals?

The way it is when the Indian goes out to hunt today, there is nothing left.

We can't go there [where we used to hunt], there is no more forest. At the other end of the lake, the canoes cannot pass, because the drowned trees prevent the canoes from passing. Even if we can get to the forest somehow, we try to hunt but there is nothing. The animals have gone away. How would you like to stay here, where there is nothing left? [Interviewed by Arthur Lamothe, translated from Innu-aimun, 1974. Culture Amerindienne Archives]

A Tale of Two Villages

The communities associated with the St. Marguerite and Moisie rivers, Uashat and Mani Utenam, although governed by a single Band council, are

separated by a 15 km distance and by deep political differences. Uashat is located in the heart of the city of Sept Iles, while Mani Utenam, set apart from the urban center, has maintained a rural character and its residents a more traditional relationship to the land.

In 1951, when the Euro-Canadians moved in to industrialize the region, Uashat Innu refused to move their village, and Sept Iles was simply built over it. The Moisie village, however, located on the grassy point where the river flows into the great flueve, was forcibly removed to what is now Mani Utenam. Although for many years Uashat was subjected to a curfew and surrounded by barbed wire, today it is nearly indistinguishable from the Euro-Canadian industrial city of Sept Iles.

Mani Utenam, in contrast, built on the towering cliffs above the St. Lawrence, is a lonely village facing a magnificent seascape; it is a maze of government built housing with a church steeple rising from its center as a reminder of the long and tragic history of missionary and colonial domination. Only minutes from the free-flowing Moisie, where the salmon return by the thousands every summer to spawn, members of the Moisie group have maintained their ancient tie to the river.

Suppressing Opposition to SM3

When HQ announced its proposal for the "management" of the St. Marguerite and Moisie rivers, a series of surveys and community consultations showed there was significant opposition to the project. However, there was also support; and the controversy largely became a conflict between the two communities, Uashat against Mani Utenam. In 1990 Eli Jacques Jourdain, from Uashat, was elected Band Council chief with only 26 percent of the vote. Mr. Jourdain, according to community activists, began a policy of secret negotiation with HQ while publicly opposing the project.

Over a two year period, an opposition movement to HQ and toward cultural and spiritual renewal was born.

Citing the Band Council's failure to oppose SM3, opponents turned to civil disobedience and public demonstrations.

In January, 1992 some 200 demonstrators formed a human dam across the frozen St. Marguerite river. In May of the same year, a group of traditionalists marched 700 miles from Sept Iles to Montreal. Rallies and fund raisers were organized by their supporters in Montreal and in Ottawa. Numerous protests were held within the reserve directed at corruption within the Band Council and its abuse of democratic process.

"Out with the Buddhists"

Civil disobedience actions and public demonstrations in some cases provoked not-so-civil reactions. The most notable incident occurred on Martin Luther King Day, Jan. 16 1993—the U.N. Year of Indigenous Peoples. Led by the Buddhist nun, Jun-Sun from the Peace Pagoda in Massachusetts, a group of Japanese and American Buddhists marched 500 miles from New York to Quebec City in support of native peoples opposed to hydro development projects on their lands.

When they arrived at Betsiamites, where they intended to spend the night, they found that the community had been instructed to turn them away. They continued on to Mani Utenam, and the next day, a radio broadcast over a Sept Iles station invited SM3 supporters to join a counter-protest to "expel the Buddhists" and to "take justice into their own hands."

Led by an individual who had been arrested earlier that day for shooting off a gun in a bar, a mob of some 300 trade unionists, mostly white men, invaded Mani Utenam that night, many of them brandishing baseball bats, demanding the Buddhists leave the reserve "or accept responsibility for whatever violence might occur."

With clenched fists in the air, shouting "SM3" and "Out with the Buddhists!" the mob headed towards the church where the Buddhists had gone for sanctuary. Representatives of the Prayer Walk eventually reached a compromise with the group, promising to cancel a walk planned for the next day from the St. Marguerite river to the reserve. Throughout this incident, the police stood by without attempting to

intervene. No one was ever arrested or charged.

Internal Repression

Although the non-violent movement survived two years of volatile conflict, the heaviest blow came from the Band Council itself in the form of a 30 year injunction, obtained from the Quebec courts, prohibiting all forms of opposition either to the SM3 project or to Eli Jacques' regime. The injunction further prohibited the group's use of the name "The Innu Council of Mani Utenam"; any assembly of five or more individuals; as well as the practice of native American spirituality, such as the burning of sage or sweetgrass.

The Quebec courts used this anti-democratic injunction to punish demonstrators merely exercising their constitutionally guaranteed rights to assembly, to free speech and to religious expression. Individuals were jailed merely for holding placards. In one case, Omer St. Onge was prosecuted for

With clenched fists in the air, shouting "SM3" and "Out with the Buddhists!" the mob headed towards the church where the Buddhists had gone for sanctuary.

holding a sign that said "Non SM3" beneath the "Oui SM3" sign at the entrance to Sept Isle. More than 100 "criminal" acts were prosecuted under the injunction over the next two years.

Activists, however, were unintimidated and continued to speak out in defiance of the injunction. Despite the bitter conflict taking place in the two communities, HQ began construction of the SM3 project in April, 1994—although a referendum on the agreement negotiated between HQ and the Band council, scheduled for July 16, had not yet taken place.

Peace Camp

By the end of May, HQ road construction crews had almost reached Kilometer 24 of the SM3 access road. On the evening of May 29, a group of Innu activists and their supporters arrived by float plane on a small lake only a short trek from Kilometer 24. When work crews arrived the next morning they found a barricade of felled trees and other road construction debris, piled up on a little bridge, under which the glacial waters of Lac Brule tumbled over a short rapid. Although the workers could easily have cleared away the brush, they were instructed to

turn back; HQ, no doubt, quickly understood the political morass that pile of twigs and branches represented.

Over the next two days, under cover of clouds, tents were erected in the pouring rain and a Peace Camp established that was to last for nearly three weeks. Messages of support came in from all over the world, including a letter from Nobel Peace Laureate Rigoberta Menchu. The Innu protesters had made their point through major newspapers and TV media throughout Quebec and Canada.

On July 17 the Peace Camp was dismantled by HQ and SQ (provincial) police: more than 60 officers arrived early, rolling in with the morning mist in a caravan of vans, skidders, payloaders, and paddy wagons, and arrested, one by one, (and in this order) the three journalists, seven American and Canadian observers, and finally the two dozen Innu demonstrators representing three generations. (Only the Peace Brigades representative escaped arrest.)

The machinery rolled over the barricade—that bundle of debris that had succeeded in blocking HQ's construction for 17 days—in a matter of seconds. The non-cooperating, yet peaceful, protesters were carried down to the paddy wagons, and hours later, were driven through a sea of clearcuts to the city jail.

A Disputed Vote

The day before the Peace Camp was dismantled, the referendum on HQ's agreement with the Mani Utenam/Uashat Band Council took place in the two communities. News arrived late that night at the camp that opponents of the agreement had lost, by a margin of two percent—a mere 32 votes. The vote was divided between the two reserves, with Mani Utenam voting against it and Uashat in favor. The police were expected to arrive first thing in the morning to make arrests.

Dissenters contested the referendum results: two percent it was argued, was too small a margin of victory to constitute a legitimate mandate. (It was recalled that a referendum on separation of the two reserves had been thrown out two years earlier on the same argument.) Activists continued to denounce the fraudulence of so-called democratic process: evidence was presented of \$400,000 in payments by HQ to the Band Council government during the weeks preceding the referendum.

Prior to the vote, HQ-sponsored consultations were held on the contents of the agreement, but any similar consultations held by opponents of the agreement were prohibited under the injunction. Moreover, it was argued that there were no absentee ballots for residents out of town and that individuals were allowed to vote who were not residents. Those who left the Peace Camp in order to vote in the referendum, were promptly arrested. Innu leaders outside of the two communities denounced the agreement, arguing that Band Council chiefs do not have the mandate to negotiate these kinds of agreements and that a "dangerous precedent was set" that could lead to the "entire region being flooded by dams."

After the Referendum

Nevertheless the agreement was signed. HQ had obtained its political risk insurance, and could claim before its critics that it had the consent of the native communities through "a democratically held referendum."

To be clear, the referendum did not pose the question, *Do you agree to the project?* but rather, *Do you agree to accept a compensation package of \$29 million over the next 50 years, in exchange for agreeing never to oppose the project in court?* What was implied was that, with or without their consent, the project would proceed.

What was also implied by the agreement was that the project *could* be stopped in court (or at least held up for years) and that in the absence of a land claim agreement or treaty of any sort, the Innu retained their aboriginal right to the land. The Quebec government is pressed to obtain its pseudo treaties with First Nations, as the federal courts continue to broaden the concept of aboriginal rights. However, Quebec clearly did not need the approval of the native communities to proceed, as HQ had already started the road construction before the referendum was held.

On the day that Eli Jacques Jourdain signed away the St. Marguerite River, the traditionalist group lead a march of mourning through the reserve. Only one more demonstration was to take place in the community, after the Band Council received its first payment of \$7 million from the agreement, and handed out \$100 checks to all the residents of the two reserves. SM3 opponents pinned their checks to a banner that said "La Mere N'est pas a Vendre" (Mother Earth is Not For Sale) and burned them to ashes on the Band Council steps.

Over the next year, however, the group continued to be active. Yvette



Innu demonstrator talks to press behind barricade. Innu flag to right. All three journalists were arrested. Photo © Friends of Nitassinan.

Churchill Falls Project Protested

On Monday March 9, premiers Brian Tobin and Lucien Bouchard of Newfoundland and Quebec were met with angry protest in Churchill Falls, Labrador as they attempted to release details of a new power generating agreement.

The \$12 billion deal, involving 2200 MW of additional generation and 17,000 construction jobs, would result in Quebec receiving 1200 MW and an undersea transmission line sending 800 MW to mainland Newfoundland. The province is

attempting to barter greenhouse gas emission credits to the Canadian government in return for assistance with the \$2 billion undersea project, claiming that the new power could account for a fifth of Canada's allotted reductions of greenhouse gas.

Newfoundland also is interested in generating additional power for a nickel smelter at Voisey's Bay, home to the largest remaining population of eastern Harlequin duck.

