

Mid Summer 1998

Volume 6 No.6

The Sale of the Century

by Jym St. Pierre



MAINE is on the MOVE!

Here's the scenario. A big paper company, with feigned concern for the local impacts, announces it is selling its extensive forestlands in Maine. Conservationists, with barely concealed impatience, call for public acquisition of the most important of the lands. Private property extremists, with truly twisted

logic, insist that the company should be allowed to sell only to other private companies for logging or development. Organized labor, with a weak smile, says it hopes for a benevolent buyer. The hook-and-bullet crowd, with single-minded attention, says it wants to work with the new owner toward even more vehicular access to

remote areas. State officials, with make believe shock, call for calm analysis of the situation so that next time we will be better prepared. Federal officials, with heads shaking, acknowledge that the lands up for grabs are of national significance, but insist they cannot act without an invitation from the state.

Continued on Page 3

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Marginalia and illustrations on Editorial page and pp. 3; 5; 27 and 29 from *The Forestry Primer*, a publication of the American Tree Association celebrating the semi-centennial in 1926 of the U.S. government's first official inquiry into forest conditions.

The Northern Forest Forum is published six times a year by the Northern Appalachian Restoration Project (NARP).

NARP is a non-profit organization and network of grassroots activism dedicated to sustainable natural and human communities across the Northern Forest region of northern New England, New York and adjoining regions.

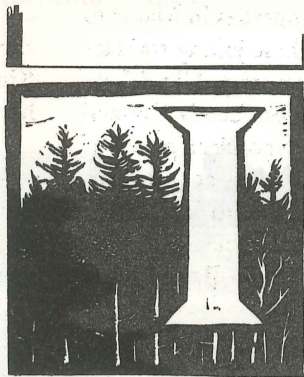
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Editorial views expressed herein are those of the writer and not necessarily those of other contributors or NARP projects. We welcome diverse submissions on the Northern Forest and related topics. Please send all material to our Lancaster address; please address letters for publication specifically to the editor.
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Editorial

For Sale – Again!



In 1983, Sir James Goldsmith, a British financier, realized that the parts of Diamond International, a multi-national paper company that owned paper mills and a million acres of land in the Northern Forest region, were worth more separately than whole. After he purchased the company, he immediately sold the mills, making back most of his investment. The land, held by a French conglomerate, was not put on the market, however, until late 1987.

In the past, large timberland blocks passed from one industrial landowner to the next, so conservationists and public officials happy with the status quo of "the working forest" (despite heavy clearcutting and threat of future shortfall) were not alarmed. They went into a panic, however, when developers bought up prime Diamond lots. Developers could cut off access to recreators in the beauty strips around rivers and lakes—prime development habitat.

After mad scrambling, some government entities in the four northern forest states were able to buy some of these areas, such as the Nash Stream Watershed in northern New Hampshire—but at an increased price. The sellers were developers, not Diamond. Realizing that they were unprepared to deal with more large-scale land sales, the four Northern Forest governors, with the help of the U.S. Forest Service, commenced the Northern Forest Lands Study (NFLS) in 1988. Their chief goal was to find better regional strategies to deal with

changes wrought by large land turnovers.

The NFLS, which eventually morphed into the Northern Forest Lands Council (NFLC), lasted six years, generated reams of research, and spent millions

Observations from *The Forestry Primer** ca. 1926

"EVERY four years enough newsprint is made for a strip as wide as a daily paper and long enough to reach to the sun and back."

"NORTH AMERICA, with one-twelfth of the world's people, uses about one-half of all the timber consumed in the world."

"PUBLIC OPINION can bring action that will enact a national forest policy in the only large country that is without one."

"FORESTRY is a problem of today. It means life and prosperity to the children of tomorrow and those of many tomorrows."

*Published by the American Tree Association

of dollars. By the time the NFLC came up with its list of recommendations in 1994, Council members, apparently, had forgotten the original question. The NFLC failed to offer a single strategy or tool that would allow the states to cope with more large land sales (let alone timber liquidation or shortfalls). Indeed, earlier recommendations from the NFLS, such as setting up a land bank, or combining multiple strategies in areas of importance, got dropped by the NFLC.

It is odd* that the NFLC lost sight of the issue. Even as the process was unfolding, 2.1 million acres of Great Northern in Maine was sold—twice—and tens of thousands of acres of former Diamond lands were liquidated by contractors who then subdivided and sold the land. Several weeks after the NFLC issued its final recommendations, Scott sold nearly one million acres of S.D. Warren lands to the South African company Sappi.

Now the three million combined acres of Great Northern and S.D. Warren lands are up for grabs again in Maine, and hundreds of thousands of acres of Champion lands are for sale in New York (see *Adirondack Park Report*, pages 6-7), Vermont (see *Agency Lands Conservation Plan* page 23) and New Hampshire (*Bunnell Reserve* page 20). As with the Diamond sales, these lands can be sold separately from the mills. But we are little better prepared than we were a decade ago to deal with sales on such a scale.

Those who have been lauding the benefits of facilitated, consensus-based approaches with big industry might want to think over why the final products of these processes so frequently veer off the mark. By the way, the former staff director of the NFLC, Charles Levesque, has been contracting recently with the paper industry to promote its Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), and to defend herbicide use for Mead and

Champion in New Hampshire. (For a different perspective on the work of the Council, turn to page 16, *Wise Use Founders*).

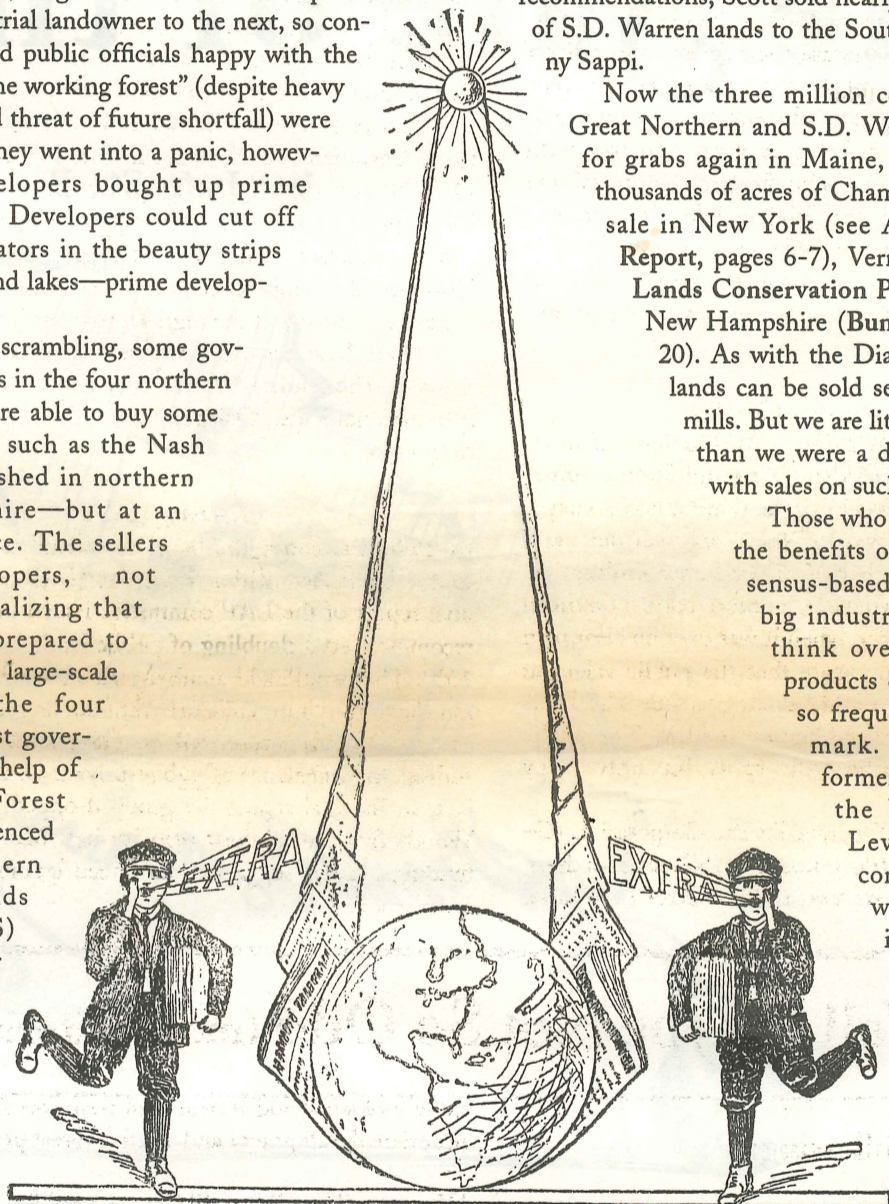
In the mean time, we have a crisis on our hands and need to do something about it. Soon.—M.L.

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Sale of the Century

Continued from Page 1



What is wrong with this picture? Nothing is wrong if you enjoy watching the same scene reenacted time after time and you don't mind the tragic consequences. Everything is wrong if you believe that globalization of the economy is forcing the big paper companies in Maine to liquidate their forests and sell off "under-performing assets," that government officials should act boldly to protect the public environmental and economic interests being ravaged, and that with each iteration the chance slips further away to salvage what has engraved the Maine Woods into the American imagination, its wilderness mystique.

Again and again the same sequence has been replayed in the past decade. However, we still have not learned the lessons.

A Decade of Decline

About ten years ago, "Chainsaw Al" Dunlap sold nearly 800,000 acres of former Diamond International Corporation forestlands in Maine (and another couple hundred thousand acres in New York, Vermont and New Hampshire) on behalf of Sir James Goldsmith. That triggered a two-year, federal-state Northern Forest Lands Study. Yet, when it was over no clear plan was put into place to ensure that the public values at risk with such sales would be safeguarded. The lands were sold in pieces to the highest bidders. The public ended up with some beautiful spots, but only a tiny portion of the whole.

Eight years ago Georgia-Pacific Corporation (G-P) completed a hostile takeover of Great Northern Nekoosa, including its two million acres in Maine.

Then, desperate to raise cash, G-P turned around and sold those same Great Northern properties in Maine to Bowater Inc. for a bargain price. Those jolting transactions came in the midst of the intense public debate during the four-year Northern Forest Lands Council study. Yet, again, when it was over no clear plan was put into place to shelter the public values at risk. Tens of thousands of acres of Great Northern lands were sold to private buyers, but the public ended up with only a couple thousand acres added to Baxter State Park.

Four years ago South African Pulp & Paper Industries Ltd. (Sappi) acquired Scott Paper Company's 911,000 acres of S.D. Warren lands in Maine, largely with junk bond financing. S.D. Warren got the government to pay for the development rights on a few thousand acres at Pierce Pond and traded some land near Kineo on Moosehead Lake to the state. But the public agencies have not been able to strike a deal for any of the other Sappi lands. Meanwhile Sappi has been the biggest clearcutter in the state, leveling tens of thousands more acres since 1994.

Two years ago The Mead Corporation swallowed Boise Cascade's 550,000 acres in Maine (plus another 117,000 acres in New Hampshire and Vermont). Development rights had been acquired by public agencies on some Boise lands in the Rangeley Lakes region. However, the public agencies did not otherwise even make a bid for any of the high value Boise lands.

There have been other substantial land transactions in the Maine Woods in the past decade by International Paper, Daishowa and others. But you get the picture.

Getting LAP'd

By 1996, the continuing large forestland sales helped spur a Land Acquisition Priorities (LAP) study. The final report of the LAP committee issued in late 1997 recommended a doubling of public lands in Maine by 2020. That would add another million acres. Too little too slowly, but a decent start. Yet, like its predecessors, the LAP study presented no clear action plan to address the imbalance of public-private ownerships. In fact, in its final report the group dropped the North Woods from its highest priority list. Moreover, the funding ideas it suggested have been ignored, at least

so far. The LAP committee said \$70 million was needed for immediate acquisitions, of which \$45 million should come from state bonding. Last spring, Gov. King slashed that to \$10 million, then the Legislature hacked it to \$3 million.

In short, over the past decade, millions of tax dollars, thousands of pages of reports, and hundreds of hours of meetings have been spent studying-how to protect the public interest at risk when large forest ownerships in Maine are sold and fractured. However, still no clear action plan has been put into place. We are as vulnerable as a new born fawn. Just when the granddaddy of all opportunities comes along.

In early June, South African Pulp & Paper Industries admitted it was soliciting offers to buy the 911,000 acres of S.D. Warren lands in Maine it bought from Scott Paper Company just four years ago. In July, Bowater admitted that it was interested in offers for the Great Northern real estate in Maine, including 2 million acres of land, it acquired from Georgia-Pacific Corp. just seven years ago.

The Sappi and Bowater properties together comprise a large portion of the Moosehead-Katahdin region—the area considered the heart of the traditional Maine Woods. The availability of the combined three million acres presents a truly extraordinary opportunity to restore to the public domain lands of national significance. (See sidebar p. 8 "World Class Landscapes Ripe for the Plucking.") These are the most important three million acres for sale in the United States today. What would it take to make our political leaders understand that this historic moment is not likely to ever come again?

The Making of a Killer Competitor

South African Pulp & Paper Industries Ltd. is headquartered in Johannesburg, South Africa. Sappi is the largest paper and forest products company in the southern part of the continent. It is also one of the biggest producers and traders of pulp in the world.

The first public clue that Sappi might be positioning to sell major assets in Maine came on May 26, 1998. In a brief talk at the Skowhegan Rotary Club, Doug Daniels, manager of Sappi's Somerset mill indicated that the company was preparing to become a

Continued on Page 4

... * Well Maybe Not So Odd (more editorial comment)

Consider the following:

Percentage of Council members who were either foresters, large forest landowners, representatives of large landownerships, or former representatives of large landownerships: 75% for region, 100% for Maine.

Percentage of land in Northern Forest in parcels over 500 acres: 80%.

Percentage of landowners in the Northern Forest region that own the 80% in large parcels: less than 1%.

Major issues raised by the public in listening sessions: Abusive forest practices (clearcutting; herbicide spraying; and high-grading); economic insecurity (timber shortfalls, job loss through mechanization, export of raw sawlogs, multinationals taking profits from region, domination of economy by paper industry); insufficient public land (Maine); and threats to high

value biological and recreational resources from inappropriate development and abusive forest practices.

What the Council 'heard' from the public: There is a need "to alleviate the range of pressures that discourage landowners from holding and managing lands for the long term," and a need to "protect and enhance the ecological resources of the region."

What the Council saw as its mission: "To reinforce the traditional patterns of land ownership and uses of large forest areas..."

Major emphasis in Council's recommendations for traditional patterns of ownership: Make them more profitable through tax breaks, easements, subsidies, cost reductions, or market development.

Percent of Council money that went into studies on taxes: 42.5%.

What Council's land conversion contractor concluded

ed about property taxes: "Where current use programs are being used by landowners, property taxes are not significant reasons for land sales."

Percentage of timberlands in large ownerships in Maine that are under current use property taxes: nearly all.

What the Council's land conversion contractor concluded about federal taxes: "The majority of landowners indicated that federal tax policies are not a significant driver of land sales."

Major reason (according to Council Contractors) for sale of large blocks of land: To raise cash.

Number of Council recommendations that directly dealt with land sales (and/or timber liquidation) to raise quick cash: none.

Number of Council recommendations (out of 27) that suggested tax breaks: 9. — ML



Sale of the Century

Continued from Page 3

"killer competitor" in the global paper market. Daniels outlined investments Sappi has made and plans to make in its local mill. But how was the company going to pay for these investments?

The answer came just a week later when Central Maine Morning Sentinel reporter Joe Rankin broke the story that Sappi was looking to sell all of its Maine timberlands as well as its power-generating facilities to free up cash to pay off debt and to modernize its mills. His source was Doug Daniels who reportedly got into hot water for leaking the news. Within minutes Sappi's Boston office issued a statement in an effort to control the spin on the story. The company said they were "exploring the sale only with companies with a commitment to the practice of sustainable forestry."

They also admitted that "The company's 911,000 acres of timberland in Maine currently supply only 15 per-

cent of its wood requirements, with the remaining 85% purchased on the open market." feed their own mills from their own forest stands and to control the price of pulpwood by regulating the supply. However, the lands did not make money. Rather they were a money sink, especially as costs have crept up to build and maintain roads, manage public recreation, pay property taxes, meet the demands of camp lease holders and incur the risk of fire, disease, wind and ice damage.