(See NFF v.5 #4 for an article by Alexis Latham on Voisey's Bay)

Michel, chosen to represent them as spokesperson, toured New England with the Friends of Nitassinan, decrying the downward spiral of corruption and demoralization that was eviscerating the spirit of her community. "The circle is becoming smaller and smaller," she said. Michel believed that a strong show of international support would bolster her community's spirit of resistance.

Meanwhile dissidents also decided to dedicate their limited resources toward obtaining political independence from the Uashat based Band Council. If it could be argued before the courts that the two communities were historically and traditionally distinct, and that the present regime did not represent them, they could establish their own government—the Innu Council of Mani Utenam—that would be legally and politically recognized. The case however, failed, leaving them deeper in debt and further demoralized. The injunction remains in force.

The Quebec courts used this anti-democratic injunction to punish demonstrators merely exercising their constitutionally guaranteed rights to assembly, to free speech and to religious expression.

Moisie River: Keep it Wild

Only 15 km from the city of Sept Isle with its Walmart, jail cells and fast food chains, the Moisie river flows gently into the St. Lawrence. The river's glassy surface mirrors the night sky, the aurora borealis, and carries bright fleecy clouds along in its current, and the pastel colors of twilight. Along its banks the Innu have erected their cabins. The cabins are not much, mostly scrap plywood with canvas tarps for roofs. But their presence is testimony to a hard-fought battle that has been ongoing for centuries, since the arrival of the whites who would claim the incomparable salmon stocks for their own.

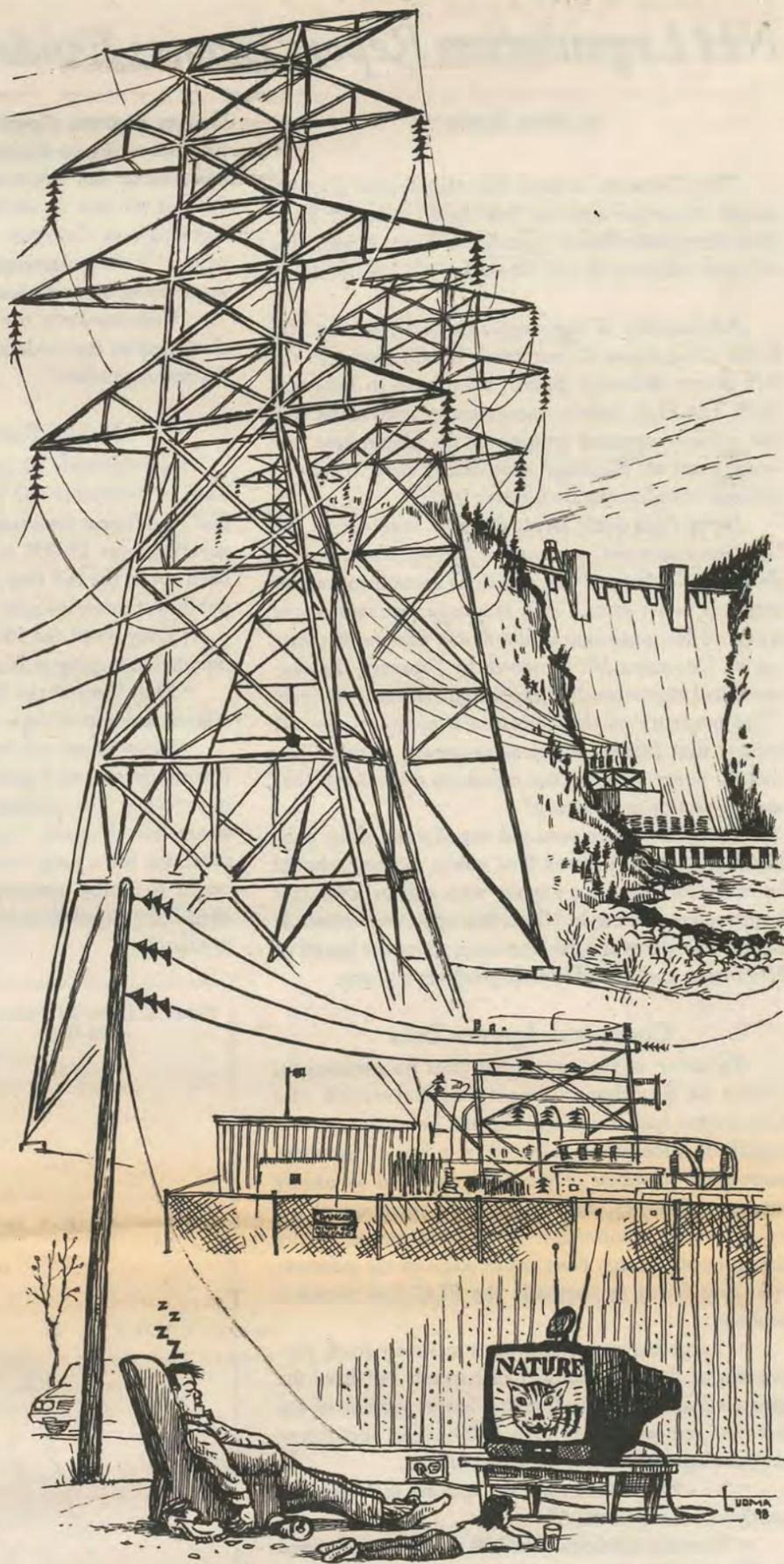
Over a hundred years ago, the chief of the Moisie band appealed to the colonial government: "Our rivers are taken from us, and only used by strangers. Through your will, we can only now look on the waters of the rivers passing, without permission to catch a fish, we poor Indians..." It was

not until the *Sparrow* decision of 1982 that the courts were required to give a "broad and generous" interpretation of aboriginal rights, which would include the right to hunt and fish without harassment.

Since the early 1980s, when Hydro-Quebec first proposed to harness the Moisie, *Mishtashipu* (Great River), the struggle has taken on a different form. HQ's repeated attempts to harness or reduce the Moisie's flow have been defeated at every turn. For the Innu community, Mani Utenam, the struggle has left a legacy of division, corruption, and political malaise. Money poured into the community from HQ has transformed the village physically—there are now fences, lawns, new buildings—all outward signs of a more profound inner change. But the river remains free-flowing; and the salmon, and the Innu, return.

Aldo Leopold once said "In the environmental movement, our defeats are always final, our victories always provisional. What you save today can still be destroyed tomorrow. And so often it is." HQ's proposal to divert the Aux Pekans and Carheil rivers—headwaters of the Moisie—is back on the table, once again. No matter what the outcome of the struggle taking place in indigenous communities throughout the north, at the edge of the white man's world—an edge that is continually pushed back by a society that insists upon monstrous growth—the future of the Moisie, and all free flowing rivers of the North, is up to us.

Alexis Lathem directs Friends of Nitassinan, a Vermont based group supporting indigenous efforts to preserve the Innu lands of Quebec and Labrador. Membership and a subscription to an informative newsletter is \$25. Please write: Friends of Nitassinan, POB 804, Burlington, VT 05402.



HQ Imperils North America's Foremost Salmon Run

The diversion of the Moisie's headwaters and the implications for the salmon are the aspects of the proposal that received the strongest criticism. The Atlantic Salmon Federation has called the Moisie one of the three most important Atlantic salmon rivers in the world, and the most important Atlantic salmon spawning river in North America. Every year an estimated 10,000 to 35,000 salmon return to Moisie to spawn, many of them attaining a weight of up to 60 lbs. During the environmental board's hearings on the SM3 proposal, the Association for the Protection of the Moisie testified that the proposed diversions constitutes "the biggest experiment in the field of Atlantic salmon that has ever been conducted."

In response the Board's recommendation that HQ abandon its proposal to divert the rivers because of the risk to the salmon, HQ separated the project into two phases, postponing the river diversions in order to conduct a two-year study on the potential impacts on the salmon. Critics charged that HQ's practice of dividing projects into phases where the necessary permits could not be obtained is a familiar sleight-of-hand. Despite the critique of the proposal by biologists, sportsfishers, environmentalists and natives, HQ remains confident

that the diversions will be accomplished without risk to the salmon.

HQ argues that the salmon will be protected by the technology of "regulated flows", using the Snake River dams as its model—even though the Snake River

HQ argues that the salmon will be protected by the technology of "regulated flows", using the Snake River dams as its model—even though the Snake River salmon have declined nearly to extinction.

salmon have declined nearly to extinction. Critics also charge that a two-year study of the Moisie Salmon, whose life-cycle is a seven years, is inadequate. HQ's confidence that because the Moisie is a "big" river, the 14-47 percent reduction in its flow will have no impact is, given our scientific understanding of the salmon, unwarranted. The particular characteristics of the Moisie salmon, described by the International Association for the defence of the Atlantic Salmon as "one of the most prestigious populations in the world"

are the result of thousands of years of genetic selection.

"It is through the particular environmental conditions of the river's ecosystem," writes Bernard Lamy of the ISDAS, "that over the centuries has gradually defined unique characteristics of the salmon that inhabit it. It is this with good reason that...[we] are concerned about the unforeseeable consequences of a reduction of the river's flow and the changes that will result to the salmon's habitat. No impact study can honestly pretend to foresee what will happen in the long term."

No matter how thoroughly HQ studies the Moisie salmon, the diversions would still constitute an experiment with inordinate risks. We do not know, for instance, how it is that the salmon finds its way thousand of miles from the open ocean to its spawning grounds, whether it navigates by the stars, or by the taste and feel of the currents. Scientists believe that it senses the unique chemical combinations in the waters of its birthplace. We don't know, but we can imagine that any subtle alteration in the chemical properties of a river will affect the salmon's ability to find its way home.

—A.L.

NH Liquidation Report Ignores Evidence, Recommends No Meaningful Action

by Jamie Sayen

"The Committee believes that this problem is serious enough to warrant action at some level." - Report From New Hampshire Forest Liquidation Study Committee to Forest Advisory Board, December 12, 1997 Draft

Aficionados of non-sequiturs will love the NH Forest Liquidation Committee's (FLC) report to the NH Forest Advisory Board, submitted in February 1998. The FLC, heavily dominated by individuals who had publicly opposed creation of the Committee, has issued a set of "Findings" that clearly show there is a problem with liquidation forestry in NH.

In its final draft form, the first sentence in the "Recommendations" section was the statement quoted above that "...the problem is serious enough to warrant action at some level." This language was still in the report at the conclusion of the FLC's final public meeting on December 19. However, by February, the sentence had mysteriously disappeared. Instead, we read: "The majority of the committee members do not believe that further action is necessary at this time, though some Committee members do believe that stronger action is necessary."

That this change occurred out of sight of the public, after the Committee's final public meeting, should be cause for alarm for anyone who still believes that forest policy-making in NH is fair, open and honest. It should also alarm anyone who cares about the health of NH forests and the NH forest products industry.

Committee Ignores Data

To arrive at the conclusion that no meaningful action on liquidation forestry is warranted, the Committee had to ignore, belittle, or misinterpret a wealth of information gathered by a few of the more responsible members of the FLC, provided by county extension foresters, and suggested by members of the public whose communities have been victimized by unregulated forestry. Here is just some of the information that failed to persuade the FLC that there's a problem:

- "Large harvests constitute a relatively small proportion of the total number of harvests but have the greatest impact on the forest." Seven percent of the harvests removed more than 1000 cords; this represented 40 percent of the total NH harvest.

- "... the size of clearcuts appears to be significantly under-reported. . ."

- "Fourteen clearcuts over 100 acres were identified in the northern three counties over the period 1993-1996, though this estimate is probably conservative. . . . The increase is even more significant for clearcuts over 200 acres; between 1980-90 and 1993-96 the number of clearcuts over 200 acres tripled (from 1.1 to 3.3 cuts/year) and the annual acreage involved increased six-fold (from 277 to 1634 acres/year)."

- "Twelve of the 14 clearcuts over 100 acres identified as occurring between 1993 and 1996 were on private non-industrial forest land and 2 were on industrial land."

- "Half of the clearcuts over 100 acres were classified as liquidation harvests by county extension foresters; several others were classified as possible liquidations." (from FLC Report pages 4-5)

County Foresters Identify Liquidation Cuts

County Foresters were asked to determine if clearcuts identified by the 1995 Complex Systems NH Timber Clear Cut Inventory were indeed liquidation cuts. The Complex Systems inventory only assessed clearcuts that leave behind less than 20 square feet basal area per acre—a definition of clearcutting that is much more lax even than the definition used in Maine. Careful perusal of these findings certainly leads one to conclude that something undesirable is occurring, that it is occurring throughout much of the state, that it is not just one bad apple, and that it is on the rise. The

County Foresters reported significant liquidation cutting occurring in Belknap, Carroll, Coos, Grafton, Merrimack, and Rockingham Counties. Between 40-80% of all cuts in Belknap, Carroll, Grafton, and Rockingham Counties were liquidation cuts. They noted: "There is agreement that this kind of cutting is accelerating in most counties."

Unfortunately, the County Foresters concluded that, despite the evidence, "there is a lack of support for new regulation."

Public Testimony Ignored

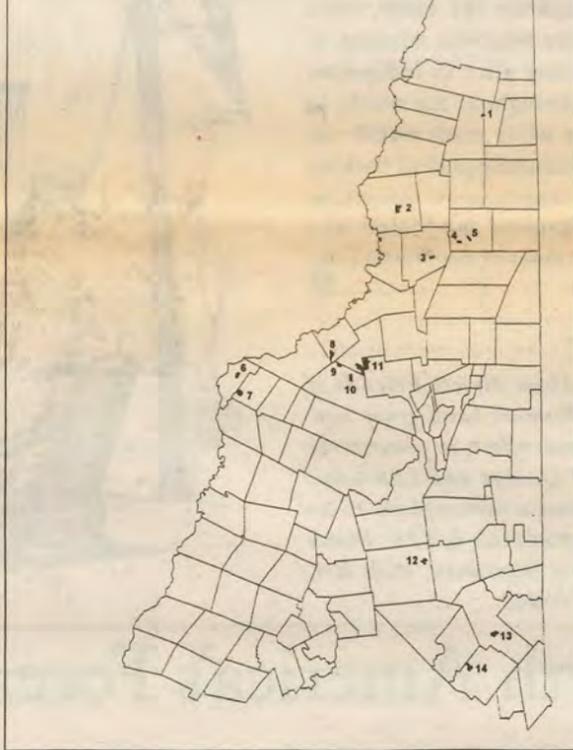
Approximately 50 people attended four public sessions in November and December 1997. They identified 50 different liquidation cuts in 40 different towns, covering over 15,000 acres, nearly all of which had been cut in the last four years. Other highlights of the public testimony include:

- Only six of the 50 said there is no problem with liquidation logging in New Hampshire.

- Only three of the 50 recommended that the state take no action to address the issue.

- Many raised serious concerns about the economic consequences of liquidation logging, especially: that it produces low quality stands that jeopardize the steady flow of quality logs, and that towns will lose tax revenues for a long time to come. These concerns ought to worry industry boosters who have always alleged that regulations would have disastrous economic impacts.

Figure 2. Clearcuts > 100 acres, 1993-1996



Findings Refute 'Conventional Wisdom'

Opponents of taking action on liquidation and clearcutting (and other unsustainable forestry practices) have wrapped themselves in a comforting blanket of myths. The following five myths are debunked:

- #1: "It is just one person." Wrong. Many liquidators were named.

- #2: "It is just one high-profile cut in Whitefield." Wrong, the public identified 50 such cuts.

- #3: "It is just a problem in Coos County." Wrong. Many liquidation cuts from the Lakes Region and other parts of the state were identified.

- #4: "Complaints about liquidation are coming only from people from away who don't know what they are talking about." The 50 people who attended the public sessions were from NH. One who supported taking action to stop the liquidation was an industrial forester from Coos County.

- #5: "The only problem is aesthetics." Wrong, again. While many people acknowledged that liquidation cuts are ugly, they had much deeper concerns,

especially the ecological and economic impacts of continued unregulated liquidation cutting.

Committee Admits Recommendations Won't Stop Liquidators

So what did the FLC recommend be done about the problem of liquidation? Clearly some original thinking went into answering this question. They recommended: education (mostly of the public to appreciate forestry better); information gathering (a recommendation as old as the Old Man of the Mountain, and still not addressed); and enforcement of existing regulation.

The FLC did at least acknowledge that these recommendations would not address the problem of liquidation:

- "The Committee also recognizes that there are limitations to any educational efforts, and that there will always be some people whose behavior will not be swayed by any amount or type of education." (p. 14) You mean like the folks who are currently doing liquidation cuts? Does this include Champion and Mead?

- "The Committee does recognize that many of the concerns arising from liquidation harvesting are not addressed by existing regulations. While increased enforcement of existing regulations is perhaps the most important step the state can take, this step alone may not be sufficient to address the full range of concerns associated with liquidation harvesting." (p. 16)

Inaction Assures Further Decline of Industry

What are we to make of this? Well, if you are familiar with the workings of the Division of Pesticide Control's Aerial Spray Review Committee's work, you'll understand that "the New Hampshire Way" is to exclude critics of current practices, load up a "study committee" with people with a conflict of interest and/or clearly stated hostility to taking any action, and then ask them to address the problem, narrowly defined, of course. If you set up the committee properly, they won't have any trouble ignoring reality.

The FLC also assured that it would fail to address the ecological issues regarding liquidation cutting, clearcutting, and other forms of overcutting when it developed an economic, rather than an ecological definition of liquidation. "Liquidation harvests are harvests that remove most of all merchantable timber without regard to future forest values, which include both timber values. . . and non timber values. . ." By this reasoning, clearcuts of any size designed by foresters are not liquidation because the forester had a plan that allegedly takes into account future forest values. Thus, a 100-500-acre clearcut by notorious woods butcher Ted Ingerson of Whitefield is a liquidation cut; but a 100-500-acre clearcut by Champion and Mead that gets sprayed by herbicides is a responsible and valid silvicultural operation. I'm sure the critters of the forest will be mightily relieved to learn that Champion and Mead clearcuts/herbicide operations are valid. Ignored by the FLC was the strong insistence by the public that these sorts of cuts be ended also.

What next? Will Hancock and other high profile supporters of the paper industry's Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) continue to sell to liquidators? Will the SFI continue to try to scapegoat Ingerson while promoting industrial clearcutting and herbicide spraying?

Just a reminder: The Forest Advisory Board was created to meet recommendations of the Northern Forest Lands Council and the NH Forest Resources Plan to address public concerns on forestry policy and to involve the public in a meaningful way. Unfortunately, most of the public is unaware the FAB exists, and members of the public who have attempted to participate in the so-called "roundtable" process have been insulted.

The New Hampshire Way of ignoring the evidence and rubber stamping the status quo can only accelerate the steady decline in the state's timber industry.

Regulatory Reform Rubble

Maine's legislature—
pressured by the forest
industry, enabled by the
King Administration,
haunted by anti-enviro-
mental extremists—once
more fails to bite the bullet

by Jym St. Pierre

Following two years of searing animosity within the environmental community, conservationists had united behind a 4-point plan that improved upon key provisions of the Forest Compact and the reports of the Council on Sustainable Forest Management and the Northern Forest Lands Council.

The plan would have vastly improved management by the 15 largest landowners. It called for strict limits on the amount and size of clearcuts; sustainable harvesting limits; science-based stocking standards; and mandatory audits to ensure accountability.

The broad provisions of the plan were introduced to the legislature's forestry committee at a hearing in December. The specifics were provided to committee members and legislative leaders in one-on-one meetings early in 1998.

39 Votes for Reform

The climax of the campaign was a boisterous rally at the State House on March 24 at which conservation activists called for the legislature to "act now" on progressive forestry reform. That night the House voted 100-39 to kill the conservationists' bill. During the next few days they voted in favor of the forestry committee's majority bill and overwhelmingly to defeat each of the conservationists' four points when they were offered as separate amendments.

The committee majority bill was based predominantly on advice from Chuck Gadzik, director of the Maine Forest Service, and lobbyists for the forest industry. Even the Gadzik-industry bill ran into trouble when the Senate tinkered with it, angering House members. At press time, it was uncertain whether any bill would pass the legislature, but it was clear that there would be no progressive forestry reform this year.

Analysis of Defeat

Conservationists fashioned the most thoughtful solution targeted at the worst aspects of the problem offered to date. They conducted a nearly textbook perfect campaign, combining grassroots

and professional focus on each of the key pressure points in the process at the appropriate time. Despite all this, meaningful legislation failed. Why?

- First, the pressure was off. Without a referendum facing lawmakers, they felt little incentive to pass a strong bill. Their fear of another referendum was not enough to overcome the inertia of the status quo.