Increasingly the big companies have been separating their woodlands operations from the mills. International

Paper did it a generation ago. In the past few years, Georgia-Pacific, Fort James (formerly James River), Bowater and others have been selling their lands outright, spinning off their woodlands divisions as subsidiaries or forcing them to become profit centers within the corporation. Several paper companies in Maine have been doing fine financially with-

out a land base, including Madison Paper, Lincoln Pulp & Paper and Eastern Fine Paper. Sappi, too, wants to be relieved of the risks of land ownership and to seek a higher return by investing in its mills instead of its lands.

Don't Worry, Be Sappi

A number of companies have been rumored to be looking at the Sappi lands during the past several months. Bids were due by August. Sappi hopes to wrap up a sale by the end of September. A few of the potential buyers are forest products companies, including some of the most notorious from the West. Sappi is not likely to sell to another paper company operating in Maine, because it would be helping its

own competition. Most likely the buyer will be an institutional investor, such as a pension fund, investment bank or insurance company. The most aggressive such player has been Hancock Timber Resource Group which now owns 2.8 million acres nationwide, including over a quarter million acres in Maine.

Sappi says it wants to sell its Maine lands as a block by fall. The company has a goal of raising \$2 billion by year end. Some Wall Street analysts have estimated the Maine lands could be worth upwards of \$230 million if they go for an average of \$250 an acre. But they are not likely to bring that much. They have been cut too hard. And whomever buys them may have to provide Sappi with a fiber agreement to sell wood to the company's mills here. That also could drop the price.

Four years ago when Scott put its Maine properties on the block, including these same lands, there was a thundering silence. The Northern Forest Forum

published articles about the tremendous opportunity at hand. But there was nary a peep from the governor, the congressional delegation, legislators, political candidates and editorial pontificators. The reaction this time has been quite different. All of the state's major news-



Sappi bought Scott's S.D. Warren real estate in Maine (two mills, forestlands, biomass power plants) for \$1.6 billion four years ago.



Scott Paper Company pioneered the clearcut-plantation-herbicide scorched earth strategy in Maine.

Photos this page © Conrad Heesch.

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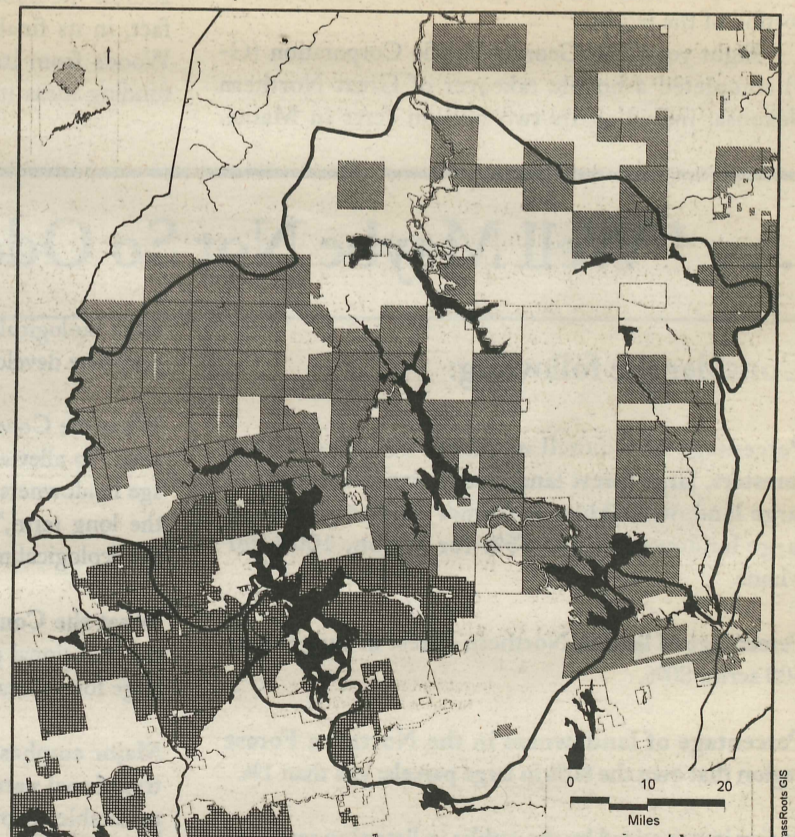
Conservationists snickered at the sustainable forestry line. Scott Paper Company pioneered the clearcut-plantation-herbicide scorched earth strategy in Maine. Sappi bought Scott's S.D. Warren real estate in Maine (two mills, forestlands, biomass power plants) for \$1.6 billion four years ago. When it became known that the deal was largely financed with junk bonds and that Sappi was famous for its eucalyptus plantation forestry in Africa, it was clear that management of the lands would not improve. It looked like Sappi wanted to drain the fiber supply further, then dump the lands. If the company is obtaining only 15% of its fiber from its own lands, the prediction has come

The move is also in keeping with a trend in the paper industry toward vertical disintegration. Increasingly the big companies have been separating their woodlands operations from the mills.

true.

The move is also in keeping with a trend in the paper industry toward vertical disintegration. For decades the large paper companies accumulated extensive land holdings in Maine. That allowed them to

Proposed Maine Woods National Park



Proposed Maine Woods National Park

company's "promises that they are 'looking for an American-based buyer who is interested in practicing sustainable forestry.' Why would they, of all people,

Sale of the Century

want to broach that topic anyway? Are they trying to warn us, retroactively, that a foreign-based, short-term owner could be tempted to conduct liquidation harvesting and then sell out in, say, four years or so?" Ouch.

The Disintegration of Great Northern Paper
Like Sappi, Bowater is on the move. Both want to be global powerhouses in their particular market niches. Bowater United States Corp. was formed in 1964 to

"... major changes [are] reverberating throughout the structure of corporate America... [including] downsizing via job elimination and disposal of under-performing business units. As unpleasant as it may be, today's competitive global environment rightly deems such steps necessary."
—Anthony Gammie

take over the American operations of its parent. Bowater Industries of Great Britain got into the paper industry in North America in the 1920s. Bowater Inc. separated from its U.K. predecessor and became an independent corporation in 1984.

In January, South Carolina-based Bowater Inc. announced that it planned to sell or close the century old Great Northern paper mill in Millinocket. That puts the jobs of 900 workers on the line. At the same time, the company said it would invest \$220 million to upgrade its mill in nearby East Millinocket. The modernization would mean the layoff of up to half the workforce there, 300 more employees.

The news should not have come as a surprise. In 1994, Anthony Gammie, former Chairman/CEO of Bowater Inc., in an address at the University of Maine, warned "there are major changes reverberating throughout the structure of corporate America... They include such unpleasant subjects as downsizing via job elimination and disposal of under-performing business units. As unpleasant as it may be, today's competitive global environment rightly deems such steps necessary." Indeed.

Not many buyers are interested in the Millinocket mill alone. When it was built it was the largest most up-to-date paper mill in the world. Today it is considered an antique, not competitive in the global marketplace where much larger, faster and more cost-efficient mills operate in other parts of the U.S. and the world. Mark Wilde, a Wall Street analyst, says "Millinocket is a stinker."

As soon as Bowater said it wanted to sell, Donald McNeil, president of Bowater's Great Northern subsidiary, took a leave of absence to try to arrange a buyout of the Millinocket facility. Soon he had competition. By May, Michael Mowles, a senior GNP engineer, had incorporated a company called Whitehorse, Inc. and made a bid for all of Bowater's properties in

Maine. Bowater said it could not even entertain such an offer because two months earlier it had agreed to buy Avenor Inc., a large paper company based in Montreal. Until the acquisition of Avenor was concluded, Bowater had promised not to consider selling any assets.

On July 16, Bowater completed the purchase of a recycled newsprint mill in South Korea from Halla Pulp & Paper for \$223 million. A week later Bowater stockholders blessed the acquisition of Avenor for \$2.37 billion. These purchases fulfill the dream of Bowater chief executive office Arnold Nemirow, who has been trying to position the company to become a major player on the world stage. For the moment Bowater has a dozen pulp and paper mills, more than 10,000 employees, and in excess of 4 million acres of owned forestlands plus cutting rights on another 18 million acres in Canada. With its new and existing plants in Canada, Korea and the Southeastern United States, Bowater will be able to reach into expanding markets throughout North America, Latin America, Europe and Asia. Now that the new structure is in place, the company say that a few adjustments need to be made. Bowater will sell a mill in Dryden, Ontario, and Nemirow has admitted that the company's Maine facilities have become redundant to the newly acquired Canadian operations.

Feeding Frenzy
There are now tremendous pressures both pushing and

ties in Maine. One of those is the Whitehorse bid, which may be a hollow offer since the company is a newly minted shell and apparently does not have substantial financial backing. Who else may have made an offer is a secret. It has been widely whispered for a couple of years that J.D. Irving of New Brunswick has been drooling over the Great Northern lands in Maine. Hours after Bowater completed the Avenor deal, two jets with Irving's corporate colors landed in Millinocket. According to the *Katahdin Times* there are rumors of up to nine potential buyers for Bowater's Maine assets.

Wilderness activist Charles FitzGerald says many of the names he has heard as potential buyers for both the Great Northern (Bowater) and S.D. Warren (Sappi) lands are "bottom feeders," or companies that would be interested in degraded timberlands because they would only be looking for small tress to chip any-way.

Perhaps the most likely prospect is that Bowater's Great Northern Paper subsidiary will be dismembered, with the Millinocket mill going to Don McNeil's employee buyout group, the East Millinocket plant going to another paper company, the hydrosystem going to a power utility, and the lands being snatched up by a financial predator who understands that they represent an undervalued economic asset. In any case, the lands are not likely to stay intact for long. Rather they will probably be carved up and sold in large chunks to abutting paper companies or to institutional investors.

As with the Sappi lands, that raises the question of whether the public will be able to secure some of the most important and sensitive Bowater acres.

Industry Beats Romantics
The forest problem is clear. Poor forest practices and inappropriate development threaten the ecological integrity, traditional recreational access, economic viability and scenic beauty of Maine's North Woods wilderness.

How to achieve a political solution to these biological and social challenges is less obvious. In recent years, conservationists in Maine have simultaneously worked on two complementary goals. They have pushed for sustainable management of those forestlands which are going to continue to be logged. And they have advocated for more wildlands that will not be logged to be brought into conservation, especially public, ownership.

Some progress has been made on sustainable forestry. For instance, while there is still far too much heavy cutting, all-out, large scale clearcutting is used less than a decade ago. However, oversight of forest practices is the purview of the state. Prodded by the forest industry, the state legislature and state agencies have fended off all meaningful efforts to improve regulatory oversight to better protect the public interest in Maine's wildlands. There have been proposals for better zoning by the Maine Land Use Regulation

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES BY PAPER COMPANIES IN MAINE 1985-1998						
Company	1985	1993	1995	1998	Change	% Change
Bowater (Great Northern)	4,000	2,067	1,602	1,708	-2,292	-57.3%
Champion International	1,125	1,366	1,414	1,140	+15	+1.3%
Chinert Company (Keyes Fibre)	950	652	550			
Eastern Fine Paper	500	450	450			
Fort James (Jones River)	918	918	840	608	-310	-33.8%
Fraser Paper Ltd.	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
Georgia Pacific	1,065	694	591	612	-453	-42.5%
International Paper	1,700	1,878	1,665	1,200	-500	-29.4%
*Kimberly-Clark (Scott)	750	498	498	0	-750	-100%
Lincoln Pulp & Paper	600	530	500			
Madison Paper	375	307	287	281	-94	-25.1%
Mead (Boise Cascade)	1,750	1,600	1,500	1,600	-150	-8.6%
Oss Specialty Papers (JR)	250	301	301	290	+40	+16%
*Pajepoc Paper	330	0	0	0	-330	-100%
S.D. Warren-SAPPI (Scott)	2,550	2,900	2,600	2,458	-92	-3.6%
*Stalder Tissue	600	600	0	0	-600	-100%
USG-Wood Fiber - IP	170	170	170			
Yorktown Paper	75	75	60			
TOTALS	19,048	15,936	13,958			

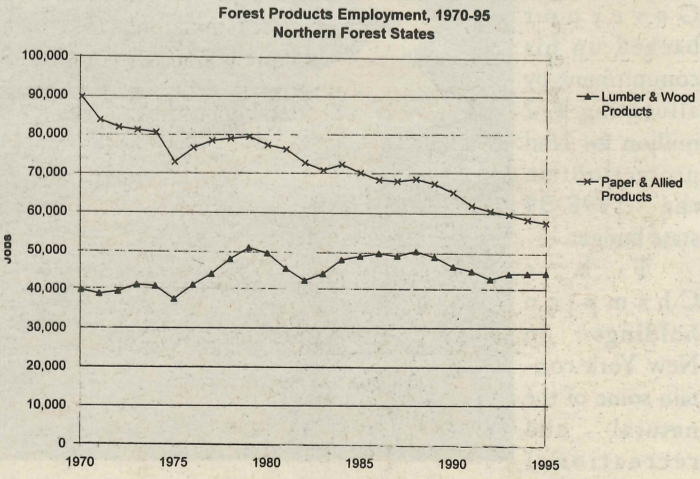
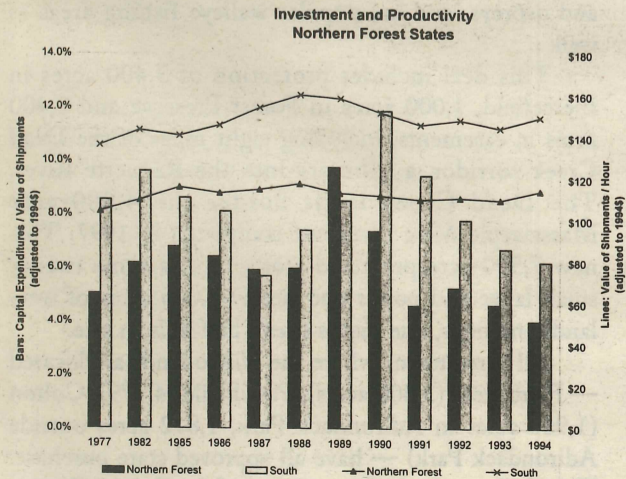
Note: Several of these companies changed hands during the period in question. Names in parentheses are previous owners. Companies in bold are currently selling their lands in Maine. Bowater is selling mills; SAPPI is not. * Mill has closed.

pulling Bowater to sell everything in Maine. The push forces include the need to get rid of debt and excess, unprofitable plants. The pull factors include the chance to avoid spending \$220 million to upgrade East Millinocket with a new thermo-mechanical pulp mill.

And the lands? Analysts speculate that the sale of all of Bowater's Great Northern properties in Maine—including two pulp and paper mills, a large sawmill, the largest private hydropower system in the country and two million acres of woodlands—could bring as much as \$750 million. Considering that Bowater paid only \$322 million for the whole shebang 1991, and has spent little on improvements since, that would not be a bad return on investment. Most of the value is not in the mills, but in the lands and hydro system.

Bowater has been coy, but says it has received unsolicited bids for all of the Great Northern proper-

Sale of the Century
continued on page 7



Graphs this page courtesy of Spencer Knapp.

Adirondack Park Report

by Peter Bauer

The Adirondack Park is a model for people living amidst wild areas in a way that's usually mutually 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), which is managed as wilderness, and 3.5 million acres of private lands, 2.5 million of which is commercially managed forests.

The Forest Preserve is protected as lands "to be forever kept as wild forest" in the state constitution. This 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 lands east of the Mississippi River. 130,000 people make their homes and livelihoods in the Adirondacks spread throughout better than 100 communities.

All land uses in the Adirondack Park are managed jointly by the State of New York through various agencies and departments and local governments. While there are many complaints—all around, the Adirondack Park works extremely well and 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.

Negotiations Begin for State Purchase of Champion Lands

In late June, Champion International Corporation released its long awaited Prospectus, the list of all Champion assets up for sale. Most importantly, Champion is selling 144,000 acres of lands in the Adirondacks and one paper mill in Deferiet, New York. Champion is also selling off 12 other various paper product manufacturing facilities across the country and 181,000 acres in Vermont and New Hampshire. In New York, Governor Pataki has made state protection of the Champion lands a top priority for the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in 1998. DEC Commissioner, John Cahill, lead negotiator on the Whitney deal, is now focusing on the Champion lands. The Governor backed up his commitment by allocating \$72 million for land protection in the 1998-99 state budget.

The Champion holdings in New York contain some of the natural and recreational gems in the Adirondacks.



The Raquette River flowing into Carry Falls and Start Reservoirs. Photo © Peter Bauer.

The Madawaska Pond and Bog area contains two eskers, extensive floating bog and shrubby mats. While there are no rare flora on the property the low elevation spruce communities support one of the strongest spruce grouse habitat in the Adirondacks. The Quebec



Quebec Brook flowing out of Madawaska Pond and Bog. Photo © Peter Bauer.