- Second, the King Administration refused to provide the kind of leadership needed. Governor King, still in a snit about losing two votes on his Forest Compact, would not bless the conservationists' proposal even though it was based heavily on the Compact. Rather he allowed Chuck Gadzik, his Forest Service director, to tell legislators what most of them were already eager to hear. That is, don't do anything drastic.

- Third, the forest industry broke their recent promise that they would support legislation to ensure sustainable forestry and accountability. With the Maine Forest Service doing most of their dirty work, the industry was able to play victim and get away with it. The few progressives within their ranks were routed by the do-nothing hard liners.

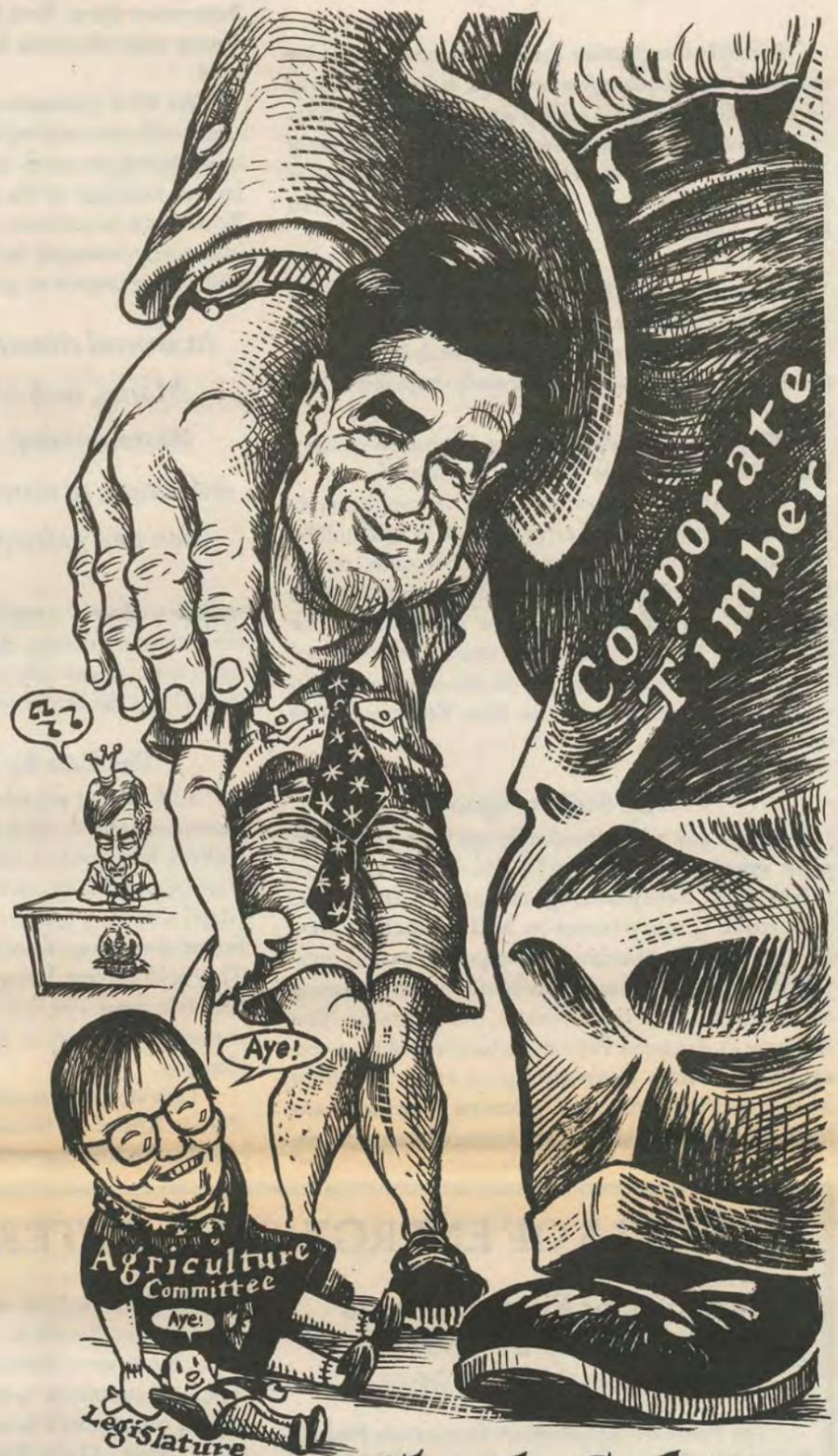
- Fourth, the private property extremists exploited the ambiguity about the meaning of the two votes on the Forest Compact, using it as an opportunity to sow confusion in an already chaotic legislature. Their vocal advocates, both inside and outside the legislature, used the power of doubt and suspicion to demonize reasonable proposals. It is always easier to stop than to pass a bill.

- Fifth, organized labor choked. Their state leaders understood the value of endorsing the conservationists' bill, but many of their local leaders are in cahoots with the anti-environmental crowd. At best they sent a mixed message to the legislature.

- The conservationists relied too much on the insider game. Conservationists alone are not enough of a force. They need other political allies such as labor, sportsmen and business. The same bill the enviros constructed, introduced earlier in the session and endorsed by many other parties, would have had a better chance.

Tall Trees, Small Lawmakers

Finally, it is legislators who must shoulder most of the blame. The leadership of the forestry committee and the leaders of the House and Senate especially failed to recognize this was the political moment to act decisively. They underestimated the environmental, economic and political consequences of



Chuck Gadzik,
DIRECTOR of MAINE FOREST SERVICE
& friends

[King] allowed Chuck Gadzik, his Forest Service director, to tell legislators what most of them were already eager to hear.

That is, don't do anything drastic.

wasting this historic opportunity to improve protection of the public interest in our forests. With the legislature determined to make itself irrelevant to

the raging forestry debate, it should come as no surprise if we end up with another citizens' initiative.

Incremental Progress?

Continued from page 9

Some of these benchmarks have dates attached to them. For example:

- C2.B1) Starting in 1996, there will be bigger buffers around small streams and more residual stocking in all riparian buffers.
- C2.B2) By 1998 there will be uniform riparian standards statewide.
- C3.B1) Starting in 1996, harvests will be at sustainable levels.
- C3.B2) By 1998 the state will assess public forestry policies, including the Tree Growth Tax, to see what effect they have on forest productivity.

- C3.B3) "By 1997, all harvest of commercial forest products should be guided by silvicultural principles that ensure the long-term productivity of the forest."

- C3.B4) "By 1998, Maine will implement a penalty mechanism that reduces the incentive for liquidation harvests."

- C7.B4) Starting in 1996 the state will institute "forestry roundtable discussions among the many stakeholders..."

These benchmarks not only have not been met, but bills, such as LD 1200 (which would require a silvicultural basis for management plans under Tree Growth), and LD 1518 (which would set up a forestry roundtable) were conspicuously ignored by the MFS as

well as the legislature. They were also not supported by the environmental coalition.

The Hamlets of Augusta

Now don't get me wrong. I am not opposed to the better data that will come from passage of the majority bill. Good data are a foundation to good policy. But someone has to analyze and understand the data, put them into the context of clear goals, and have the will to act—if the good data are to be turned into good policy. If the past is the guide to the future, Mrs. Adams has little to fear. After all, we already have enough information with which to act, but the legislature has chosen not to.

If Irving is the Answer What was the Question?

by Mitch Lansky

Scientific Certification Systems, the same outfit that certified Seven Islands a few years ago, is in the process of certifying less than half a million acres of Irvings holdings in the Black Brook region of New Brunswick (northeast of St. Leonard)—the most intensively managed holding of Irving. If this goes well, Irving intends to get all of its holdings certified.

Here is a riddle I have recently posed to people aware that there is a country to the east of Maine: "What paper company in New Brunswick is being certified for its ecologically- and socially-responsible forest practices?"

They invariably laugh and say, "Irving, of course." "Right," I say. And their jaws drop in disbelief.

Irving is a family-owned Canadian conglomerate that manages five million acres of forest (a half-million in Maine) and owns pulp mills, lumber mills, potato farms, oil refineries, gas station-convenience stores, as well as tv and radio stations and newspapers. The Irvings like to take control. For them "competition" means four Irving gas stations in the same town. To say they have political clout in New Brunswick is an understatement.

SCS Strikes Again

Irving's past silvicultural style has been to clearcut, plant spruce, and spray herbicides. They call themselves the "tree-planting company." In several Aroostook County towns in Maine, such as New Sweden and Westmanland, townspeople passed ordinances to restrict Irving's simplification and poisoning of the landscape. Just recently, residents of New Brunswick's Kingston Peninsula have called for a cessation of Irving's clearcutting, an end to 24-hour mechanized harvesting, and a ban on spraying of any herbicides or insecticides over Irving's monocultures.

Irving refuses to purchase wood cut by Native Americans from New Brunswick's Crown Lands, despite court decisions that declare such cutting to be legal.

Yet SCS (Scientific Certification Systems, the same outfit that certified Seven Islands a few years ago) is proceeding to certify less than half a million acres of Irvings holdings in the Black Brook region of New Brunswick (northeast of St. Leonard)—the most intensively managed holding of Irving. If this goes well, Irving intends to get all of its holdings certified. I

In several Aroostook County towns in Maine, such as New Sweden and Westmanland, townspeople passed ordinances to restrict Irving's simplification and poisoning of the landscape.

read about Irving's certification in the March issue of the Atlantic Forestry Review and my jaw dropped. After many phone calls to New Brunswick, however, I learned that the certification is not yet official.

The Case for Certifying Irving

SCS has not yet released a summary document. I was instead able to reach two of the three certifiers, Dr. Robert Seymour, a silviculture professor at the University of Maine, and Dr. Lloyd Irland, head of the Irland Group, a forestry consulting firm. They confirmed that Irving is, indeed, meeting their guidelines. They told me that Irving would not have been certifiable five years ago, but that the company has been making big changes in its practices and its long-term planning.

They stressed a number of points:

• Nearly 30% of the holding is now in plantations. This will eventually rise to 50%.

• The biologist on the team, Dan Kepie, of the University of New Brunswick, found a greater diversity of birds in the plantations than expected. These plantations, they told me, are not "biological deserts."

- From the air, the plantations "looked natural."
- The species planted are not "exotic" and only sometimes "off-site."
- Irving will have longer rotations than some companies (many of which are planning to clearcut their plantations in 30 or 40 years). Irving's rotations will be up to 50 years.
- For every ten acres of plantation, Irving will establish one acre of forest reserves—to act as a baseline "control" and to help protect biodiversity.
- Irving will try to maintain a two-story forest, retaining an older cohort, rather than a simple one-story even-aged system.
- The company is managing its hardwoods for high quality and high value.
- In softwood stands, Irving has made extensive use of single-grip harvesters, which do less residual damage than conventional systems.
- The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), an international group that certifies the certifiers, is coming up with regional standards that, once established, Irving will have to follow.

Though I did not discuss this with Seymour and Irland, they could have pointed out that Irving is making efforts to be more responsive to community concerns. In the Kingston Peninsula region, for example, Irving has promised to: prefer non-clearcut methods first, halt herbicide use for two years, reduce annual acreage established in plantations, research non-herbicide alternatives to brush control, and be more sensitive about operating machinery late at night.

Positive Considerations

I contacted retired USFS forester, Gordon Mott, who spent decades of his life in the Black Brook region. He said the region is outside of the red spruce range. Back in the 1950s, 85% or more of the softwoods consisted of balsam fir with some white spruce and even less black spruce. There had been a large white birch component that was impacted by a birch dieback. Though the softwood lowlands could be classified as boreal, the uplands are northern hardwood, with a strong beech-sugar maple-yellow birch component.

Mott told me that many of Irving's spruce plantations (some were red-black hybrids not found in the region) have been established in the hardwood uplands. This, he said, was definitely a conversion of natural type and involved much herbicide spraying. The fir lowlands, he said, were naturally even-aged, due to budworm outbreaks. The trees in the 1950s, however, were quite large—with some of the fir over 90 feet high. Irving sprayed this highly vulnerable region quite heavily during the budworm outbreaks from the 1950s until the outbreak ended a decade ago.

Much of the surrounding forest, Mott commented, had been severely highgraded by other landowners. Irving's forests reflect much more thought and investment towards the future.

Others who have been to the Black Brook region have also commented on some of the positives. The cutting, for example, is very careful, with minimum stand damage. Logs are intensively sorted for highest value products. The milling makes use of every possible sawlog, even to the extent of sawing small logs on the curve and straightening them out during the drying process. Workers are given direct incentives for quality performance. Company personnel constantly evaluate every phase of harvesting and use to ensure quality and efficiency.

The Rest of the Story

Because FSC does not have regional standards in place, the more general, international standards apply.

MODELS OF ENERGY SELF-DETERMINATION

A Forum for Energy Activists

Saturday, April 25, 1998

Bates College, Lewiston, Maine

The Northern Appalachian Restoration Project's Renewable Energy Assistance Project (REAP) and the Bates College Program in Environmental Studies are pleased to present this one day forum for energy activists on community energy development.

The forum intends a dialogue among activists about Northern Forest energy issues and challenges in energy deregulation. The forum culminates a week of activities focused on the environment during Bates' "Green Week."

Keynote Presentation

Chief Abel Bosum of the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree nation in northern Quebec will be the keynote speaker at the forum. Chief Bosum's presentation will focus on energy policy and his community's new energy-efficient village. On its road to self-reliance, the Ouje-Bougoumou Cree First Nation of the James Bay Cree Territory in northern Quebec has won several awards of excellence from the United Nations and from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The village has been selected as an official project of the World's Fair, Expo2000, to be held in Hanover, Germany.

Ouje-Bougoumou's community development initiatives include the village's energy-efficient building design and an innovative renewable energy district heating system. A single boiler burns wood waste products from nearby sawmills to heat water

that is distributed via underground pipes to all the buildings and houses in the village. The heating system, chosen as an alternative to fossil fuel or electric heat, will contribute to the development of this aboriginal community's future financial base. For a preview, visit Ouje-Bougoumou's web site at www.ouje.ca.

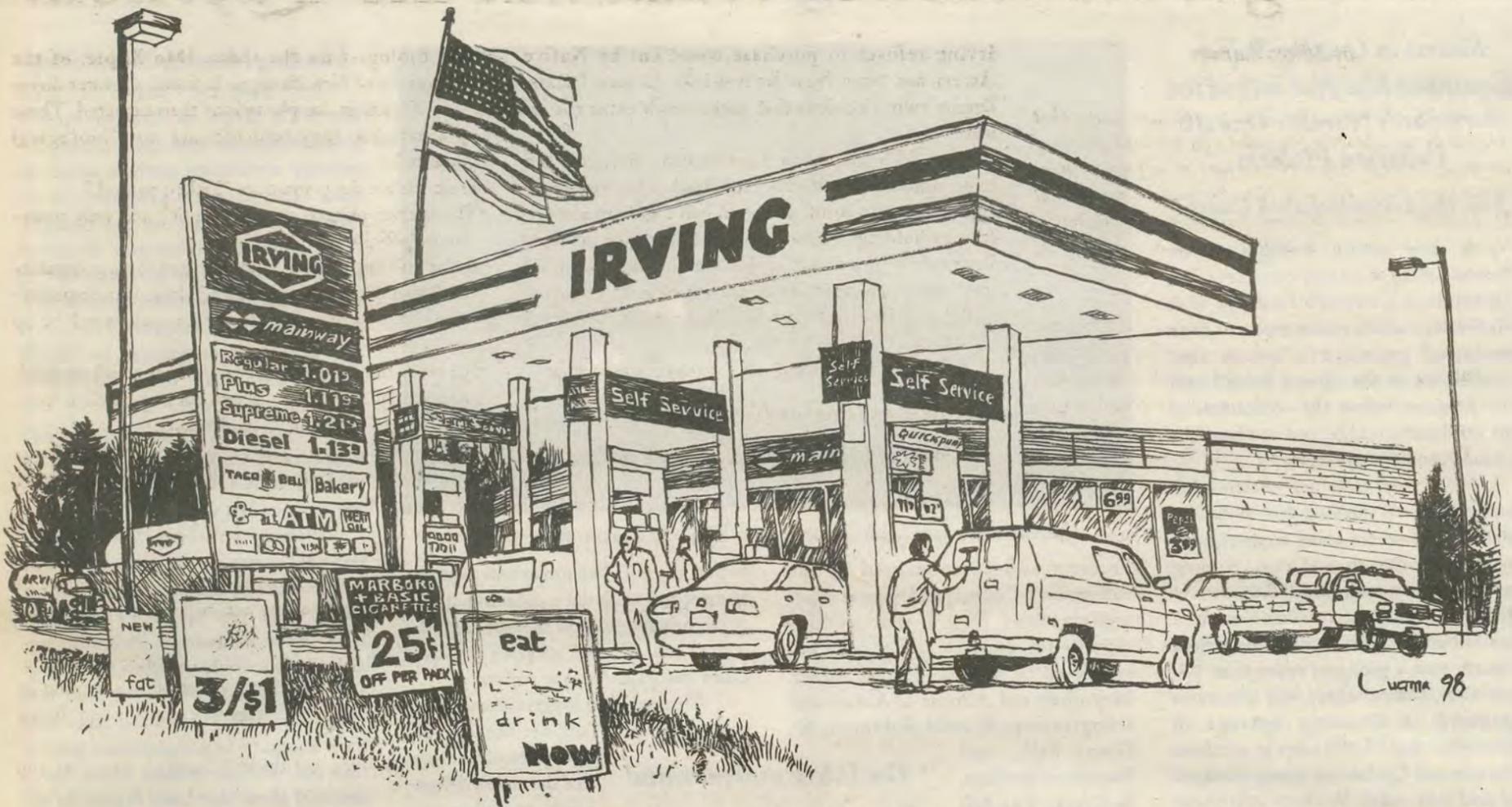
Roundtable Discussions

A series of questions posed to activists on panels will lead off discussions about a range of energy issues in the Northern Forest region. Topics include: impacts of "green power" in the Northern Forest; challenges in energy deregulation; consequences of the Kyoto Protocol; and barriers to energy efficiency. Small discussion groups will meet in the afternoon to answer the question "where do we want to be in 5 years?" about the following topics:

- 1) Energy avoidance and reduction
- 2) Local and regional energy initiatives
- 3) The role of government
- 4) Responding to "Greenwashing"

Registration and Fees

Registration, including lunch, is \$15.00 activists, \$30.00 industry and government employees. To obtain a more detailed schedule with information on panelists, or to register, contact Bates Special Projects, 163 Wood Street, Bates College, Lewiston, Maine 04240, 207-786-6077. A limited number of scholarships will be available to low-income activists for registration, travel and child-care expenses. Please direct inquiries about scholarships to Pamela Prodan, REAP Director, Wilton, Maine 04294, 207-645-9330.



The international standards are rather vague about clearcutting, herbicides and plantations, and thus open to interpretation. The Acadian Forest regional committee could not reach consensus on these issues, and, so far, has come up with two "tracks" where there are disagreements. One track would simply ban all use of chemical biocides and chemical fertilizers. Another track would not allow such products unless they are "needed"—a concept open to a wide range of interpretation. The bulk of the document, however, shows a clear preference for more "natural" forms of management that leave more of forest diversity and structure functional.

Since environmental activists and Irving are represented on the committee, it is understandable why there is no consensus on the issues concerning intensive practices. This lack of consensus may persist, since some of the disagreement is philosophical, rather than scientific.

Lacking regional FSC standards, the SCS certifiers developed their own standards, as they did with Seven Islands. Since the certifiers have such latitude to set standards, it makes a difference who the certifiers are. There is a wide range of tolerance of certain practices amongst foresters and scientists.

According to an article in the May, 1995 issue of the Journal of Forestry, two of the three certifiers for Seven Islands came from a list supplied by Seven Islands. The company had veto power over any SCS selection to the team. I did not learn if the same procedure applied to Irving. Robert Seymour and Lloyd Irland, however, though ardent advocates for ecological reserves and wilderness, are also tolerant of practices connected with "intensive management," but they certainly would not endorse indiscriminate use.

Robert Seymour, has been a "cooperating professor" with the Cooperative Forestry Research Unit, which is funded, in part, by paper companies and chemical companies. He has been an advocate of the Triad, a landscape approach that has reserves, non-clearcut, and "high-yield" (i.e. plantations) components. Irland, a former state economist and head of the Bureau of Public Lands, also once ran Maine's spruce budworm spray program. As a consultant he has had contracts with herbicide companies.

Plantations Restore Forests?