Brook drains Madawaska Pond and this corridor is fringed by floating mats and spruce and fir. The uplands are dominated by rolling hills of hardwoods, dotted by the occasional swamp, which has been in timber production for over 100 years. The property has an extensive road infrastructure, one road leads to a bridge over the Middle Branch of the St. Regis River.

The Champion lands contains parts of five rivers, over 50 miles of river corridors, including 21 miles of the South Branch of the Grasse River. This river

is a classic

Adirondack meandering river. The South Branch of the Grasse includes both meandering sections through bogs and wetlands lined with spruce and fir trees. It also includes section that drop sharply through hardwood forests dominated by stillwaters leading the small waterfalls and rapids. Public access to the South Branch of the Grasse River has been prohibited throughout the 20th Century. For several miles the Tooley Pond Road roughly parallels this river, but it is very remote in other upstream areas.

Last fall, when Champion announced its intention to sell off its Northeast lands and mills, the company stated it planned to provide the State of New York the first opportunity

to purchase these lands. It soon recanted this position and downgraded the state to first among equals. As of this past spring, Champion once again modified its position: it plans to get the maximum price for virtually every acre, regardless of who the buyer may be.

For its part, the DEC has outlined a strategy of purchasing 35-40,000 acres in Forest Preserve, areas that include the Madawaska Pond and Bog and at least 1/4 mile of land on each side of the rivers and Tooley Pond. The DEC is looking to buy conservation easements; purchasing blanket development rights over the remaining 100,000+ acres and recreational rights as well in certain areas. Areas where just the development rights are purchased will most likely continue to be privately leased to hunting camps.

Negotiations are moving forward between the DEC and Champion. Champion has stated it plans to sell its Adirondack holdings by the end of the year.

State Protects 12,000 Acres in the Adirondacks

The State of New York has just completed an agreement to purchase 11,951 acres along the Raquette River and one tributary, the Dead Creek, from the Niagara Mohawk Power Company (NiMo). The deal includes 2,972 acres for the wilderness Forest Preserve and 8,979 in conservation easements.

All easement lands include full recreational use. This is an important deal because it provides protection of the shoreline areas of several reservoirs along the Raquette River; Carry Falls,

Stark Falls, Blake, Rainbow and Five Falls. These reservoirs, dammed for hydro-power facilities, are lightly developed and have nesting pairs of bald eagles and ospreys, and are popular walleye fishing areas as well.

This deal includes protection of 3,400 acres in Piercefield, 1,000 acres in Forest Preserve and 2,400 acres in easements, including eight miles of the Dead Creek corridor, a tributary into the Raquette River. The Dead Creek lands border the 4,000-acre Massawepie Mire easement completed in 1997. This new 7,500-acre protected area contains some twenty small lakes and ponds and nearly 3,000 acres of wetlands and bogs, one mat is over a half mile in size.

All three towns where the NiMo lands are located — Piercefield (3,400 acres), Parishville (4,779), Colton (1,960 acres in Adirondack Park, 1,812 acres outside Adirondack Park) — have all approved state purchase. This deal was worked out as part of the Federal Energy Relicensing Commission (FERC) relicensing of 19



Madawaska Pond and Bog. Photo © Peter Bauer.

NiMo hydro facilities along the Raquette River. This sale marks a significant

obtained, NiMo is seeking to sell off all of its power making facilities on the



South Branch of Grasse River near Tooley Pond Road.
Photo © Peter Bauer.




Tooley Pond. Photo © Peter Bauer.

divestment of property by NiMo on the Raquette River. The company will maintain about 2,000 acres, lands which are essential to dam access and maintenance or are associated with power making and power transmission facilities.

Importantly, this deal also includes significant riverine protection agreements that will restore minimum water flow to parts of the Raquette River that have been dry for the past 30 years! NiMo, a major New York power company, is dissolving, and now that the new 30-year FERC licenses have been

Raquette. As with all hydro-power relicensing negotiations in the New York, New York Rivers United led the way on this agreement, which restores and protects riverine ecosystems and protect an abundance of land in the Raquette River watershed.

Peter Bauer is the executive director of the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks (RCPA) and can be reached at P.O. Box 27, Main Street, North Creek, NY 12853 or (518) 251-4257. 

Sale of the Century

continued from page 5

Commission, a referendum to ban clearcutting, the Forest Compact to control liquidation logging and other activities, and a raft of legislative bills to bolster forest policy, taxation, and the public's right to know who is doing what to the woods. All have foundered because of the economic and political power of the forest industry.

Similarly, some progress has been made on expanding the permanently protected lands in the Maine Woods. There have been fabulous gains made in some specific locations, such as the Rangeley Lakes, Pierce Pond watershed, Moosehead islands, Nahmakanta Lake region, Eastern Maine, and along the Appalachian Trail. State and federal agencies and private groups such as The Nature Conservancy, Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust deserve enormous credit for these success stories. However, Maine still has the lowest proportion of publicly protected land of any state in the Northeast, and it remains near the bottom of the national list. Conservation lands, both public and pri-

vate, still represent a tiny fraction of the landscape. Only one percent of the land area of Maine is managed as wilderness.

The State of Maine has been scurrying to come up with a bid to protect some of the Sappi lands around Moosehead and other key lakes by full fee purchase of a few hot spots and some conservation easements on others. In July conservationists published an open letter to the Governor calling on him "to demonstrate that some of Percival Baxter's vision still lives on in the Governor's office, and that the fragile beauty of Maine will not be sold off and lost forever." In response, Gov. King has said that, while Baxter and those who set aside parks are his heroes, he is not a wilderness romantic and does not want to replicate what Baxter did. King also says that he prefers limited acquisition (over regulatory approaches to wildland protection), and that the state does not have much (taxpayer or donated) money with which to work. Nor is the King Administration focusing on the Bowater lands. So it does not look as though the state is ready to lead the charge for big wilderness.

Visions of Big Wilderness

Philanthropy for Wildlands

From the California Redwoods to the Grand Tetons to Acadia National Park, some of the most spectacular natural areas in the United States have been protected by philanthropists. Read about America's important tradition of wildlands philanthropy and its promising revival in the current issue of *Wild Earth*.

Send \$2.00 to POB 455, Richmond, VT 05477; 802-434 4077

**Keep it Wild.
Buy it!**


The Summer issue of *Wild Earth* magazine, now circulating, is sure to appeal to both autochthons and denizens involved in campaigns promoting wilderness—here in the Northern Forest, across the continent, and beyond. *Wild Earth* is the "publishing wing" of the The Wildlands Project and every issue presents a melange of conservation biology, wilderness philosophy and activism.

This particular issue focuses on two strains of wilderness preservation strategies: campaigns of public arousal (and protection) led by the charismatic and outright wildlands philanthropy by the wealthy. The two strains in American conservation are apparent in our National Parks, as Yale historian Robin W. Winks points out in the lead essay "Philanthropy and National Parks." Winks asks, in light of past private giving that helped establish such Parks as Grand Teton and Great Smoky, "Is it foolish to imagine a meeting between the five richest individuals in the United States . . . in which each pledges \$200 million to protect and preserve, to help set right, our decaying and underfunded . . . National Park System?"

"Among the surest ways to save wild habitats," writes John Davis, editor emeritus of *Wild Earth*, "is for ecologically minded individuals, conservation groups, or public agencies to acquire land and use conservation easements or other legal restrictions to ensure its protection in perpetuity.

Indeed, a growing number of us in the conservation community believe that the highest and best use of money is to buy and save land."

Much of this special philanthropy issue focuses on the use of easements to protect wildlands. This does raise a warning flag—there are qualitative differences between easements used to subsidize past abuses to keep land in working forest versus easements used to ensure that wildland values do run with the land—and it would be regrettable if the model of easements that have worked so well on small owner-ships is distorted to bail out the paper company lands of northern New England. (Someone should raise the argument that some of the ownerships have through mismanagement already alienated that which through easements they purport to sell.)

The opportunity and need for philanthropy directed to full fee acquisition of northern New England paper company lands have never been greater than now. As state governments nibble about the edges—or, as with Vermont's emerging Lands Conservation plan (see page 23), frankly acknowledge unwillingness to purchase large cores of wildlands—there is clear opportunity and need for someone with vision and bucks to leverage action. They could start by examining the maps of land for sale across the Northern Forest today! —
A.W. 

There are at least three pending proposals that offer a larger vision that could tap into the available Sappi and Bowater lands.

In 1994, RESTORE:

The North Woods proposed a 3.2 million acre

Near-term funding from private philanthropists or conservation minded investors could secure the lands for the public until there is congressional authorization for the park.

Maine Woods National Park & Preserve (MWNP) reaching from the Penobscot East Branch watershed to the Quebec border. The MWNP would surround and buffer Baxter State Park, encompass hundreds of wildland lakes and remote ponds, protect thousands of miles of rivers and

continued on page 8

Sale of the Century

continued from page 7

streams, and provide world class recreational opportunities. It is astounding that roughly half of the MWNP is available for public purchase now that the Sappi and Bowater lands are for sale. Near-term funding from



*The Anguish of Angus King —
Lead or Follow?*

private philanthropists or conservation minded investors could secure the lands for the public until there is congressional authorization for the park. There is no place in the country today where millions of acres are available from willing sellers at wholesale prices within an area that is better qualified to be a national park. I believe the MWNP concept offers a compelling vision of big wilderness

protected and restored with the practical appeal of an achievable idea. The campaign for a Maine Woods National Park is gaining attention and momentum both in Maine and across the country. MWNP could be our next great national park. (Contact RESTORE, 7 North Chestnut Street, Augusta, ME 04330.)

In 1995, the Northern Appalachian Restoration Project proposed the establishment of an eight million acre network of sixteen HEADWATERS Wilderness Reserves in Northern New England. Calling for "a second chance for the Northern Forests," the proposal

offers a blueprint for a 75 year transition strategy to sustainable natural and human communities. The proposal also outlines a path for economic revitalization and cultural and political restoration for the communities of the region. Nearly all of the Sappi and Bowater lands on the market in Maine are within the proposed HEADWATERS Wilderness Reserves system. (Contact NARP, PO Box 6, Lancaster, NH 03584.)

In 1997, the Northern Forest Alliance (NFA) proposed a wildlands conservation strategy "to protect the forest's ecological integrity, recreational opportunities, and the sustainability of its timber production." Ten areas in the Northern Forest region have been proposed as Wildlands, including five in Maine. Within each Wildland there would be some wilderness lands and some lands for sustainable timber management. The NFA says it "supports and will participate in state-based, public efforts to identify land acquisition and conservation priorities," as well as a wide variety of private and public conservation techniques. The five Wildlands outlined for Maine total approximately 4.7 million acres. Substantial portions of the Sappi and Bowater lands are within three of the NFA's proposed

Some newspapers have even gone further than the conservationists . . . The Lewiston Sun Journal says "If Sappi won't willingly carve out parcels to sell to the state, Maine should exercise its eminent domain rights to take the land."

Wildlands. (Contact NFA, 271 State Street, Augusta, ME 04330.)

To preserve ecological integrity conservation scientists say that we need large permanently protected areas. We do not have that in Maine yet. Absent better management of the surrounding working forestlands, even the largest of our public lands are too small to ensure the long-term viability of wide ranging species.

The Nature Conservancy has done more than any group to protect land. Ken Wommack, Executive Director of the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, writes in the Summer 1998 issue of his organization's newsletter: "Although the Conservancy

has been able to acquire and protect a number of important sites throughout the northern forest, neither the pace nor the scale of these advances is sufficient . . . we are determined to pursue larger forest acquisitions as they become available." TNC is moving into acquiring forestlands in the range of tens of thousands of acres, setting aside the most sensitive spots and actively managing or trading the rest. Some important areas in the Maine Woods could be aided by this approach. But we cannot rely on private groups to do the job public agencies should be doing for even at their best their scale will always be too small.

The Portland Press Herald has called on Gov. King and the Maine congressional delegation to hold a "forest summit" to make plans to ensure that the extraordinary opportunity of the large ownerships for sale in the Maine Woods is not squandered. "Maine will not have this kind of opportunity again soon, if ever. It would meet the need for large public land acquisitions in the North Woods. . . . The moment to act is here, and Maine's leaders should step up to it."

The state alone does not have the financial or technical ability to protect big wilderness. We have seen that demonstrated with the state's poor management of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. The state must signal that it will cooperate with people at the local and national levels who are ready to work to restore big wilderness in the Maine Woods.

Will we seize the moment? Or will we watch the cycle of large land sales tragically pass us by again? We simply cannot count on there ever being another chance like this one.

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For a copy of Jym St. Pierre's extensive bibliography of Maine Woods sales, please send a stamped, addressed return envelope to:
The Northern Forest Forum
P.O. Box 6
Lancaster NH 03584

World Class Landscapes Ripe For The Picking

Portions of the Sappi and Bowater lands in Maine have been harmed by years of "intensive management." Nevertheless, given a chance they can recover, just as the forests in Baxter State Park are healing well. The Sappi and Bowater ownerships available right now encompass some of the most spectacular northern forest landscapes in the United States, areas of exceptional public importance. Water is the defining characteristic of this region. Together the Sappi and Bowater lands cover a large portion of the headwaters of half a dozen of the greatest rivers in the Northeast. Clockwise from due north they are the Allagash, Aroostook, Penobscot East Branch, Penobscot West Branch, Kennebec and St. John. This is the heart of the traditional Maine Woods tapestry where woods, waters, wildlife and wilderness are woven into the warp and weft of Maine's wildlands lore.

Consider that the 911,000 acres of S.D. Warren lands which Sappi is marketing include:

- more than 50 miles of undeveloped shore frontage on Moosehead Lake (abutting several public ownerships), the highest rated of thousands of lakes and ponds evaluated in the Maine Wildlands Lake Assessment;
- most of the land in the Roach River watershed,

key link between Moosehead Lake, the Nahmakanta Public Land Unit, the Gulf Hagas Reserve and the Appalachian Trail;

- extensive lands in the Moose River watershed, including a high concentration of designated remote ponds, part of the popular "Bow Trip" canoe route, and Number Five Bog, a national natural landmark;
- about 25 miles along the upper Kennebec and 10 miles along the lower Dead, two of the best whitewater boating rivers in the East;

- almost 7,000 acres in the Pierce Pond watershed (abutting the Appalachian Trail and Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust properties);

- 20 miles of undeveloped shoreline on Flagstaff Lake (abutting the Bigelow Preserve) and three-fifths of the shoreline of Spencer Lake, which has been rated "outstanding" in five categories;

- three-quarters of the shoreline of Bald Mountain Pond (the rest is publicly owned), which provides habitat for the rare blueback trout;

- most of Crocker and portions of Abram, Spaulding and Sugarloaf Mountains along the Appalachian Trail.

The 2 million acres of Great Northern lands which Bowater is likely to sell include:

- more than 40 miles of wildlands bordering

Baxter State Park, New England's largest protected wilderness;

- all of the remaining undeveloped shoreline outside of the Sappi ownership along the north end of Moosehead Lake;

- one of the highest concentrations of lakes and ponds rated of "statewide significance" in the entire Maine Woods, including Rainbow, the Debsconeags and other superlative lakes in the Debsconeag Remote Recreation Area;

- hundreds of thousands of acres in the West Branch Penobscot watershed, including 100 miles of river recommended for Wild & Scenic River designation and numerous lakes, large and small, famous for recreation;

- key river and stream stretches in the East Branch Penobscot-Seboeis River system which has been described in the Maine Rivers Study as "one of the least developed watersheds in the northeastern US;"

- lands at the junction of three major watersheds (Aroostook, East Branch Penobscot and Allagash) with many prominent waters such as Pleasant Lake, Chase Brook, Millinocket Stream and the Aroostook River;

- extensive holdings abutting three of northern Maine's legendary rivers, the Allagash, the Fish and the St. John, the longest free-flowing river remaining in the Northeast.

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Maine Liquidating New Hampshire?

by Judith Schwartz

Things are pretty quiet up here in Emerson Brook Forest these days. The logging operation that liquidated approximately 100 acres a week during the month of May has temporarily moved on to greener forests. Reportedly, the job here will be "finished" with chain saws and skidders sometime before December.

Last April, 670 acres of Emerson Brook Forest on the Gilsum/Marlow line in Southwestern New Hampshire, was sold to Herbert C. Haynes of Lincoln, Maine for \$240,000. The deed to this property, first claimed as a possession in the mid 1700s, has passed through many hands. Mr. Haynes' acquisition however, marked the first time its future as a forest came into question.