Plantations are controversial because, except where established for ecological restoration, they often violate so many ecological principles. These principles include the need for maintaining: the native diversity of plants;

stand height; multiple canopies; dead-standing and dead downed wood; natural succession; and ecological rotations. Fifty year rotations, let alone thirty or forty, veer considerably from the hundreds of years between stand-replacing disturbances in natural Acadian forests.

Plantations get excused for certification, according to the FSC Principles and Criteria, if they can somehow "reduce pressures on, and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests." An assumption of this logic is that if more wood is grown on plantations, less wood need be cut in more "natural" forests. Plantations, supposedly, will offset demand.

The fifty (let alone thirty or forty) year rotations of plantations veer considerably from the centuries between stand-replacing disturbances in natural Acadian forests.

Opponents raise a number of rebuttals to this logic:

- It does not address the impact to the sites where short-rotation plantations are used. If these sites diminish in productivity over several rotations, the whole system is not sustainable.
- It does not consider whether productivity can be increased over a wider area using less drastic forestry systems that keep more values intact.
- Demand is not a constant. It has been rising. Indeed, companies that manufacture paper and other forest products actively advertise to help stimulate demand for their products. One can, therefore justify planting more and more unnatural stands. There is no concept of limits.
- Demand for a product does not create an obligation to violate principles to meet the demand. For example, there is a big demand for prostitutes, but I am not about to sell my wife and daughter to meet this demand.
- Short-rotation wood is inferior in quality for both paper and lumber to longer-rotation wood. Future generations have little say over the quality of the wood and the quality of the ecosystem that this generation is leaving. This raises an intergenerational ethical issue.
- Because of plantation economics, only paper compa-

nies seem to establish them on a large scale. This was not an issue for Seven Islands.

Maine's Benchmark

Although the FSC has no regional standards limiting the coverage of a management unit by plantations, such a standard was recommended by the Maine Council on Sustainable Forest Management, on which committee Seymour participated. Benchmark 5 of Criterion 5 (biodiversity) recommended that "Areas converted from natural forests to plantations should comprise no more than 15% of the state's land area, 20% of an ownership (...), or 25% of a LPU [land planning unit]. These limits can be exceeded if additional plantations are mitigated by allocating a commensurate acreage to permanently unharvested areas or designated ecological reserves."

This benchmark was very controversial at the time. It was put in to please a small handful of industrial owners. These companies were well within these limits. Yet Irving's plantation coverage will be 200% of this benchmark. "Commensurate," as I understand the word implies 1 for 1, not 1 for 10.

Certification Credibility

Certification is supposed to be a market-based inspiration towards exemplary forestry. The Northern Forest Lands Council admitted that certification programs, "have potential, if not done well, to harm markets." The certification of Irving, though the company may be exemplary by industrial standards, may send confusing signals to the marketplace. Not everyone shares industrial forestry values.

I was curious if Seven Islands was concerned about the impact of Irving's certification on others certified by SCS. John McNulty, a vice president of Seven Islands, is not concerned. "We have faith in the process. If Irving successfully goes through the process, then its certification is valid."

This confidence in the process, however, is not universally shared. David Coon, policy director of the New Brunswick Conservation Council, informed me that many New Brunswickers, who have had to live with the impacts of the company's aggressive management, will be perplexed by this certification and will question the validity of the program. The very practices that they object to will be certified "green."

Forest certification has a ways to go before it is out of the woods. The problems are not simply technical, they are philosophical. It's not easy defining, let alone being, "green." ❧

Acid Rain Unravelling Adirondack Ecosystems

Success in Cutting Sulfur Emissions Has Not Solved the Northeast's Number One Air Pollution Problem

from the Adirondack Park Council

A new study completed by Environment Canada confirms the Adirondack Council's findings that Midwestern utility plants must cut their smokestack emissions far beyond what is called for in the current federal acid rain program before the ecosystems of the northeastern U.S. and southeastern Canada can hope to recover.

At the same time, new evidence has been discovered showing that loons and other waterfowl are being contaminated by mercury due to acid rain. Adding insult to injury, pesky black flies seem to thrive in acidic waters. Guy Fenech, a Senior Science Advisor at Environment Canada told a group of more than 100 scientists, policymakers and advocates gathered in Saratoga Springs in November that 95,000 lakes in southern Ontario and Quebec are being damaged by acid rain today. Without substantial reductions in both sulfur-dioxide and nitrogen-oxides, the condition of those lakes will only get worse, he noted.

An International Problem

Most people thought the acid rain problem in North America was solved when the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 were approved by Congress and when the Canadian and U.S. governments signed a treaty on acid rain emissions, Fenech said. But the emissions reductions called for at coal-burning power plants in both the U.S. and Canada were too modest and must be adjusted, he said.

Canadian officials are currently discussing the nation's options, including whether the treaty with the U.S. should be renegotiated. The current U.S. acid rain program is expected to reduce nationwide sulfur-dioxide emissions from utility plants by 50 percent below 1990 levels by 2005. It does not address nitrogen-oxides. Since so much of the coal-fired utility emissions harming the Adirondacks comes from the Midwest, the Park is only expecting a 39 percent reduction in the deposition of sulfur-dioxide in its forests and waters.

As a result, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency predicts that 43 percent of all 2,800 lakes and ponds in the Adirondack Park will be too acidic to support their natural ecosystems within 50 years. Tens of thousands of miles of rivers, brooks and streams are expected to reach critical acidity levels each spring by the same date. Fenech said reductions of 75 percent below 1990 levels would be needed in both sulfur and nitrogen-oxides to curb the damage to forests and aquatic resources in both countries.

Regional Strategy Emerging

Fenech made his comments in mid-November during his keynote address at an international acid rain conference (The Adirondacks and Beyond), sponsored by the SUNY College of Environmental Science and



Increased mercury levels threaten loons. Photo © Gustav W. Verderber

Forestry and co-sponsored by the Adirondack Council and several other organizations. Fenech expressed his support for the acid rain control bill sponsored by Senators Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Alfonse D'Amato and Congressmen Gerald Solomon, R-Glens Falls, and Sherwood Boehlert, R-Utica. The bill (S.1097/H.R.2365) would require 70 to 75 percent reductions in both major components of acid rain, based on 1990 levels.

In an effort to move the bill forward, the Adirondack Council and its member organizations gathered with other interested advocates at the Saratoga conference to create a new coalition to fight acid rain throughout the Northeast. Roughly 20 representatives from various New York-based organizations were on hand for the initial meeting and expressed interest in working together

to pass the bill. The group will continue to meet and work out a collective strategy for bringing in new support from the rest of the affected areas of the East Coast and Mid-Atlantic region.

Meanwhile, Congressional sponsors from New York are seeking the support of the rest of the state's delegation, as well as representatives from Georgia to Maine. Most of the Eastern Seaboard is harmed by acid rain or one of its components, such as nitrogen-oxide pollution. In an effort to encourage New York's delegation to fight for new acid rain control laws, Adirondack Council member organization Citizens Campaign for the Environment presented the four sponsors with a petition carrying more than 100,000 signatures of New Yorkers who want Congress to finish the job of halting acid rain's destruction.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency predicts that 43 percent of all 2,800 lakes and ponds in the Adirondack Park will be too acidic to support their natural ecosystems within 50 years.

ENERGY QUIZ NO. 2

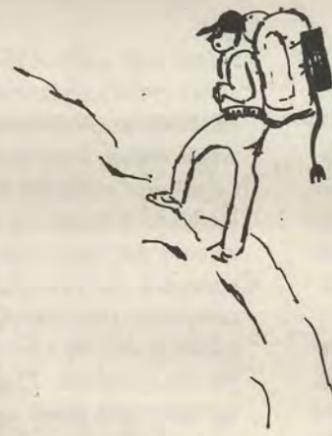
Question 1: How many kilowatt hours does it take to lift a 60 pound backpack from sea level to the top of Mount Everest?

Question 2: How many kilowatt hours does a VCR use annually while it is plugged in and in the "off" position?

Question 3: How many kilowatt hours did your household use last month?

Answers to the Energy Quiz

1. One (1) kilowatt hour. The highest peak in the world is 29,028 feet. To obtain kilowatt hours, multiply foot-pounds by 3.76616×10^{-7} .
2. Six (6) kilowatt hours. Phantom loads in electronic equipment are huge energy losers, consuming the energy of six power plants nationwide. Put another way, of the \$3.5 billion Americans spend each year to run electronic devices, \$1 billion is spent to power them when they are shut off.
3. If you knew this answer, congratulate yourself for your energy awareness. While most consumers know the total dollar amount of their electric bill, most don't know how many kilowatt hours they are using or what they are using them for.



Funding Mercury Monitoring

In Albany, the Council has asked the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation to fund the creation of a mercury monitoring network across the state. The program proposed to the Adirondack Council by the National Atmospheric Deposition Program would establish five mercury testing sites at strategic locations, downwind of major emissions sources. The entire five-year study envisioned by NADP would cost less than \$330,000. Adirondack Council members may recall that the Council worked with members of Congress to reinstate the funding for NADP's acid rain monitoring program last year.

Mercury poisoning has become a far-too-common occurrence in the Adirondacks in the past decade. In the 1980s, there were less than a handful of lakes in the Adirondack Park with significant mercury levels. At the Saratoga conference, state officials noted that more than 100 Adirondack lakes now have mercury concentrations greater than one part-per-million. More than a dozen of those have been flagged by the state Health Department in the 1990s as having fish that are too contaminated for human consumption.

Elevated Mercury Levels

Mercury is a trace element in many coal-fired smokestack emissions. It can also be leached out of decaying organic matter by acidic water. Consequently, the Adirondack Park suffers from both methods of contamination. Aside from causing nerve and brain damage in humans, mercury has dire health consequences for nearly every form of life within the Park's lakes and ponds, as well as for the birds and other wildlife that eat fish and other aquatic animals. DEC officials report finding elevated mercury levels in dead loons brought to DEC's pathology lab from the Adirondacks.

Black Flies Love Acid Rain

Ironically, as acid rain is wiping out fish populations and harming other species the people of the state are trying to protect, it appears to be helping the black fly population survive. Environment Canada reports that a long-term study of conditions at Algonquin Park in Ontario showed that black fly emergence has increased 100 times or more over the past 50 years due to acidity in their breeding streams. Black flies swarm in huge numbers and create a springtime annoyance that can spoil a trip outdoors in May or June. Many tourists avoid the Adirondacks altogether during those months. Black flies lay their eggs in fast-moving streams, where they cling to rocks and filter the passing water for food until emerging from the streams as adults. According to the report, black fly larvae are far more resistant to acidic conditions and heavy metal contamination caused by acid rain than fish and other aquatic organisms that eat them and compete for habitat.