Mr. Haynes bought what many prospective loggers passed by, having determined that there wasn't enough valuable timber to make Emerson Brook a wise investment.

Two weeks after Haynes added Emerson Brook to his cache of forested real estate, fully automated, "state of the art" logging equipment and a logging crew from northern Maine and Canada began an operation that would confound local residents and forestry professionals.

In one intense month of May, a vast amount of Emerson Brook was "processed". The logging crew worked 18 hour days Monday through Thursday. All trees 8 inches and above were targeted for cutting, while any

smaller trees that happened to be under foot or machine died as well. When the loggers weren't actively cutting, roads were built and nine logging trucks took turns around the clock

Mr. Haynes had bought the land to give his employees (who had been idle too long during northern Maine's mud season) an opportunity to meet their monthly bills, including the payments

of life in Gilsum would be diminished should the next hands to hold the deed to Emerson Brook be those of a developer. People also voiced concerns that what was happening in Gilsum was evidence of a trend that could rapidly lead to the devastation of N.H. forests and the destruction of the state logging and tourist industries.

John Calhoun, a Gilsum Forester said "because of its scale, one square mile, the Emerson Brook Forest liquidation catches public attention. But, this is happening all the time in N.H. on a smaller scale. Further, the idea that the whole area could be developed after logging would be a huge challenge to Gilsum Schools and infrastructure."

Statewide, many environmentalists and forest managers are wondering about the effects of unchecked liquidation logging practices. Any land that is not protected by a conservation easement or other legally binding deed restriction is vulnerable to the lure of short term financial gain.

What kind of legislation can help N.H. maintain the short and long term health of both the logging industry and the resource upon which it is dependent—our forested environment? Many citizens are respectfully requesting state legislators to enact sound forest management regulations that will protect our natural treasures for generations to come. While the forest falls do we hear it? ☞



"What kind of legislation can help N.H. maintain the short and long term health of both the logging industry and the resource upon which it is dependent—our forested environment?" Keene Sentinel Photo by Michael Moore, used by permission.

picking up their loads.

One local logger said it would have taken his conventional operation one and a half to two years to accomplish the same job, if he in fact had wanted to do such a thing. Even a logger with an endless faith in the forest's ability to regenerate, wondered why anyone would consider logging a forest that held such poor timber value. The only answer that made sense was that

on their expensive logging equipment.

Regional newspaper coverage was extensive and as word of the operation spread, public concern mounted. Hundreds of local people drove up to the top of Emerson Brook Drive to have a look for themselves at what could easily be visualized as a future housing development. There was much talk about how Gilsum's tax base would be ruined and how the quality

More NH News Page 20-21

An Open Letter to Herbie Haynes from Valerie Piedmont

Dear Mr. Haynes,

It's 1:00 a.m. Friday, May 29th. The harsh sounds of some heavy piece of equipment and three or four logging trucks are loudly grunting their way past my bedroom window as I write. After weeks of staying strong, with no more than two hours of uninterrupted sleep (with the exception of a few Sundays), I'm beginning to feel crushed. The effects of a solid month of sleep deprivation and stress since you moved into my neighborhood, seem to be taking their toll.

During this season, both my husband and I are self-employed with jobs that require our optimum strength and physical health. We've even lost wages for you, Mr. Haynes. As much as I love my home, farm, and forest, I'm beginning to wish I could be elsewhere until your business is through here.

I read the Keene Sentinel article entitled "Logger backs work. Gilsum logging job done with neighbor's concerns in mind, firm says". I feel I must respond.

You have not been "friendly," and you have not been a good neighbor to me. Being good neighbors involves cooperation and caring I have not experienced with you. Any good relationship between your company and me exists because I have made it my business to connect with everyone working at your Gilsum Operation, and to transcend personal philosophies to relate on a deeper level with them. It is a given to me that all of us are doing the best we can, based on our individual orientations and opportunities.

I feel some sense of camaraderie with your employees, knowing what it's like to have to work for a paycheck to cover bills. Over the years, I have been continually down-scaling my material needs so I could have fewer bills and more free time to use at my own discretion. My current occupation is attending to your current occupation here.

Last week my husband and I were awakened with a jolt at 3:00 a.m., when the loggers began "harvesting" the earth about four or five hundred feet from our front door. We stood in the darkness and watched the surreal scene, as these metallic beasts with voracious appetites grappled the life from our surroundings. I offered thanks to the trees for their lives.

The only neighbor you are to me Mr. Haynes, is a very loud outdoor factory working three shifts extracting peace, beauty and life from the world. While I recognize the new growth that will follow your departure, I am grieving the loss of a face of nature I will never again see—not in my life time.

You and I probably would have more similar views of what's responsible logging if we were, in fact, neighbors Mr. Haynes. You'd probably be disgruntled about the soil disturbance that occurred when the heavy equipment worked for a solid week in the rain creating ruts that my 6-foot tall son could stand in up to his navel. When I asked what would be done about the rut situation I was told that brush piles would cover them. (Good of a solution as any, I supposed, after the fact).

However Mr. Haynes, in reality we are not neighbors. Currently, ours is nothing more than a business relationship. You sit comfortably, hundreds of miles away, and our concepts of responsible logging are vastly different. We see the forest through different eyes.

During the summer, when it's 100 degrees in Keene (our nearest city), it's still cool and comfortable in my neck of the woods. I look forward to the 8" tree growing beautiful and tall for another 50 years, producing oxygen all the while. Emerson Brook Forest has sustained an incredible diversity of wildlife for us. I have seen moose, deer, and the proud bobcat, along with many other smaller but wondrous creatures here. I know the wildlife will go through the changes it must to adapt to your actions, and all of us will do the same.

Your actions, by themselves, are of no great consequence to the health of the planet. However, there are countless others doing the same thing you are—all over the world.

I'm sure you are a good man, Mr. Haynes. You probably deserve a good citizen award for your efforts to keep your men employed. You are a capitalist in a capitalist society, and a shining example of success in the pursuit of the American Dream. I'm not faulting you, Mr. Haynes. However, I believe to act responsibly, one must comprehend both the short and the long-term ramifications of one's actions.

Valerie Piedmont and Pablo Fleischmann welcome support in their efforts to purchase and preserve up to 60 acres of Emerson Brook Forest. They are working with the Monadnock Conservancy and the Gilsum Conservation Commission to place the land into a conservation easement and raise tax deductible contributions towards this goal. Valerie and Pablo can be reached at (603) 352-1887, or at 26 Emerson Brook Drive, Gilsum, NH 03448.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sets Stage For Northeast Wolf Recovery

by Kristin DeBoer,
RESTORE: The North Woods

express their support for a regional wolf study and recovery plan. If this generation can help wolves return to the wildlands of New England and New York, we will have truly taken a big step

This June, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced its plans to remove ESA protection for the eastern timber wolf throughout some of its former range. This proposal is bad news for the Great Lakes region. Indeed, if the USFWS has its way, we may soon see a hunting and trapping season opened for wolves there, even though the animals have only just begun to recover. In the Northeast, however, the announcement may be the first step toward the return of the wolf to the region.

Under the planned changes the USFWS will maintain ESA protection for wolves in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. This would set the stage for implementing a regional wolf recovery plan for this region, an action whose time has come. In its press release announcing the change, the USFWS acknowledged that "there is potential for wolf recovery in some areas of the Northeast where suitable habitat and prey species remain." Apparently, this decision was made because the agency is interested in doing a study of the social and ecological potential for wolves to return to northern New England and New York. At last, wildlife agencies may be listening to the message that the people of the Northeast are ready for wolves to return home.

This announcement does not call for immediate action to restore wolves to the region. It does mean, however, that state and federal agencies may begin studying and planning for a wolf recovery program. A regional wolf recovery study would assess whether wolves could migrate from Canada on their own, or whether they need human assistance. This study would determine which areas have the most remote and suitable habitat. And, most important, it would involve the public, land owners, and other interests in the decision-making process through extensive comment period and public hearings.

During the coming months, the USFWS will be drafting their formal proposal for the eastern timber wolf. Although the official public comment period is expected to begin in early 1999, the USFWS is already accepting comments. Now is the time for concerned individuals, conservation organizations, sporting groups, businesses, schools, and other community groups to

Proposed Maine Woods National Park



Wolf Habitat

towards making the Northern Forest whole once again.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write to the Governor of your state and the USFWS, urging them to implement a state-federal regional wolf study and recovery plan for Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

Governors:

Governor Angus King
State House, Station 1
Augusta, ME 04333

Howard Dean
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Jeanne Shaheen
State House, Room 208
Concord, NH 03301

George Pataki
State Capitol, 138 Eagle Street
Albany, NY 12202

Ron Refsnider
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1 Federal Drive
Fort Snelling, MN 55111
graywolfmail@mail.fws.gov

The Twelfth Annual National Forest Reform Rally "Forging A New Vision For America's Forests"

Lake Ossipee
Conference Center
Freedom, NH
September 11-13, 1998

The inexorable drive over the last four centuries to convert the primeval forests of North America into settlements, croplands, and fiber farms is stunning in its enormity. Today, we are witnessing the final, agonizing twitches of Manifest Destiny in the western United States. The last fragments of our ancient forests are being destroyed; the great symbols of the American wilderness, such as the grizzly bear, bison, and wolf remain under siege; the surviving roadless areas are being whittled away. The intensity and immediacy of these controversies has drawn national attention and concern.

There is also another important environmental story unfolding at the other end of the continent, deep in the wild, Northern Forest of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. A new movement is underway there that refuses to accept a legacy of degraded woodlands, vanishing wildlife, and failing local economies. More and more, people are looking beyond simply mitigating the damage of the past, and toward restoring the health of the region's landscape. This will be the basis for the Twelfth Annual National Forest Reform Rally.

Join RESTORE: The North Woods and Sierra Club as they co-host the 1998 National Forest Reform Rally, on September 11-13, in Freedom, New Hampshire situated just outside the White Mountain National Forest. Since 1986, the annual National Forest Reform Rally has been the leading

grassroots forum for citizens working to protect America's forests. The 1998 Rally will follow in suit, but will provide an unprecedented chance to enter new territory as well.

This will be the first Rally ever held in the northeastern United States, giving us an unusual chance to promote unity in the forest protection movement. The Rally will connect east and west while engaging a new generation of forest activists to help focus public attention on the challenges and opportunities facing the forests of America. The Rally also comes at a critical time when the U.S. Forest Service is facing unprecedented criticism and scrutiny from conservationists. Activists have begun to turn the tide of political action against the Forest Service's status quo. During the Rally we will not only review current forest protection efforts, but will discuss a variety of emerging ideas for restoring the health of our forests.

Rally participants will come from across the country to share information, gain inspiration, formulate policies, and develop forest protection strategies. They will also have the opportunity to enjoy the crisp, vibrant and inspiring setting of the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Together we can forge a new vision for America's forests.

For more information on the Twelfth Annual National Forest Reform Rally please contact Rachel Gooen or Melissa Belanger at RESTORE: The North Woods P.O. Box 1099 Concord, MA, restore@restore.org (978)287-0320.

NAFTA for Africa?

by Peter Sterling

Each year Gallup asks Americans whom they most admire. This year South African President Nelson Mandela finished sixth on the list, ahead of Michael Jordan, George Bush and Ronald Reagan. Mandela has earned our respect for the courage and wisdom he showed in leading South Africa from the oppression of apartheid to democracy.

That courage and wisdom was on center stage during President Bill Clinton's recent Africa tour when, at a joint press conference with Clinton, Mandela spoke out against a controversial trade proposal which would benefit large multinational corporations at the expense of the African people.

The trade proposal, the Sub Saharan Africa Trade Bill would dic-

tate to African nations which economic and social policies they must adopt in order to continue to receive existing U.S. trade benefits and jump start a move towards establishing a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) for Africa.

'NAFTA for Africa' is set to be voted on by the full Senate in early September. Unfortunately two Northern Forest Senators, Jim Jeffords and Pat Leahy, are co-sponsors of the bill. We need public pressure to stop this flawed bill. Letters to your senator can be sent care of U.S. Senate, Washington DC 20510. For more information on this bill or to become more involved in organizing to stop it, please call Peter Sterling at the Vermont Fair Trade Campaign (802) 223-5221 or email at vpig@together.net.

Maine Renewables Portfolio Rulemaking

by Pamela Prodan

This summer, the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is expected to start a rulemaking on Maine's renewable resource portfolio. This is a requirement in Maine's electric restructuring law that 30% of the power sold in the state come from sources defined as renewable. Renewable portfolios are controversial. Some environmental-minded groups like Union of Concerned Scientists strongly endorsed the concept, saying renewables need the boost, while other groups, like Conservation Law Foundation, have opposed it, saying let the market work. Some people think that a renewable portfolio will jack up the price of new natural gas generation, which they hope will replace dirty fossil plants.

Background

While some states' renewable portfolios try to increase the percentage of renewables in the generation mix over time, Maine's renewable portfolio is set at a level considerably lower than the existing level of renewables, which is now hovering around 50%. Power from outside the New England region, such as Hydro-Quebec and New Brunswick, is presently called "imports" and is not included in this number.

Historically, Maine has promoted indigenous power resources, which is why approximately 50% of its electric power currently comes from renewables, mostly hydro and biomass. During the 1997 legislative activity around restructuring, the size of the facilities qualifying for the renewable portfolio became a hot issue.

During initial discussions NARP's Renewable Energy Assistance Project (REAP) and others, such as Coalition for Sensible Energy and Union of Concerned Scientists, advocated that there be a portfolio, but that it be structured to encourage very small, distributed renewables (suggested caps initially ranged from 1 to 10 megawatts).

However, Maine's independent power producers and paper companies quickly weighed in. These energy producers own generation ranging in size up to 80 megawatts. By the time the renewables portfolio got before the Legislature, Central Maine Power had prevailed, and for their larger hydro facilities to qualify, the 'cap' had become 100 megawatts. Somewhere along the way, the definition of 'renew-

able' was expanded to include the paper companies' cogeneration plants that run on oil and coal! Fuel cells fueled by natural gas will also be 'renewable' under the law as it is written, although gas-fired generation will not.

Clearly, the renewable portfolio has some significant problems, and REAP is committed to improving the law. In the meantime, REAP will seek to make the portfolio work as efficiently as possible to further the fundamental principals of environmental justice, wildlands protection and reduced energy consumption (energy avoidance).

REAP is also intervening in other PUC dockets for strong consumer protections, including the disclosure of all environmental and social impacts. Without such disclosure, energy marketers will try to convince us that the more renewable or 'green' energy we consume, the faster the world will be

Somewhere along the way, the definition of 'renewable' was expanded to include the paper companies' cogeneration plants that run on oil and coal!

saved. All energy production has its impacts, and the only truly 'green' alternative is consuming less. REAP filed comments and attended a recent discussion held by the PUC about how the draft renewable portfolio rule is likely to be structured. We are especially concerned about the three issues described below.

Hydro-Quebec System Power

In the rulemaking, REAP will seek to force strict adherence to the 100 megawatt cap by arguing that the PUC should disqualify all utility system power from the renewables portfolio. Utilities with integrated grids should be precluded from marketing power from selected plants in their generation mix. This is especially relevant as to Hydro-Quebec, which has many hydro facilities under 100 megawatts, but derives at least half of its power from the highly controversial hydro-electric megaprojects that have destroyed so much of the Cree and Innu traditional land.

The PUC staff have indicated they expect smaller Hydro-Quebec facilities will qualify for the portfolio under the rule. REAP will argue that Maine's own monopolies are being forced to divest all of their generation to prevent them from having certain advantages under restructuring, and while Maine has decided it will not try to keep existing monopolies like Hydro-Quebec from competing in Maine, there is no reason to give monopolies like Hydro-Quebec a boost with the portfolio requirement. Currently, Hydro-Quebec power used

in Maine is counted under the category 'imported' and is not even considered one of the renewable resources making up 50% of Maine's generation mix.

Green Power vs. Brown Power

The restructuring law requires that 30% of the power sold in Maine be from renewable resources. From initial discussions at the PUC, it appears likely that the draft rule will allow some customers to buy 'brown power,' i.e., a product with no renewables at all. No doubt '100% renewable power' will be marketed at a premium price. Under this scenario, Maine's renewable mix will easily drop from the present 50% to 30% as new natural gas generation displaces existing Maine renewables. REAP will advocate that each customer must take a minimum of 30% renewables, so as not to crush the potential renewable market.