COUNTY FORESTER PURSUES COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Green Certification, Networking and Landowner Education in VT's Addison County

by Alexander Lee

David Brynn and I were walking around his own woods just after the ice storm. He was smiling and striding along in the fresh snow. Pointing to a beech that had snapped in half he declared, "I think this storm will provide great habitat." He paused to show me a sugar maple which was leaning thirty degrees to the south.

"That used to be straight like an arrow. It won't probably regain its stature, but I think it will live. They say that you can lose most of the crown and these hearty trees will go on living."

"I am afraid that this storm will provide the opportunity for a lot of bad salvage deals. Much might be cut that should be left. This is going to make great habitat!"

Vermont Family Forests

In the most recent issue of Vermont Woodlands (Winter 1997), Eleanor Kohlsaet wrote, "One of Vermont's best kept secrets might be its county foresters." David Brynn is just the person to whom I imagine she was referring. Addison County's forester has played an instrumental role in numerous conservation initiatives, not least the advent of Vermont Family Forests.

Vermont Family Forests is a forestry outreach and education program which takes a socially responsible approach to cultivating local family forests—those forests which are privately-owned and non-industrial. It has, for three watersheds in Vermont, provided an alternative to the nasty divisions between the logging industry and environmentalists by bringing them all together at the table.

The success is due, in large part, to the empowerment of land owners. David Brynn, with help from The Watershed Center, the Lewis Creek Association, the Otter Creek Audubon Society, and other conservation groups, has reshaped the debate around stewardship of forested lands in his region.

In fact, the target area for Vermont Family Forests includes approximately 170,000 acres.

Empowering the Landowner

Vermont Family Forests has sponsored nine well-attended, pithy workshops on topics ranging from portable sawmills to timber grading to riparian zone restoration. These sessions have been informal, inexpensive, and interesting, which has brought a lot of landowners out of the woodwork, so to speak. Stewardship can be fun, educational, rewarding.

"We need to build networks," says Brynn. "Vermont Family Forests is not denying the global economy. We are simply saying, 'Let's participate as a healthy community. Let's not export like a colony.' There are ways for us to have a local economy that is part of the global economy, instead of the global economy controlling our local economy."

He talks about empowerment of

recreation, conservation, and appreciation," says Brynn. "They used to define this group of people by what they are not. They called them NIPFs, or non-industrial private forest-owners. That is horrible! Vermont Family Forests and this whole Green Certification Program of the National Wildlife Federation are giving these folks the tools they need to organize around sustainable forestry practices so that they can be known for who they are."

Smart Wood

There are now people chomping at the bit to be included in the pilot in-depth field assessments of the "Green" Certification Project. Thirty-one parcels participated in the first round of assessment. The goals of that project, which is being carried out in conjunction with the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation and the NWF's Northeast Natural Resource Center, are to promote the uses of sustainable forestry practices in family forests; to improve the financial returns of family

furniture maker Bruce Beeken that some entrepreneurs in the Pacific Northwest are making a killing by marketing "organic wood." Currently, there is no way of knowing if that outfit is a farce. Vermont Family Forests is creating the awareness that is needed to make such an endeavor sustainable and successful. NWF's Smart Wood Program is providing the credibility.

Beeken and his partner, Jeff Parsons, run their small business from a woodshop at Shelburne Farms in Shelburne, Vermont. In the last couple of years they have invested in a wood-drying kiln and started to cater to the green consumer. "Even though we have done this as much for the fuzzy feeling as anything else, we want to be certified so that we are in a position to capitalize on the market advantages which Green Certification offers," said Jeff Parsons.

"The question has always been how do consumers know that they're buying certified wood. There will be a whole paper trail that follows every piece of certified wood from forest to furniture," Parsons said.

"Local value-adding networks are part of the solution. We need to make sure that the Bruce Beekens of the world know about the Paul Baughmans," said Brynn, referring to a retired businessman who sold Beeken/Parsons some beech logs from his 160 acre lot. "We need a newsletter. That is our next step—to connect landowners with craftspeople and local mills."

Community Solutions

Observes forester Brynn, "I think by now, we should have learned that regulation is not always the best answer. By working together as a community, solutions can be found to nearly every problem that arises."

Alexander Lee graduated from Middlebury College in May 1997 and currently teaches agriculture, stewardship, and natural history to pre-school through sixth grade at Shelburne Farms in Shelburne, VT. He is a charter subscriber to the Northern Forest Forum.



David Brynn explains lumber quality and yield at VFF workshop.

the landowner. "If someone chooses to use a professional that is good, but society will be better when we don't need to call the specialists to know how to care for our land. Education—which is what our workshops are accomplishing—is empowerment.

"Most of the landowners in Vermont do not own their forests just for the sawlogs they can remove. They list other reasons for ownership first like

forests; to increase the availability of sustainably-produced, locally-grown forest products to local wood product manufacturers; and to develop an affordable model for independent "green" certification.

Alan Calfee speaks excitedly of Vermont Family Forests initiatives. He is a forester and the coordinator for the Northeast Smart Wood Project, which covers New England and upstate New York. Smart Wood is the international organization which is leading the campaign to certify wood products. While the chains of custody are complex and involve too much paperwork, Calfee is glad that so many groups are committed.

"Our goal is a high standard and good credibility. I am excited about this project because it provides an opportunity to demonstrate what sustainable forestry is. This is a great non-regulatory approach to improved forest practices. Right now there are disincentives for being a careful logger. Adding value to a log because it was harvested properly will create the incentive that is needed."

Local Networks

At a November meeting of Builders for Social Responsibility, I learned from

Vermont Family Forests Voluntary Timber Management Guidelines

Excerpts

- Single tree and small group selection (up to one acre) methods should be used for shade tolerant species; irregular shelterwood for shade intolerant. Avoid clearcutting.
- Retain a minimum of 6 cavity or snag trees per acre with one exceeding 18" DBH & three exceeding 16" DBH.
- Retain a minimum of two large down trees per acre.
- Grow the largest trees on the longest rotations possible within site and log quality limitation. [VFF uses culmination of mean annual board foot growth as the definition of rotation length.]
- Only those pesticides accepted by the Northeast Organic Farming Association should be used, if necessary.

Next Issue of The Forum

The next issue of the Northern Forest Forum will have a feature focus on silviculture, low impact forestry and opportunities for its wider implementation.

Included will be:

- Update on VT's cutting bill & rulemaking process
- Low Impact Standards & Guidelines
- Zero Cut on National Forests?
- Regional sustainable forestry initiatives

EVERY PERSON'S NEED

Amish Ruminations

by Michael Phillips

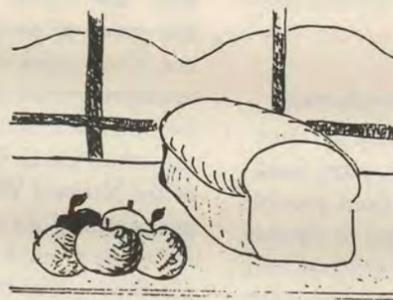
Our culture embraces technology for the most part without question. If it's faster or allows us to cut costs or makes life more convenient, well, it's gotta be good, right?

The Amish have a different way of looking at these matters than we "English" do. This religious-centered society of Germanic origin weighs the pros and cons of all aspects of living through a much different pair of spectacles. Not that the Amish don't have their own human challenges and shortcomings, for they do. But the Amish ask some fundamental questions we might all consider in the context of our own lives. "Does this technology bring me into a closer relationship to God? Or does it come at a cost to my spiritual nature? Does this way of doing things enhance experience of communi-

ty with my brothers and sisters? Or does it isolate me from sharing the love and wonder of this creation with my family and neighbors?"

Our culture views the Amish as a backward people—they don't even use utility-generated electricity—yet we marvel at the inherent strengths of their lifestyle. Two examples of what the Amish have (that we do not) are a communal sense of accomplishment and an ongoing commitment to directly care for each other.

A modern farmer with a tractor-driven mower and a self-



feeding baler followed by an open trailer can gather acres of hay by himself. But the Amish hitch teams of horses to sickle bar mowers and hay rakes. The same horses either pull wagons where loose hay is carefully forked by hand and mounded, or gas-powered balers that leave the hay on the ground to be picked up by community members. The next day the whole process repeats, but now in the neighbors' field. Dinners

are shared as are sunsets and laughter. The hard work is rewarded by knowing each farm

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

—Gandhi

has a winter supply of hay.

Amish parents never go into a nursing home in their elder years. There is no separation of generations in the daily ritual of living. Grandparents might live in a smaller house or a room off the kitchen. Modest medical costs are shared jointly by the community-at-large, with no insurance intermediary skimming the cream from the pot. Life is a joint effort from beginning to end.

We would do well by such circumspection. Certainly any debate about the worth of wilderness reaches a clearer consensus when we remember that God did not fashion us solely in 'his economic likeness'. The margins of our ruminations need to be much broader.

Simple Living Quotes

↳ The Amish think that phone use pulls families apart because it results in family members attending meetings and spending less time together. Phones allow unwanted visitors to intrude into the privacy of one's home at any moment. . . . The phone deal that the Amish negotiated is an ingenious solution to their dilemma. They have agreed to exclude it from homes, while allowing its use in community shanties [wooden phone booths] and in or near shops and barns [for business use].

↳ "Agriculture," according to one leader, "is a religious tenet, a branch of Christian duty." The divine injunction to Adam in Genesis "to till the ground from which he came" provides a religious mandate for farming. The Amish believe that the Bible instructs them to earn their living by the sweat of their brow. Over the years, the soil has assumed a spiritual meaning; it is not to be sold and exploited at will. As the caretakers of God's garden, the Amish believe they are to cultivate it carefully, for it is their sustenance."

↳ The Amish plea for exemption from Social Security was voiced by an Amish spokesman in hearings before the Ways and Means Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives in 1983: "The Amish are only human and not as perfect as our non-Amish neighbors would take us to be, and not near as perfect as we would like to be, and we would not wish to be a burden to our government or men in authority

or to be a hindrance to anyone. We desire no financial assistance from our state or federal government in any way. But again, we would humbly plea that we be allowed to take care of our own, in our own way, through alms and brotherly love as has always been our custom and has been sufficient to this day."