Large-Scale Renewables

Because large scale wind projects have been proposed for remote undeveloped mountain ridges in the Northern Forest, REAP is concerned that the renewables portfolio not be construed to encourage these developments. Wind plants typically are constructed in phases, each of which might meet the 100 megawatt cap, but in the aggregate surpass 100 megawatts. Federal regulations ignore this problem, considering each wind turbine individually, rather than as one part of the total project ultimately constructed. The PUC says it will provide advisory rulings as to what will qualify under the 100 megawatt cap.

REAP will argue that, at a minimum, anyone, including another government agency or an interested party like REAP, should be able to request an advisory ruling as to what qualifies, not just developers. But REAP will also seek further clarification in the rule about how the PUC would make a determination whether a plant meets the cap. REAP will also advocate that the net energy billing rule and the renewable portfolio rule be intermeshed so that the renewable portfolio

... while Maine has decided it will not try to keep existing monopolies like Hydro-Quebec from competing in Maine, there is no reason to give monopolies like Hydro-Quebec a boost with the portfolio requirement.

can include renewable energy generated by net energy billing installations, all of which must be under 100 KW (1/10 megawatt) capacity in size.

The Maine PUC will issue a formal notice of rulemaking on the renewables portfolio (Docket 97-584) this summer and hold a public hearing if at least five people request one.

To get involved or for more information, please contact Pam Prodan, Director, Renewable Energy Assistance Project, P.O. Box 910, Wilton, Maine 04294, 207-645-9330.

For more Energy News
see pages 18-19.

Public Will Consider FPL Sale

After Central Maine Power Company (CMP) negotiated the sale of all its hydro and oil-fired generating plants to FPL group of Florida, it went to the Maine PUC to get its approval. After a stipulated agreement was reached approving the sale, CMP and FPL then entered into side letters and a final agreements with new conditions, one of which sells FPL shoreline properties and the water storage rights to the hydro facilities for \$1.5 million. More problematic to the PUC was an agreement that meant FPL was buying CMP's voting rights at NEPOOL on transmission rates. Some fear that this will give FPL a preference over all other generation providers and dampen competition for Maine consumers. Rather than rubber stamp the CMP/FPL agreement, the PUC is holding public hearings on the entire deal, September 16, 17 and 18. People who wish to testify can raise other issues as well. For more information, contact Pamela Prodan, REAP Director, at 207-645-9330.

Energy Quiz No. 4

Question 1: How many miles would you have to drive a new car to create as much air pollution as is created by a new personal watercraft in two hours?

Question 2: How many cars does it take to spew as much pollution as one gasoline lawn mower?

Answers:

1. 130,000 miles (the average lifetime of a car).

2. Forty cars.



Katahdin National Park:

Politics, Personalities, Preservation

by David N. Carle

"It will not be thought strange, then, that friends of the Maine wilderness have been eager to see the United States create a forest reservation in the remote fastnesses about Ktaadn, that there may be preserved for all time the remnants, still grand, of what has been called 'the most ancient temperate-zone forest in the world.'" John T. Faris, Roaming the Eastern Mountains.

The North Woods of Maine, Maine Wilderness, Mount Katahdin; all of these images conjure up the idea of a wild, natural forest area. It is a place where many people of note have visited: Henry David Thoreau, Theodore Roosevelt, Irving Brant, and William O. Douglas. There have been calls to protect the area dating back to 1853 when Thoreau wrote it should become a "national preserve." Proposals to protect the area followed Thoreau's call. In 1890 one idea was for a game preserve. In 1895 the *Industrial Journal* of Bangor, the official paper of the Maine Hotel and Proprietors' Association, wrote of the need to create a nine-hundred-square-mile state park around Katahdin, before the area was "devastated by lumbermen, fires and a squatter population."

The debate over the introduction and eventual passage of the Weeks Act in 1911, which provided for the purchase by the federal government of forest lands that were "necessary to the protection of the flow of navigable streams," apparently stimulated Congressman Frank E. Guernsey from Dover-Foxcroft, ME to introduce a resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives calling for the federal purchase of forest reserves throughout the Appalachian Mountains, including the Mount Katahdin area. The

thought was that the White Mountain (NH) and Katahdin reserves would be similar in purpose: for the conservation and protection of the headwaters of the states' rivers.

In 1923, and again in 1925, Representative Ira G. Hersey introduced a bill "For the establishment of a national park and acquiring national forests in the Mount Katahdin region of the State of Maine." The bill proposed that "the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to examine, locate, and report such lands in the region of Mount Katahdin as in his judgment may be suitable for a national park and necessary to the regulation of the flow of navigable streams." The bill was an extension of the Weeks Act of March 1, 1911. It never made it out of Committee.

In 1933, Governor Brann proposed a one million-acre national forest in Maine. (Rolde at 250-251.) As the New Deal programs under the administration of President Franklin Roosevelt were refined and better understood, Maine Governor Brann proposed a Roosevelt National Park consisting of a million acres in the Katahdin region with the hope that the project would bring jobs to Maine under the civil works programs. (Hakola p. 141.) The proposal failed to garner support.

On March 23, 1937, Congressman Owen Brewster introduced HR 5864, a bill "To provide for the establishment of the Katahdin National Park in the State of Maine." One month later the bill underwent minor revisions and was renamed H.R. 6599. It was this bill that put the National Park Service into the Maine Woods, and on a collision course with Governor Percival P. Baxter and the development of Baxter State Park.

Since 1938 there have been additional proposals to protect the area surrounding Baxter State Park. The national conservation organization, The Wilderness Society proposed a 2.7 million acre "Maine Woods Reserve" in 1989; in 1994 the Massachusetts based RESTORE: The North Woods

proposed the 3.2 million acre "Maine Woods National Park and Preserve"; and in 1997 the Northern Forest Alliance proposed a 1.3 million acre "Greater Baxter State Park Area" wildland.

In 1995, the New Hampshire based Northern Appalachian Restoration Project proposed a eight million-acre "Northern Forest Headwaters Reserve" extending from the northern tip of Maine to north-eastern Vermont, including the region surrounding Mount Katahdin. Yet, today, the only area actually protected is the 204,333 acre Baxter State Park—the vision of the late Percival Baxter, former Governor of Maine.

Of all these, the move in 1936 to create a Mount Katahdin National Park came the closest to success. The National Park Service devoted a significant amount of resources, including staff time, money, and political capital to the proposal. Despite the effort, it

"... the White Mountain (NH) and Katahdin reserves would be similar in purpose: for the conservation and protection of the headwaters of the states' rivers."

failed to reach fruition. One can only wonder what the area would be like today if the national park proposal had succeeded.

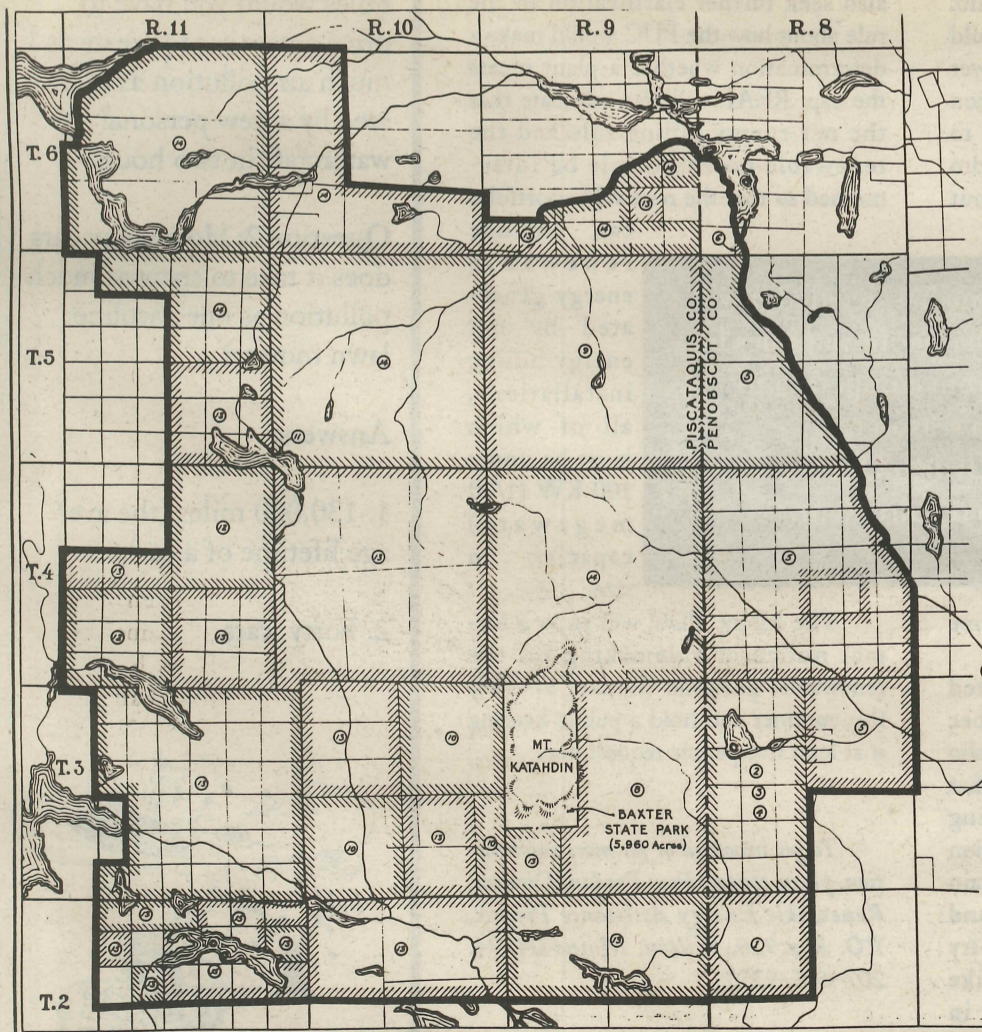
An Idea Conceived

According to a 1937 report titled, *Proposed Mount Katahdin National Park, Maine*:

"The proposed Mount Katahdin National Park area is of national geologic and biologic importance and it possesses outstanding supplemental scenic and historic values, all of which taken collectively, qualify the area for national park and monument system purposes."

This was the conclusion of a National Park Service team that conducted a field investigation of the proposed area during the summer of 1937. The story of the proposed Mount Katahdin National Park started back in the early 1930s and continued through the 1940s. The actions that brought about the protection of the Katahdin region are an example of strong personalities, power politics, and the influence of directed philanthropy.

The campaign for federal protection of the Mount Katahdin region really started in 1933. The nation was in the depth of the depression and President Franklin Roosevelt was encouraging various New Deal programs. After a trip to Washington, DC that included briefings on various available programs, Governor Brann proposed the creation of a million-acre Roosevelt National Park in the Katahdin region. It was hoped that a project of this size would create new jobs. While the project failed to progress beyond the idea



PROPOSED MT. KATAHDIN NATIONAL PARK MAINE

Values of lands, exclusive of Baxter State Park (5,960 acres), based on 1936 Maine State Valuation Report are approximately 25% higher than market value.

LAND OWNERSHIP

PENOBSCOT COUNTY			
NO.	LAND OWNERS	ACRES	VALUE
1	Griswold heirs	5,510	11,020.00
2	G.I. & C. Stetson heirs	10,840	57,886.00
3	Louise G. Sewall	50	300.00
4	Frank C. Wright	150	750.00
5	Great Northern Paper Co.	36,414	140,205.00
6	East Branch Improve. Co.	250	1,250.00
7	Public Lands	2,460	7,440.00
Total		55,674	218,851.00

PISCATAQUIS COUNTY			
NO.	LAND OWNERS	ACRES	VALUE
8	Harry F. Ross	14,360	57,440.00
9	J. Hopkins Smith	22,017	44,034.00
10	James W. Cassidy	13,316	66,876.00
11	Geo. E. Keith	20	1,000.00
12	Walter A. Powers	13,210	31,324.00
13	Great Northern Paper Co.	96,006	387,473.00
14	Eastern Mfg. Co.	94,062	426,701.00
15	Penobscot Development Co.	6,913	13,826.00
16	Public Lands	12,400	42,951.00
Total		272,304	1,073,625.00

Total-Penobscot County 55,674 218,851.00
Grand Total 327,978 1,292,476.00

PNR MK-7000

Katahdin continued

stage, it did draw the attention of the National Parks Service to the area.

NPS interest was initiated by a cursory review of the area by R.M. Wilson of the U.S. Geological Survey. Mr. Wilson reported that much of the Mount Katahdin region had been cut over and the forests were almost entirely second growth with some possible pockets of virgin timber in the least accessible mountain reaches. This led Arno Cammerer, Director of the NPS, to recommend that before any new national park was approved, the proposal must be thoroughly investigated. Furthermore, the Director was concerned with maintaining National Park standards:

"The standards that strictly control the selection and establishing of national parks are well defined, and only areas having scenery of national importance as contradistinguished from merely local importance should be admitted. Furthermore large cut-over areas do not make a national park. Our Park program should be first (1) complete the parks that have been authorized by law, (2) round out the National park system through boundary extensions to existing National Parks, (3) complete such projects as Saratoga Battlefield, Monticello, etc., (4) then study areas that might be eligible, including this area in Maine for new parks." (Memo from Arno Cammerer to Mr. Fechner, Director Emergency Conservation Work, August 19, 1933.)

Yet, the proposal for a national park in central Maine caught the attention of one of the most knowledgeable persons of the Mt. Katahdin area, a leader of the Appalachian Trail Conference, and a Maine native, Myron Avery.

In the later part of 1933, Mr. Avery was working in Washington, DC. Upon learning about the possibility of Katahdin becoming a unit under the NPS, Avery wrote to Arno Cammerer, endorsing the idea. Director Cammerer responded by stating that the Mount Katahdin area had been heavily logged and "it would not be suitable for a national park." And the issue rested but was not forgotten.

The Idea Resurrected

In 1936, Governor Brann inquired of the NPS as to possible national park status for the Mount Katahdin area, possibly as a part of Acadia National Park. This inquiry again stimulated National Park Service officials to consider a Katahdin National Park. According to a July 27, 1936 memo from Arno Cammerer to Harold Ickes, Secretary of the Interior:

"[T]he area, although now covered with fine stands of fresh growth, has been cut over on the past, and most of the lakes have been dammed by temporary wooden structures for log running purposes—conditions encountered to this extent in no other national park project. I considered, however, this to be merely a question of degree, and the attached report of my investigators covers this feature in considerable detail. It must also be pointed out that an Act of Congress will be necessary to give the area national park status."

"After looking up all available information on the subject, I have decided that I may recommend to you the establishment of the Katahdin National Park in this area."

The Park Service recommended that the proposed park should be no less than 560 square miles or approximately 360,000 acres. The cost of purchasing the land was estimated at about \$2 million or approximately \$5.60 per acre.

In making the recommendation, National Park Service personnel identified the area as being one of the last strongholds in the East for a number of species including moose, black bear, pine marten, lynx. It was also the area that was once inhabited—at least until the turn of the century—by Eastern Woodland Caribou. According to Arthur Stupka of

Smoky Mountain National Park,

"... It seems to me that such a place has definite values for mankind. To be buffeted by the complex of conditions which represent Katahdin and to be alive to all these and to the grandeur of a mountain which, figuratively, thrusts its peak into the Arctic is to experience life at its best. Such a region merits the protection and perpetuation which only the National Park Service is capable of giving." (Proposed Katahdin National Park Report, November 12, 1937.)

With this momentum building, U.S. Congressman Owen Brewster of Maine on March 23, 1937, introduced HR 5864, a bill "To provide for the establishment of the Katahdin National Park in the State of Maine." One month later (April 22, 1937), a slightly revised version of H.R. 5864 was introduced as H.R. 6599. This was not a development that former governor Percival Baxter wanted.

Percival Baxter had a dream of protecting Mount Katahdin. During his career in public life, culminating in his election to the governor's office, he continually pressed for legislation to protect the mountain, without success. With the failure of legislated protection, he decided that the best way would be to buy the land—much of it owned by Great Northern Paper Co. (GNP)—and give it to the State. In 1930, he initiated his project.

Baxter first offered to purchase a 10,000-acre (four square miles) piece of land that included Mount Katahdin. Instead, GNP offered to sell just the top of Mount Katahdin, or 5,760 acres for \$25,000. After a year of legal maneuvering, Baxter purchased the land, and, after gaining clear title, deeded it to the state. In early 1933, the Maine Legislature formally accepted the 5,760 acre gift and named the area Baxter State Park.

Baxter was opposed to the idea of a national park that included Mount Katahdin. Additionally, he and Congressman Brewster were political rivals who apparently did not care for each other. Brewster introduced HR 5864 while Baxter was out of the country on a winter cruise. In an April 16, 1937 letter to Brewster upon his return from the cruise, Baxter asked that the bill not be pressed because he had "plans for the Katahdin area, which ... I am sure would meet with your approval."