↳ The carriage protests the fads and fashions of modern transportation. . . . It epitomizes local control, for its form and accessories are governed by local tradition rather than by market research conducted by giant car makers. Like the horse, the carriage has spawned a variety of Amish shops. These shops manufacture, repair, and service carriages. Locally manufactured, the carriage transcends the flux of oil prices, imports, and labor strikes.

↳ Traveling by buggy, plowing with horses, and going to church every other week creates a temporal order with a slower, more deliberate rhythm. . . . The great irony here is that in Amish society, with fewer labor-saving devices and other technological shortcuts, there is less "rushing around." The perception of rushing seems to increase directly with the number of "time-saving" devices. . . . Thus the simplicity, overlap, and closeness of Amish life slow the pace of things and eliminate the need for time-management seminars.

All of the above are excerpted from Donald Kraybill's The Riddle of Amish Culture (1989)

4-3 Vote Denies Registration to Genetically-Altered Corn

by Sharon Tisher

The Maine Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) stunned international chemical and seed conglomerates Novartis Seeds and DEKALB on December 12 by denying their applications to market genetically engineered field corn in Maine. This was the first time these products—which incorporate *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) genes designed to produce endotoxins lethal to the European corn borer—have been denied registration in any state.

The denials came in the face of substantial opposition from organic growers and environmentalists citing unanswered questions about the role of the genetically engineered plants in promoting insect resistance to Bt pesticides.

The Maine Farm Bureau submitted a letter to the Board in support of the applications. In that letter, Jon Olson likened opponents of biotechnology to those in the 1880s who opposed hatching "artificial" chickens in incubators, and predicted that within five years "nearly 100 percent of all U.S. farm acreage could be planted in genetically engineered crops."

This writer presented MOFGA's (Maine Organic Farming and Gardening Association) testimony, the fastest growing sector in Maine agriculture, would be the first to suffer when insect resistance developed to

the Bt pesticide. As Bt is derived from natural soil bacteria, it is one of the few pesticides available to organic growers. The impact of the loss of Bt would eventually be felt by all growers and the environment generally: "Because of its effectiveness and safety compared to the pesticides it displaces, Bt is probably the single most important insecticide ever discovered and the loss of such a pesticide would cause growers to switch to more harmful pest control agents" (quoting from the EPA rulemaking petition filed September 16, 1997, by an international coalition of organic growers and environmental groups seeking cancellation of registration of all transgenic Bt crops).

MOFGA's opposition was soundly supported by other Maine environmentalists. Nancy Allen, co-chair of the Maine Green Party, argued that it was time for the states to "step into the breach" left by a lax EPA registration process that "relies way too heavily on industry information." Allen cited recent studies from Europe indicating susceptibility of non-target ladybugs to toxins produced by genetically engineered potato plants, and transfer of genetically engineered herbicide resistance to wild species.

Shortened from Maine Organic Farmer & Gardener March-May 1998, with permission of the author.

The Land That Feeds Us

"The keystone of local economy is agriculture"

AGRICULTURE AND THE DIVERSITY OF THE WILD

The land we leave alone can be just as important to farming success as the cultivated acres beneath our feet. This relationship of agriculture to the diversity of the wild is underscored daily in my work as a vegetable grower and an organic orchardist.

The bumblebees that pollinate my crops are not here solely for human purposes. The Michaelmas daisies and red clover in the hedgerow rate just as highly as a squash blossom in the eye of a bumble bee intent on a summer long existence. The beneficial insects I revere in the orchard—lacewings, spiders, syrphid flies, and trichogramma wasps among them—find adult habitat in the groundcover beneath the apple trees.

Equally key is the interbreeding of orchard moths with wild populations to keep the gene pool susceptible to selective organic sprays like *Bacillus thuringiensis* . . . otherwise a handful of larvae resistant to this disease vector might soon breed an entirely resistant population.

Birds lend a beneficial assist as well. Bluebirds and swallows swoop hundreds of orchard and garden pests from the air by day (with mammalian bats doing the night shift). Woodpeckers rat-a-tat out moth larvae lurking beneath the bark of the apple trees. Hummingbirds dart in and out of blossoms, all the while transferring the varietal pollen on which fruit set depends. These allies exist in a much broader environment than just my plantings. All life is an interconnected web.

Similarly, forest agriculture is much more than a logger's final toil to harvest the trees we humans all too smugly regard as "our resource." All species have a role to play, from mycorrhizal fungi in the soil to the bear distributing berry seeds en masse in his scat. The shade of the trees provides a sheltered home for many species of understory plants. Medicinal herbs like goldenseal, black cohosh, and ginseng no longer grow where humans overharvest or the ground is torn asunder by huge machines removing every life-providing tree. We radically alter the connectedness of forest ecology to our own detriment when we take and take and take. Clearcutting is perhaps the ultimate blasphemy to this concept of stewarding diversity. Agriculture—be it in the forest or the field—is about stewardship first and foremost.

Life is based on the recycling of nutrients of the bodies of past generations, be it mine or the fallen leaves of autumn or wind-topped tree trunks. Undisturbed forest soils have a complete compost cycle that my gardens and orchards can only envy. Forestry training too often overlooks the vital link of soil health to a sustainable forest agriculture.

All life depend on the trees above. The economic value of the forest is much greater than our myopic focus on short-term dollars. The trees are the very lungs of the planet on which we live! Their respiration cleanses the air that we breath. Tree roots reaching deep into the substrata are able to call upon mineral reserves as yet untouched by the organic cycling at the surface of the planet. The dissolving power of soil water makes the rock minerals available to be absorbed by roots. These minerals are then passed into all parts of the tree, including the foliage. Autumn leaves bring the minerals, now in an organic form, back to the ground to be incorporated into humus. The trees themselves renew the land.

The destruction of forests around the globe is coming back to us in many ways. The greenhouse effect, the encroachment of deserts, mineral impoverished soils relate directly to our disrespect for trees. First and foremost, we need to realize our existence on this humble planet hinges directly on holistic stewardship of all we have been given. Hugging trees starts to make sense when we wake up from consuming everything in sight.

Wilderness has just as much value to us agriculturally as it does spiritually. There are areas of the earth we simply need to leave untouched, if only to defend ourselves from our ignorance of diverse connections we cannot yet comprehend. Wilderness areas may be as small as a garden corner left to the "wildflower fairies" or as vast as the Alaskan tundra. Corridors of Northern Forest intelligently managed by of Nature herself will help us regain ecosystem balance in this neck of the woods. We need wilderness locally and globally.



But First Let's Do The Numbers

At last count America is losing about 500 farms per week. Average farm income in 1995 was \$5000, farmers are twice as likely to live in poverty as the general population, for every farmer under the age of 35 in the US there are two over the age of 65, and the farmer's share of the food dollar slipped from 37 cents in 1980 to 21 cents in 1994 (Source: In Good Tilt, August 1997).

So tell me, will anyone be left to feed the rest of us come the turn of the next century? When the global economy takes a nose dive, and all the good local farming ground is planted to shopping malls and housing tracts, just what will be left to eat? My advice is to start making the effort to grow your own food and support whatever local farmers are left in your valley. Truly safe and nutritious food only comes from the soil upon which we stand.

Comment on Organic Standards Before April 30

You have until the 30th of April to comment on the proposed USDA's National Organic Standards. Send comments to Eileen Stommes, Deputy Administrator, USDA, AMS Room 4007-S, Ag Stop 0275, POB 96456, Wash., DC 20090-6456. FAX: (202)-690-4632. Express your thoughts on food irradiation, municipal sludge, drugs, anti-biotics and animal by-products in animal feed and keeping certification within the financial reach of small farmers.

The Two-Year-Old Ecologist by Grace Elena Phillips

There were big tire tracks on the lane leading back behind our woods. Mommy and I walked down on Sunday to see what all the noise we had heard for weeks was about. We found branches but no trees, machines but no men. Mommy explained to me about skidders, how they're used to pull and drag the trees out of the woods. These were what had been making all the noise we could hear from our farm. It was then we saw the remaining trees, neatly piled to await the next logging truck. Still standing nearby was the big hollow maple where the baby raccoons had been last summer.

❁ "You are the mommy raccoon and me are the baby raccoon. Where will we go if the skidders come and get our tree, Mommy?"

❁ "Little love, we will have to move deeper into the woods. People cut down the trees for things they need, like timber to build their houses, paper for writing, and wood to burn for heat."

❁ "But what about us, Mommy, don't we need the woods too?"

❁ "Little love, we all need to share what our Earth has to offer and take good care of what we have been given. There aren't always easy answers to your questions."

❁ "Me a baby raccoon, Mommy. Let's find a place far, far away where people won't need to come and take our house."

Subscribe to the Northern Forest's Only Forum



Dwarf Dogberry

Photo © Gustav W. Verderber

SUBSCRIBE TO THE FORUM

**A one-year subscription to the Forum costs \$15 (US) or \$25 (Canadian) for six issues.*

**We will send you a freebie if you can't afford to pay on the condition that you become actively involved in the search for sustainable natural and human communities.*

**We urge our more affluent subscribers to send us \$30 or more to sponsor a freebie.*

**Please consider becoming a lifetime subscriber with a donation of \$1000 or more.*

***Enclosed is \$_____ to cover _____ subscription(s).*

***_____ I can't afford a subscription right now, please send me a freebie. I promise to roll up my sleeves and get to work on behalf of the Northern Forest Communities.*

***_____ Here's some extra cash to cover the cost of freebies.*

***_____ Enclosed is \$1000 (or more). Please sign me up as a lifetime subscriber.*

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

State _____ ZIP _____

*Contributions to the Forum are tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to:
The Northern Appalachian Restoration Project and send to:
The Northern Forest Forum, POB 6, Lancaster, NH 03584*

What You Receive When You Subscribe to the Forum

- ★ Each issue of the Northern Forest Forum brings the latest news and in-depth analysis of challenges and opportunities in conserving, rewilding and sustaining natural and human communities from the Gulf of Maine to the Adirondacks.
- ★ Forestry, wilderness, marine ecosystems; energy, agriculture, acid rain, pesticides, global warming and toxic pollutants are among the many topics and issues we cover, six times a year. Learn what is going on and how to get involved.
- ★ Subscribe to the Northern Forest Forum and join the community of conservationists living in and working for the future of this great region.