Baxter continued:

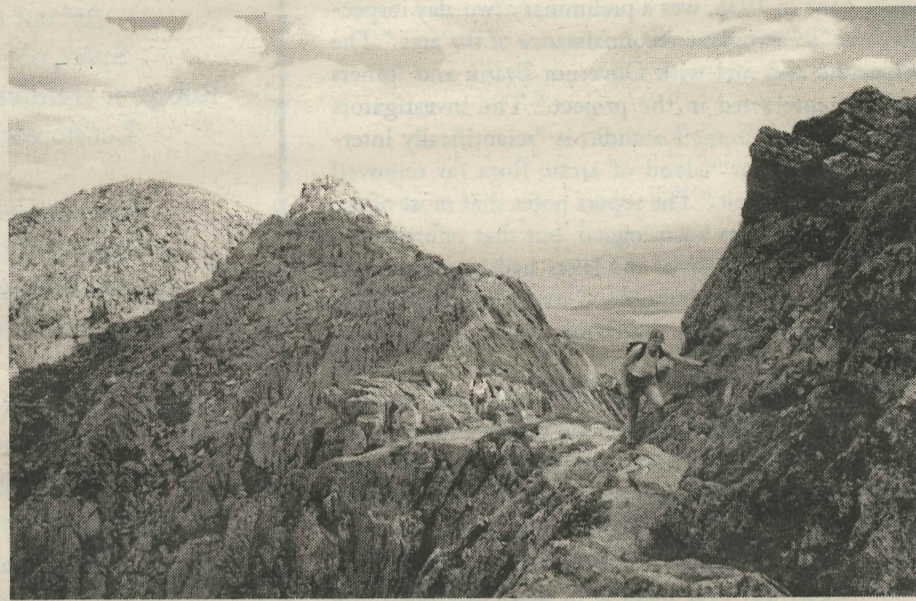
"The Mountain was accepted to be forever held in Trust for the people of Maine and this was done deliberately so that it must always remain a State Park. If the Federal Government wants to have a National Park in Maine let them choose some of the twenty million acres away from Katahdin. There is ample room for such a Park in Aroostook and Washington Counties."

Park Debate

The former governor also challenged the National Park Service, urging the agency to drop any interest in the Mount Katahdin area that it might have. In a May 5, 1937 letter responding to Baxter, Arthur Demaray of the NPS wrote that the agency, at the request of Governor Brann, had sent two representatives to investigate the Mount Katahdin region for possible national park designation. According to that report, while the mountain offered some of the best

geological examples of glacial activities, the mountain itself would not be sufficient for national park status. But, consideration of a larger area of approximately 500 square miles that included lakes, streams, and forests, "would be worthy of national park status." Mr. Demaray further explained:

"Such a park would protect an outstanding example of the northern Appalachian range with its native fauna and flora, its geologic story and its scenic charm. It would be unduplicated by any other area in the national park system and, in time, would become a great economic asset to the State of Maine."



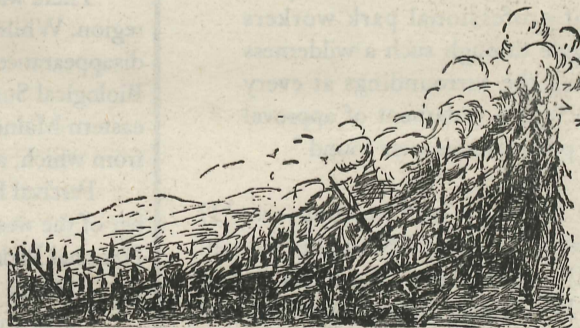
Knife's Edge, Mt. Katahdin. Photo © David N. Carle.

This debate also included Myron Avery, Chair of the Appalachian Trail Conference. In a May 5, 1937 letter to Baxter, Avery wrote that he was "at a loss" as to why Baxter opposed a national park for the Katahdin region, particularly because Baxter had put so much energy into legislation to have the area publicly owned. Avery added:

"... 'We' want the entire region—not merely the mountain—in public ownership. The movement has advanced beyond the state of the restricted, narrow limits of the mountain. The whole area is outstanding and should be preserved. ... With this premise, it becomes a question of the most effective method. The area is obviously too large for a state park, locally administered. It is impossible for the State to provide the necessary development and supervision, such as the national parks of the west."

Baxter was able to gain the support of individuals and organizations that traditionally supported National Parks. The Appalachian Mountain Club, supporters of the creation of Kings Canyon and

Olympic National Parks, passed a resolution against a Katahdin National Park, as did the Federated Garden Clubs of Maine. Both Robert



Marshall (U.S. Forest Service) and Robert Sterling Yard (National Parks Association) wrote letters against national park management and supporting Baxter's actions. The concern was that the Park Service would "develop" the area.

Baxter's opposition perplexed officials at the NPS. According to a July 6, 1937 memo from Director Cammerer to President Franklin Roosevelt:

"We are unable to understand his point of view since the proposed national park, if ultimately established, would increase the park area at Mount Katahdin from the pre-

Katahdin continued on page 14

sent 7,000 acres of Baxter State Park to about 300,000 acres, which would provide a much more effective recreational area, wildlife sanctuary and scenic wilderness, the very resources that he is seeking to preserve for the State of Maine. . . Frankly, his correspondence with us and his violent public attack upon the proposed national park lead us to believe that he is more concerned with the name of the park than the nature of it."

The Studies

In 1938, much of the debate centered on two studies of the Katahdin area completed by the NPS. The first study, done in 1936, was a preliminary two-day inspection and "an aeroplane reconnaissance of the area." The inspectors also met with Governor Brann and "others who are interested in the project." The investigators reported that Mount Katahdin is "scientifically interesting," being an "island of arctic flora far removed from the arctic belt." The report notes that most of the primeval forest has been logged, but that reforestation has been rapid. Most of the lakes had been dammed for log runs by temporary wood structures, though the investigators felt that the dams would disappear in time.

The authors of the report were very clear that the past activities should not preclude the area for national park status, "since there has not been a national park established in the system which has not been exploited in one form or another and in varying degrees, prior to being given park status. . . The Mount Katahdin area, while largely cut-over land, is in many respects more primitive than [Mammoth Cave and Shenandoah National Parks]."

The authors concluded that "it is our opinion that the area is of such a character that it should be in public ownership. . . . We are informed, however, that enabling legislation will have to be secured from Congress before it may be established as a national park."

The second study was released in 1938. The 185-plus page report, was the culmination of field investigation during the summer of 1937. It was one of the most complete reports prepared by the agency (as of that date) in connection with a proposed area, that documented the values and possibilities of the Katahdin region. The investigation committee included representatives of Research and Education, Forestry, Plans and Design, and Recreational Planning and State Cooperation branches of the NPS. The actual field investigation included a north to south traverse (on foot) of the proposed park, visits to all of the main points of interest, and "enroute the proposal was discussed from every conceivable angle." The investigators made the comment that:

"If it were not of national park and monument system standard we believe the fact would now be established, because an experienced group of professional park workers would not struggle through such a wilderness tangle, criticizing the surroundings at every step, and finish with a statement of approval unless the right potentialities were found."

The report is made up of five chapters, "I) Katahdin - It's History; II) General Natural History of the Area; III) Forestry Analysis and Recommendations; IV) Present Recreational Use; and V) Possible Development Plan and Estimate of Costs." It concluded that:

1. The Mount Katahdin National Park area is of national geologic and biologic importance and that it possesses outstanding supplemental scenic and historic values, all of which taken collectively, qualify the area for national park and monument system purposes.

2. Although the majority opinion of the Committee favors national park status for the area, the Branch of Forestry representative favors national monument status. The Branch of Research and Education representative states no preference.

3. In general, this report amplifies the 1936 preliminary report. . . Largely the same area is recommended in both reports. . . Exception to this majority opinion is registered by the Branch of Forestry representative, who prefers a smaller area, national monument status and a boundary line based wherever possible upon stream courses because of their fire protection value.

4. Development for use as a national park, within which maximum protection would be afforded all natural values and wilderness aspects

forms apparently restricted to the immediate area, and including species which formerly were much more widespread in Eastern United States."

The recreational character and appeal was equally praised in the report. "Nowhere else in the East can be found its particular combination of mountainous terrain with an infinite variety of lakes and streams." The author pointed out that the proposed Katahdin National Park area contained 69 distinct peaks and 55 lakes. "The east and west Branches of the Penobscot River have few equals in the present National Park system."

Baxter's Critical Opposition

The investigating team was very concerned with the lack of management the State was providing within Baxter State Park, and the construction of roads that were opening the area to increased, unmanaged use. As part of the proposed National Park management plan, certain existing features including roads and facilities were targeted to be eliminated. National Park Service documents are very clear that the agency was committed to manage the proposed Katahdin National Park as a wilderness park. As a result of the report, the majority of the NPS branches favored the national park proposal while Baxter intensified his opposition.

According to an April 19, 1938 memo from Conrad Wirth, assistant director of the NPS, to Director Cammerer:

"As you know, [Baxter] established Baxter State Park and vehemently opposes any movement that might in any way change the status of the area bearing his name. A good deal of agitation against the Brewster Bill, not entirely without suspicion as to the sincerity of National Park Service motives, was aroused and still flourishes. We are certain that every bit of this opposition is founded on former Governor Baxter's personal feeling and Forest Service opposition brought to bear through its subsidized agency—the National Parks Association."

Baxter was also in contact with officials of the American Forestry Association. Indeed, there is irony in the allies Baxter assembled and his goal to make Baxter State park off-limits to extractive activities. The National Parks Association (NPA) was run by Robert Sterling Yard who had been the chief publicist for the NPS for a number of years before starting the NPA. One of the major donors of the NPA was William H. Wharton, who, according to Irving Brant, an official of the hard-hitting Emergency Conservation Committee, was

"an honest, simple-minded Massachusetts millionaire. Wharton took all his policies from Ovid Butler, formerly of the Forest Service,

DeForestation Hymn

Ay! cut them down
Spare not a single tree;
Rob your children and their children,
Let no wit of beauty be.

Lay the noble forest low,
Make it fit for none to see;
Banish from the world forever
Grandeur of the mighty tree.

Crash these cherished of the ages,
Ruin in your greedy haste;
Give unto the saw insatiate
Beauty ne'er to be replaced.
—Emergency Conservation Committee
1937

(For a history of the ECC, by David Carle, see
Wild Earth Journal Summer 1998.
Ordering information on page 7.

would be emphasized, is illustrated by the accompanying preliminary master plan."

The natural history section of the report was conducted by Arthur Stupka, Park Naturalist for Great Smoky Mountains National Park. He concluded that the Katahdin region met the standards for inclusion in the system of national parks and national monuments. He based this finding on the fact that

"[N]owhere else in Eastern United States will we find an area which is so outstanding in its combination of (1) a spectacularly clear story of glacial action and recentness of glacial recession (2) an isolated flora of very real arctic affinities (3) a fauna ranging, like the flora, through three life zones (Canadian, Hudsonian, and Arctic-alpine), with some

Percival Baxter, Caribou, and Mountain Sheep

There was significant anguish over the disappearance of the eastern woodland caribou from the Katahdin region. While some believed the loss of the species was a result of hunting and poaching, others noted that the disappearance coincided with mining of the trees. According to one July 20, 1938, memo, the Bureau of Biological Survey, precursor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was planning a caribou refuge in extreme eastern Maine, near Calais, of about 100,000 acres. A small preservation nucleus of caribou would be retained from which, as the herd grew, some would be available for reintroduction throughout the state.

Percival Baxter also felt the loss of caribou from the Katahdin region. In 1936, Baxter took a trip to a number of the western national parks. Upon his return, he wrote to Horace M. Albright, former director of the National Park Service. In the letter, he wrote:

"Once upon a time, about thirty years ago, we had large herds of caribou in northern Maine and Katahdin was one of their favorite feeding grounds. Today there is not a caribou in the State and no one knows why nor how they left.

"In going through the national parks which were under your charge I was very much interested in the mountain sheep and if I could obtain a trio at a reasonable expense I would like to release them at the base of Katahdin and see what they would do. It ought to be a fine country for them because there are no wolves, there is ample food, and I could have a law passed granting them protection for an indefinite period. Do you suppose my suggestion is a feasible one?"

Mr. Albright passed the letter along to Arthur Demaray, Acting Director of the NPS, who responded as diplomatically as possible by stating:

"... Because even minor changes sometimes have far-reaching results, it is believed that we cannot afford to tamper too much with the established balance of nature."

"This Service has no legal authority to ship mountain sheep to other areas for planting purposes even if stocking of extralimital ranges were endorsed by us."

Mr. Demaray concluded the letter by stating that the NPS could not comply with Gov. Baxter's request.

Bigelow Reserve: A History

by Bob Cummings

It would be nice to think that a group of folks got together and planned the creation of the Bigelow Preserve. But that would only be half true. A lot of people and a lot of conflicting interests did get together. But Bigelow was preserved mostly as a result of accidents coming together—and a bunch of people willing to seize opportunities as they appeared.

I think there is a lesson here. Environmental groups spend a lot of time worrying that all they do is "put out brush fires" and that they should control their agendas, and not let events and crises control their activities. That's one reason the forestry referendum was defeated.

But after observing these things for forty years or so, I'm convinced that most of what environmental groups do that is useful is seizing opportunities. Certainly that was true in the creation of the Preserve.

My role began in the summer of 1963. I was working for a tiny Maine daily newspaper, that had only 3,000 customers and only in one city—Bath. Actually, I was pretty much the entire newspaper. I covered police, city hall, school boy sports, basketball, baseball and football in season, wrote a daily

sports column, a weekly political column, took all the photographs, and operated the dark room, developing and printing the pictures.

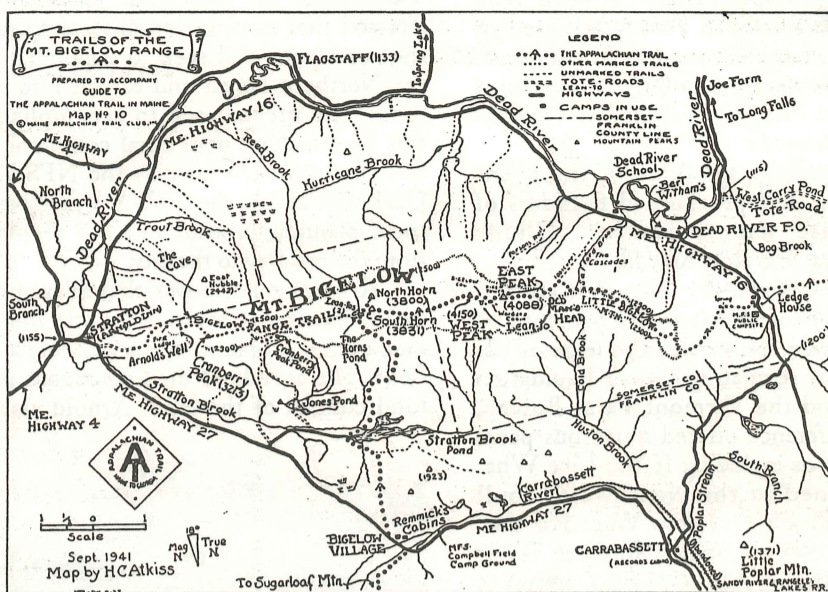
I was also rebuilding an old house that I'd paid 2,900 dollars for, had a new wife and an 11 month old daughter. For some reason, I suddenly started having strange pains in my chest, I worried I might have heart trouble. So I did what any rational person would do, I climbed Katahdin. Well, I survived without mishap. In fact, I felt quite good afterwards. So later that same summer I also climbed Bigelow.

A few years later, I switched to the Press Herald and eventually ended up with the assignment of covering environmental affairs. The early stories were pretty dreary stuff—such things as proposed oil refineries in Eastport, water pollution cleanup that no one really believed would ever happen and depressing stories about the rush to dam the wild St. John River in the wake of an Arab oil boycott.

I sensed that no one was reading these things. So, in an attempt to lighten things up, I started writing about Maine mountains, especially Bigelow, because it seemed most threatened. I didn't want Bigelow to end up like David Brower's "The River No One Knew." He wrote a best seller. It made his reputation. But only after the river had been dammed and destroyed.

That's when Dick Brown entered the scene. He stopped by the office one day and insisted that if I was going

John's dog, AMC Director Tom Deans, AMC Trails supervisor Bob Proudman, Nancy Booth, and a couple



Taken from "Maine's Second Mountain" by Myron H. Avery in Appalachia.

to write about mountains, I should know about the Maine chapter, AMC, which knew most about the Maine Mountains.

About the same time, Dick had talked the AMC's Murphy Fund into hiring a planner to study ways of protecting Bigelow. A group met periodically for a year or so. I forget all the participants. But there was Dick, the Bowdoin College photographer John McKee,

of others.

Unfortunately, the planner didn't seem to get the message. Rather than planning ways to save the mountain, he came up with an astonishing large number of sites where septic tank sewage disposal was feasible. He later moved on to higher things—like selling swimming pools.

Continued on Page 16

Katahdin

and head of the American Forestry Association, a 'good name' organization which received its money and its lobbying policies from the West Coast Lumbermen's Association and the National Association of Lumber Manufacturers" (Brant at 170.)

All of these organizations opposed the creation of Olympic and Kings Canyon National Parks, claiming that the U.S. Forest Service would do a better job protecting the wilderness values while implementing the contradictory "multiple use" (i.e., logging) management doctrine. Apparently, these organizations would challenge the NPS any chance they could.

The public campaign opposing a Katahdin National Park was gaining strength. Members of Franklin Roosevelt's staff who were not informed of the true unprotected nature of the Katahdin region counseled the president that because of Baxter's land purchases, Mount Katahdin—the dominant feature of the proposed park—was adequately protected. Therefore, there was no justification for the establishment of a national park.

House bill H.R. 6599, introduced by Congressman Brewster on April 22, 1937 was never reported out of the Committee on Public Lands. The

bill was not reintroduced during the next session of Congress, and, according to an April 24, 1941 letter from Baxter to former NPS director Horace Albright,

"Senator Ralph O. Brewster, who was the one interested in the National Park idea, has given me generous and definite assurance that he will never take the matter up again. I am confident that I can depend upon his statement to me."

While a few NPS officials refused to admit that

the idea of a Mountain Katahdin National Park was dead, no further action took place. With the continued expansion of Baxter State Park and the entrance of the United States into World War II, attention was focused elsewhere.

Lessons

What can be learned from the Katahdin National Park effort?

During the 1930s, the Park Service was looking to expand. It was a young, aggressive agency that was having great success gaining active allies and creating new national parks. The '30s saw Isle Royale, Everglades, Big Bend, and Olympic National Parks, and no fewer than 31 national monuments added to the National Park System. Organizations such as the Sierra Club, Emergency Conservation Committee, The Wilderness Society, General Federation of Women's Clubs, and the American Civic Association all championed the NPS, but most of this attention was centered on areas in the western part of the United States.

The campaign for a Katahdin National Park failed to attract supportive organizations. Under the influence of its chairman, Myron Avery, only the Appalachian Trail Conference endorsed the national park proposal. Though a Maine native and one of the most knowledgeable people of the Katahdin area, Avery was based in Washington, DC and worked for the federal government. Where other organizations such as the Emergency

Conservation Committee hired staff to organize and promote other national park campaigns, this did not happen for the proposed Katahdin National Park. There was no local counterpoint to Baxter's opposition.

The tradition of the NPS to inactively promote its agenda through the press continued in the Katahdin National Park Campaign. In the 1930s, newspapers were the primary vehicle to reach the public and articles extolling the positive aspects of a new national park in Maine were few and far between. In 1937 the Portland Press-Herald editorialized against giving

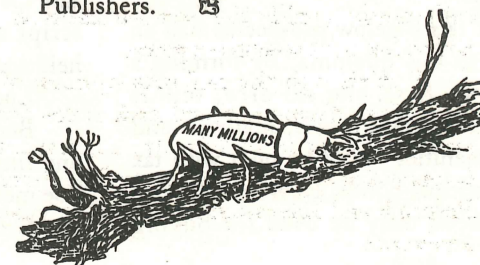
Baxter State Park to the NPS and by 1938 a number of Maine newspapers were editorializing against the proposed Katahdin National Park. There were no counter voices.

In the end, the proposed Katahdin National Park was an idea that failed to develop into a campaign. It was a classic example of legislation being filed with no public support to push the legislation to a positive conclusion. Unfortunately, the reasons behind the failure of this campaign of sixty years ago are being continuously repeated by conservation activists today. Until an organized, thorough campaign is implemented or philanthropy directed toward land purchases in the Katahdin region, Thoreau's proclamation of a Maine woods "national preserve" will not come to be.

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Wise Use Founders in Vermont

by Peter Sterling

On June 26 and 27, about 90 people from around the Northern Forest gathered in St. Johnsbury, Vermont to attend *Should the Government Control Our Forests: A Conference on the Northern Forest and the Stewardship Act*.

Headline speakers of the event were the self-proclaimed founders of the wise use movement, Chuck Cushman and Ron Arnold.

Sponsored by the Associated Industries of Vermont (the same group that played a key role in passage of last years law regulating timber liquidation cuts) and the Vermont Farm Bureau, the conference offered numerous panel discussions including *If You Like What Happened in the Northwest, You'll Love What the Greens Want For You*, *A Joint Review of the Northern Forest Stewardship Act (NFSA)*, *What it Says and How the Federal Agencies Will Use it*, and *Real Examples of*

Dealing with Federal Agencies in the North Country.

Despising the Poor, Giving them Parks Throughout the conference, Cushman stressed that environmentalists despise the rural poor and seek to depopulate the Northern Forest and turn it into a park. The greens seek to accomplish this by attacking poor rural communities through such laws as the NFSA. Cushman called the NFSA a massive social planning process to move people from the country to the city.

Arnold's mantra was that environmentalists were simply doing the bidding of rich people who finance foundations. The agenda of the foundations is total control of the land. Arnold also

lectured on the U.S. Forest Service, labeling it a bureaucracy under control of an activist government run by the green political elite. As proof, Arnold cites the Pew Foundations support of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics.

Both Cushman and Arnold freely tossed around the concept of eminent domain with little care for accuracy. Both implied that eminent domain has and will continue to be used by environmental groups and the government it controls to create parks out of the regions working forest.

Interestingly, no Vermont residents were present during Fridays discussion to cite examples of when they had their property rights desecrated by an intru-

sive government. In fact, of the members of the audience (totaling 3 women and about 85 men) most identified themselves as employees of extractive business interests.

Red Baiting Patriotism

Following the conference, Sean McKeon of the Northeast Regional Forestry Foundation in Brattleboro, VT, wrote a piece for the *Barre Times Argus* and the *Rutland Herald* criticizing reporter John Dillon's coverage of the event. McKeon, who was a panelist at the conference, called Dillon a member of the green political elite and Vermont Senator Patrick Leahy 'Comrade Leahy' and 'Vermont's tired Senator' for his work on the Northern Forest Stewardship Act. McKeon concludes, "What unites the green movement and its accomplices in the media is a common hostility to competition and a common desire to replace it by a directed economy. The NFSA is a crucial step in that direction."

cont. on page 17

Bigelow cont. from page 15

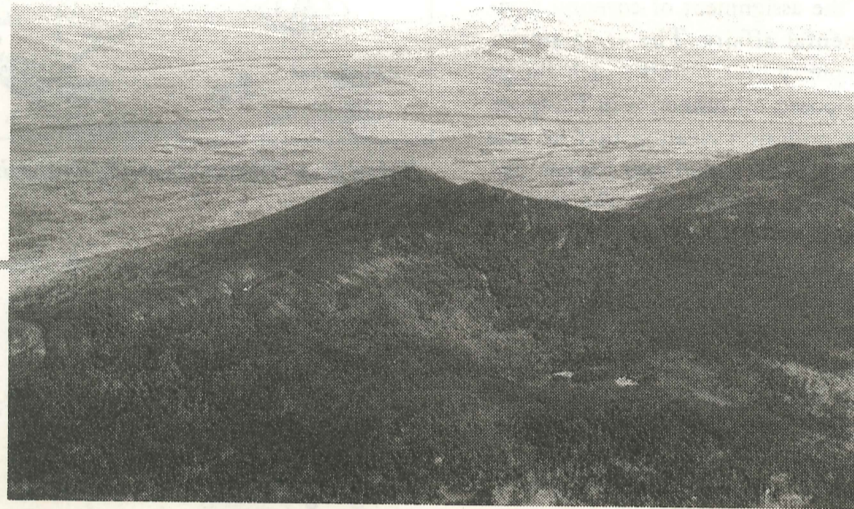
The AMC/Murphy Committee spent several hours debating what to do with the planning report. I, only half facetiously, suggested the best thing would be to "suppress it."

In the meantime, the rush to develop the mountain was continuing unabated. A group headed by a former national Sierra Club vice president bought 10,000 acres, including a swath from the lake to the summit ridges of Avery and West Peaks. The group dreamed of creating a new town that would become the "Aspen of the East," complete with ski slopes, condominiums, tennis courts, and marinas. Their principal argument: This would be such a draw that forever more all further development in the wildlands of Maine would be clustered around Bigelow. By sacrificing Bigelow, they argued, all the other wildlands would be automatically protected.

Quite a few folks were impressed. At least the group had no trouble finding investors for what they claimed would be a risk free enterprise. I once read the top secret prospectus. By announcing a ski resort, the group said, the state would build a road into the site, automatically making the land more valuable. They were right. The state built the road.

Ski resorts are notorious in the investment community for losing money. The profits come from selling condo sites, not getting people up and down mountains. Sugarloaf has been in and out of bankruptcy and near bankruptcy several times. Squaw Mountain developers in Greenville gave their ski area to the state. As soon as it got a look at the books, the state promptly gave it away again.

But the Bigelow prospectus had an answer to this dilemma. By forming a new town first, the ski area, tennis courts, swimming pools, marinas, and other amenities would be built with tax free municipal bonds. Developer investments need only be used for buying



Preserved land in Maine, Bigelow Mountain, The Horns.
Photo © Conrad Heeschen.

land that could be sold for a big profit as hotel sites, seasonal homes and condos.

Only one hitch developed in this scenario—LURC. Jim Haskell, the Land Use Regulation Commission's executive director, opposed the development, mostly I suspect because I had dragged him to the summit the year before and he didn't want developers on the only mountain he had ever climbed. The LURC chair and later Commissioner of Conservation Donaldson Koons favored approval of the development. The dispute eventually cost Jim his job.

Koons conducted the hearing and he was determined to get the debate over with. The hearing began at 10 a.m. and was still going at 10 a.m. the next morning. About 3 a.m. things were getting silly. Witnesses deprived of sleep giggled on the stand. The court reporter had no code for recording a giggle. He insisted that witnesses had to give their names, if the transcript was to serve any purpose. Witnesses routinely forgot, or several would talk at once. Koons ignored the growing debacle. The hearing ploughed on.

Quite frankly I forget the final outcome. I think the commission narrowly rejected the development, and the developers appealed to the courts. One side or the other certainly appealed. For the Court took one look at the transcript and ordered the hearing to be held again.

Luckily, it didn't have to happen.

Because the developers had left out one final reason they couldn't possibly lose money. That was Lance Tapley.

Lance had been a reporter and copy

editor at the Press Herald. We had once canoed the Allagash together my then 9-year old daughter. One day he came into the office and announced he had a new girl friend who wanted to climb a mountain. He asked for recommendations. I suggested Bigelow.

A few days later Lance came in again. He had fallen in love, both with his girlfriend and with Bigelow. He wanted to save it

I told him he was dreaming. Too many important people were in favor of developing the mountain. But he persisted anyway. He scoured the state talking to outdoor groups, garden clubs, anyone who would listen. He formed the Friends of Bigelow, collected petition signatures and forced the issue to referendum. It was an amazing performance. He even organized a winter expedition to plant a flag on West peak, proclaiming the "mountain for the people of Maine." I wrote the story. The photo was picked up by the Associated Press and published throughout New England.

The Friday before the June referendum in 1976, victory seemed assured. No organized opposition had developed. I cast an absentee ballot and left for 10 days on the St. John. The next day Governor Jim Longley announced his opposition. The referendum was irresponsible because no money was available to buy the mountain, Longley claimed. Encouraged by the governor, business groups placed full page ads Sunday and Monday before the vote, opposing the scheme.

When I returned from my 10 days of canoeing, I discovered voters in most areas of the state had narrowly defeated

the proposal. It won only because of the lopsided approval in Augusta and surrounding towns. It was a surprising turn around. Augusta is known for its conservatives. It was the last large community in Maine to approve zoning.

Why did Augusta suddenly vote to snatch a wild mountain from the jaws of developers? It's impossible to know precisely the minds of voters. Some think it was just the power of Lance's arguments on the particularly sophisticated residents of Maine's capital city. But a huge number of folks in Augusta work for the state. And Longley had drawn the ire of state employees in union contract talks. Cynics think state employees were just getting their revenge by opposing the governor.

The rest is history. Longley to his credit didn't try to hamstring the acquisition. He ordered his departments to find ways to carry out the voters wishes. It turned out to be surprisingly easy. Money the state had from prior bond issues and the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund bought out the developers for several times more money than they had invested.

The rest of the preserve was put together through swaps of scattered public lots elsewhere in the state for parcels on Bigelow.

The lessons in all this are first: As Henry Thoreau once wrote, People who pursue their dreams will meet with unexpected success.

Secondly: If something is worth doing, it's worth doing regardless of the likelihood of success.

But it also helped that a newspaper editor existed who believed in giving reporters beats to cover and allowing them to do so in any way they wanted, at least until they messed up. Sadly that editor retired about the time of the Bigelow referendum and none like him exist any more, certainly not in the last years I spent at the *Press Herald/Sunday Telegram* in Maine. ☞

NPS To Assess Saddleback Mountain Alternatives

by Pamela Prodan

This could be the long-awaited finale in the acquisition of land to protect the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) near Rangeley, Maine. The AT was built over Saddleback Mountain in 1935; Saddleback Ski Area was started in 1959. The 3.5 miles across Saddleback Mountain are the longest continuous unprotected stretch along the AT's entire length.

After a decade of difficult negotiations, the National Park Service (NPS) will now conduct a new environmental assessment of a range of alternatives, select or modify one and go forward to conclude the matter. Alternative #1 is outright acquisition of 2,860 acres; Alternative #2 is a compromise of 893 acres; and Alternative #3 is Saddleback's proposed donation of an easement to allow hikers to pass through its unobstructed ski resort and logging operations.

John Benoit, the ultra-conservative state senator living in the same township as the ski area, continues to lead the charge, spouting property rights and jobs-vs-environment rhetoric. In newspaper interviews and radio ads paid for by Saddleback, Benoit publicly attacked hikers and the NPS for demanding "virgin views of the landscape, all to the detriment of good Maine jobs and private property rights."

Benoit also accused the NPS of holding up 500 jobs for 13 years and claimed that NPS "papered the internet and state mailboxes with propaganda in support of alternatives 1 and 2." He failed to mention that in 1996, he managed to push a resolution

through the Legislature, without a public hearing, urging NPS to accept Saddleback's proposal.

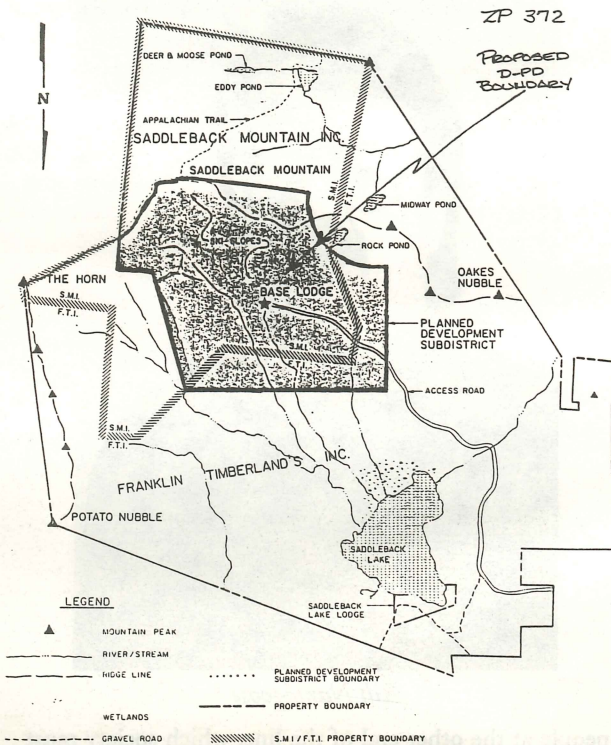
NPS has tried to negotiate a settlement, but Saddleback has twice rejected offers based on outside appraisals of Alternatives #1 and #2. A critical issue is how much ski development can occur and still be compatible with an acceptable standard of protection

for the AT. A related issue is how much development can legally be permitted by Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC). The agency did issue a preliminary permit for a threefold expansion of the ski area, with over 250 condominiums on the mountain, but LURC also ruled it will not permit the ski area to expand over the entire mountain.

Saddleback's ridge of glacially polished bedrock shelters 19 of the state's 34 rare alpine plants.

The economic viability of any planned expansion is even less clear, although a fair-market appraisal NPS did in November 1997 included an analysis by an independent ski-area expert. When contacted in July, NPS refused to release the report, stating that NPS policy is to share the appraisal with the landowner, but it is not considered a public document while negotiations are in progress. One NPS official did say that the report does not contain any substantiation of the claim that 500 jobs are out there. Saddleback appears to be trying to use the potential for full-blown development to negotiate a higher price.

The deadline for scoping comments was July 17, although NPS may continue to accept comments. For maps of the three proposed alternatives and to comment on the environmental assessment when it is issued, contact Pamela Underhill, Park Manager, National Park Service, Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Harpers Ferry Center, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425.



Proposed development boundary, Saddleback Ski Area.

Wise Use

McKeon concludes: "... the opposition to Comrade Leahy's draconian piece of legislation comes from deep within the hearts of New Englanders and their friends who have had enough of government's interference in their lives: men and women who believe in the inextricable connection between the sanctity of private property and personal freedom."

How to respond to such characterizations of the effort to conserve the Northern Forest? Jim Northup of the Vermont Natural Resources Council

and I replied to McKeon in our own op-ed (Sunday, July 26). Although we were referring to Vermont, what we wrote applies across the region: we need to work together to protect our forests from unwise development, poor logging practices and the threats of a changing timber industry. We need to address raw log export, pressure to liquidate and high grade forests, and, obviously, the unstable land ownership and sales by multi-national corporations that exhibit more allegiance to short term profits than local communities. [The rest of their piece is re-printed below, with permission of the Barre Times Argus.]

THEY SAID IT!!

"The Northern Forest Stewardship Act is a blank check for federal land acquisitions. They (the federal government) first go after old folks, then those in divorce and the weak." Chuck Cushman.

"The Northern Forest Alliance has a history of hurting rural people." Leon Favreau, Bethel Forest Stock.

"The long run effect of the Northern Forest Stewardship Act is to reduce the productivity of our forests." Bill Sayre, President, AIV.

"The New Hampshire Sierra Club doesn't care about the environment, they simply hate people." Ted Miller, Pulp and Paper Resource Council of New Hampshire.

"You know what the bottom number is when you add up all the ones on that list [of budgets of member groups of the Northern Forest Alliance]? \$624 million dollars. They have big bucks and then some. Now you begin to wonder why you're losing?" Ron Arnold.

"I have reports, some of you may have seen them, from the Northern Forest Alliance and the National Parks and Conservation Association where they have a total of about 12 national parks they want to establish in New York, New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine." Chuck Cushman.

Dialogue & Polemics:

Much To Lose, Much To Gain

by Jim Northup and Peter Sterling

Champion International is selling approximately 140,000 acres of heavily cutover land in Vermont while dramatically increasing its landholdings in Mexico and Central America. And because Champion liquidated much of the timber prior to offering its land for sale, the land has little ability to supply wood and jobs over the next several decades.

The Champion land sale comes at a time when technology and mechanization are decreasing the number of jobs in the timber industry while increasing the cut. For example, between 1960 and 1994 the annual timber cut in Maine increased by 68 percent, from 3.7 million cords to 6.2 million cords, while the total timber industry employment fell by 23 percent, from 35,000 to 27,000. In 1960, almost 10 workers were employed for every 1,000 cords of wood cut. In 1994, that same 1,000 cords employed only four workers.

The Maine example illustrates a larger, global trend: timber production will play a decreasing role in this region's economic future and non-timber amenities—clean water and air, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, scenery, wild lands—will increase greatly in economic importance. The future economic vitality of the Northern

Forest depends on our ability to work together to sustain forests that provide timber products and non-timber amenities.

Remarkable things happened when timber industry and conservation groups worked together in the past. Associated Industries of Vermont, Champion International, the Sierra Club and the Vermont Natural Resources Council were among the many forest products and conservation groups that collaborated last year in supporting a law to reduce and control heavy cutting. The law has been a tremendous success in essentially ridding Vermont of 'cut and run' timber operators trying to exploit forests for short-term gain while enabling the many competent and concerned foresters and loggers to go about their business of making a respectful living in the woods.

We urge McKeon, and others who share his mistrust, to shy away from name calling and labeling, and instead, to engage in a respectful and thoughtful dialogue on the important and complex issues facing our natural and human communities. We all have much to gain by talking and working together, and much to lose if we don't.

Peter Sterling is conservation chair of the Vermont Sierra Club. Jim Northup directs the forest program of the Vermont Natural Resources Council.

Flooding a Nation to Feed a Market

In the last Northern Forest Forum, Pam Prodan visited with three representatives of the Cree of Eeyou Astchee—the Cree territory of northern Quebec. That conversation addressed forest biomass energy use in the community of Oujé-Bougoumou, clearcutting and its connection to hydro dam projects. Here, Pam talks with Bill Namagoose, focussing on destructive impacts of Hydro-Quebec and the over-consumption of energy.

This three part interview concludes next issue on the intertwined topics of Quebec politics and de-regulation.

Bill Namagoose has been the Executive Director of the Grand Council of the Crees since 1988. His family's lands are at the mouth of the Broadback River at James Bay and he has played a critical role in the Cree campaign in the U.S. against the mega-hydroelectric projects proposed by Hydro-Quebec for the rivers in Northern Quebec. His main interests are the promotion and protection of aboriginal rights and the protection of the environment. He advocates for local control of sustainable development and for energy efficiency as an alternative to the almost exclusive focus on energy supply of the energy industry.

Pamela Prodan (PP): One of my frustrations is that people in my culture are very wasteful of energy and unwilling to acknowledge its impacts on the environment. Do you think it will take an energy crisis to get people to wake up and realize we can't go on consuming energy like we have been?

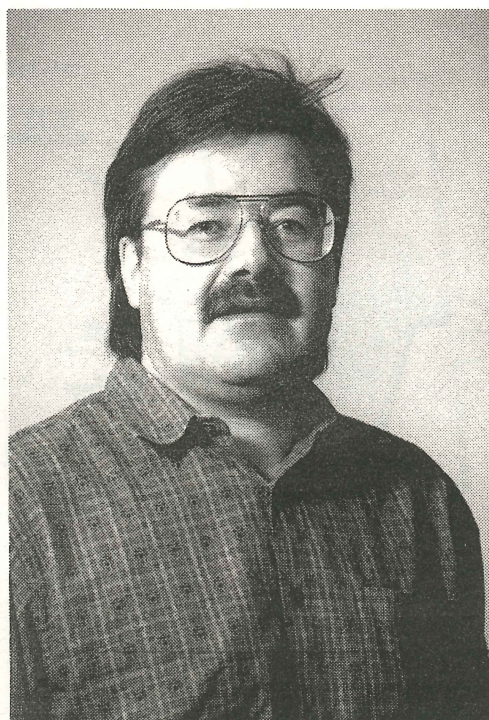
Bill Namagoose (BN): Well, it's amazing, do you realize how many people think that electricity comes from a light switch, or heat comes from a baseboard heater, or water comes from a water tap? That's the fast-paced society. But you've got to realize what is behind that light switch or what's at the other end of that line. There's tremendous public education that has to be done on that. It's only when there's, like you say, an energy crisis.

In our case, there was not an energy crisis, there was a cultural crisis, there was a human crisis, whereby thousands and thousands of square miles of more land would be flooded. That was the crisis we faced and that's what brought us to the states with the Great Whale campaign and other communities in the south where the consumers of this electricity were, to tell them about our crisis. So that's what provoked the Cree.

In the case of the south, when you talk about energy crisis, you talk about the oil crisis. That's the extent of the crisis. And there was the recent ice storm, people suddenly began to realize how vulnerable they were, how close they were to nature.

PP: Haven't they forgotten about that by now?

BN: Yeah, they're back into their mode of switching lights and opening water taps. They are back into that mode. But it's people like yourself, myself and others, who have to go out and tell the public what are the impacts where the electricity's generated. In our case it's very obvious. We see the dam, the flooding and the cultural impact on our people. That's what we know. We are at the other end of the line. People down at the receiving end of the line get the light, music, comfort and heat. They take that for granted. But there are



Bill Namagoose

people at the other end of the line, which society must know about. The Innu People at Churchill, Cree people at James Bay.

PP: I still remember what a striking image it was when Chief Matthew Coon-Come came to the U.S. and talked about what happens when down here we turn on a light switch. Not just saying that the Crees are impacted by the flooding of their land, but talking specifically about what happens when water comes through the dam, the erosion problems it causes, the diversions of the rivers, and the details of what happens on the face of the earth. I think that imagery is what really communicates to people.

BN: Yes, we have to keep up those images. In the Cree world, the land that is flooded is the best land, the prime land. It's along the river valleys. It's the river valleys that are flooded. We all know that in the world's civilizations, people live along the rivers. That's where our camps are, that's where our people are buried, that's where our graveyards are, that's where people raise their families. For thousands of years.

Now, all of a sudden, these areas are underwater. We didn't use the hilltops or mountaintops, very rarely. The river valleys were the transportation routes, the camp routes, the shelters. That's where the good trees were. In our area, where there's no rivers, there's muskeg, there's very little use of that land.

PP: So the vegetation in the upper elevations doesn't include trees because the soils aren't as good?

BN: No, it's not as good as along the river valleys, and that is where the Cree civilization existed and thrived. Those river valleys are now underwater. So you're impacting the best and prime land. Hydro-Quebec

goes around telling the world, "we're only taking five percent of their land." They think they can explain it with numbers. Five percent doesn't sound like much, but it's the best land, the prime land, and that's where our people live and are buried.

PP: Maine has a lot of hydropower in its electric mix also. The big difference is the dams were built one hundred years ago and more. People have forgotten that those big lakes in Maine are not totally natural lakes. There may have been lakes there, but they have been greatly expanded through the creation of the dams. It's something I wasn't really thinking about until recently. Lands near the rivers are more fertile because they're made up of glacial outwash and some of the best soils, but they are now under the lakes. It's something that has mostly been lost from the collective memory in Maine, that these once very productive systems are underwater now.

BN: In our case, the best land is always flooded by hydro projects. I remember one time when we were campaigning on Great Whale, we stayed at this bed and breakfast place. When we got up to have breakfast the next morning, there was this couple from Texas, so we told them who we were and what we were doing and that Hydro-Quebec was going to create these huge lakes. That's great, he said, because in the states, we create these reservoirs. Then we sell the land around the lake and have a resort lake with waterfront cottages.

That was his interpretation of a reservoir. But the difference between the reservoirs in the south and the reservoirs up north and the method of construction is very wide. In the north, Hydro-Quebec will come in, block the entire river, build a forty-five story dam, two or three kilometers wide, block that river and spill it over into the next river basin also with a huge dam.

They flood the entire forest. They don't stay in that river valley, they flood that river and spill it over into another river valley. Then they put a turbine in there like at LG2, the LaGrand system with sixteen turbines. The LaGrand River system as we see it now is I think, sixteen rivers in one complex. So that's the main difference, and it's the best land.

If you go to LaGrand LG2 and put your canoe in the water and start paddling east, eventually you will

start to see trees, and entire forests underwater. Near the dam, they've cut the trees and made it aesthetic, made it 'good optics', they call it. But if you start paddling east, you start to see the forests underwater.

That's what they do in the native communities, that's the double standard. There are many dams in the south of Quebec, but they're run-of-the river projects, they raise the water maybe a few meters. In our case, the entire river valley is destroyed and the river is spilled over into the next river system before they build the turbine. They make rivers flow backwards. Rivers that used to go up to Caniapiscau and Ungava Bay have been blocked. They used to flow east and they now flow west.

And this is where the 10,000 caribou drowned while they were migrating through their usual route. They did what they normally did for thousands of

They make rivers flow backwards. Rivers that used to go up to Caniapiscau and Ungava Bay have been blocked. They used to flow east and they now flow west. And this is where the 10,000 caribou drowned while they were migrating through their usual route. They did what they normally did for thousands of

years, they jumped in to swim across, but at that time it just so happened that Hydro-Quebec opened one of the floodgates that controlled the reservoir levels. The caribou kept jumping in and got washed over the falls. So there is the double standard. There's the huge megaprojects built where native people live and there's the smaller, run of the river projects in the south.

PP: Bangor Hydro-Electric was trying to get a new dam licensed and the permit was denied just a week or so ago. It's becoming harder and harder to get any kind of new hydroelectric projects built in this country. Also recently, the permit for an existing dam in Augusta, Maine was not renewed by the federal government, which said that the dam has been there for 150 years and it would benefit the river system to have it removed so that fish can go upstream another 15 or 20 miles. And yet, Hydro-Quebec is still talking about doing the same kinds of things they got away with twenty years ago in your territory. They are not necessary talking about new dams in Cree territory, but they are talking about new dams in Innu territory and new river diversions in Cree territory. They seem to think they'll be able to get away with that, don't they?

BN: Yes, they are talking about possibly diverting two rivers into the complex they've already built. They mean the Great Whale River and the Rupert River. They're doing feasibility studies on that and I think they're concentrating on the Rupert River. So that would be the eleventh river that would be part of this LaGrand complex. Maybe Great Whale is a little too uneconomical, that is what we understand.

PP: And Great Whale may also have more name recognition in the south than the Rupert?

BN: Great whale is very well recognized in the south. In the states we are encouraged by the fact that they are decommissioning dams and they are not allowing more dams to be built. Hydro-Quebec used to get this reputation or this image that it had clean power.

PP: Actually, they are still promoting it as clean power.

BN: It's not clean.

PP: The Renewable Energy Assistance Project, which I direct, is intervening in rulemakings at the Maine Public Utilities Commission. One deals with Maine's Renewable Portfolio, which by law requires that thirty percent of electricity sold in Maine come from renewables. Defining what is renewable is one thing. And the legislators were concerned about scale of projects, so they put in a limit of 100 MW for each source, and defining that is another thing. I understand that there are lot of dams in Quebec that are under 100 MW. So some people say that Hydro-Quebec may be able to be a very active participant in the renewables market. But we are arguing that any utility system power, because it is controlled by the utility, should be deemed a much larger source than 100 MW.

BN: Whatever Maine people buy from Hydro-Quebec, they must know that over fifty percent of it comes from Cree territory, from these huge megaprojects that were built without any environmental assessment. So no matter what you buy from Hydro-Quebec, it still comes from the desecration of Cree land, even if they tell you it's locally produced near Montreal. It is not true, because they have an integrated grid. Over fifty percent comes from Cree land. Now they want to add the Churchill to it, so in a time, fifty-five or sixty percent will come from Cree and Innu land. The Cree are opposed to it, the Innu are opposed to it, that's what people have to realize. Don't fall for their word that "this is renewable, this is clean, this is cheap, it hasn't destroyed anything." At least fifty or sixty percent is from the Cree and Innu lands that were destroyed.

PP: That claim that it's clean and environmentally

sound is what we call greenwashing. Even if they don't qualify for the renewables portfolio, they will still be marketing it as clean. I wonder how we can get the message across?

BN: Mercury isn't clean, it's toxic. The reservoirs up in James Bay are belching with mercury contamination. The fish is contaminated and we can't eat the fish from the reservoirs, and fish is an important source of food for the Cree. Fish is the first solid food taken by a baby, and it is the last one taken by the elders before they pass away. Fish was plentiful when people's lives were sometimes under strain and we didn't have enough wild meat. There was always fish around to sustain the people. And it was not only important to eat the fish, but also the physical activity of actually going out and getting the fish is just as important as consuming the fish. Now that is gone. Now our people buy cod sticks at The Bay.

PP: There is a fish advisory in Maine too, because of mercury, in all of the waters of the state. It's thought that a lot of the mercury comes from coal-burning plants as well as solid

waste burning, from batteries in the trash. It's good that there is increasing awareness about the danger of mercury in the environment. One of the disclosures they are talking about requiring for electricity, is how much mercury is emitted. But they're thinking of combustion. They're thinking of burning fuels and how much mercury is put into the air. It would be an interesting concept to challenge Hydro-Quebec to document how much mercury is being emitted from the reservoirs into the air, but that doesn't even capture the mercury that gets into the food chain. Are there other things that you think should be disclosed? Most of the disclosure requirements deal with air emissions, such as carbon dioxide, nitrogen and sulfur.

BN: All the environmental impacts and consequences should be disclosed. Even the cultural impacts. Who had to be relocated, who had to get out of the way for this electricity to be supplied. They relocated a few thousand of our people, just to accommodate the LaGrand complex.

PP: That won't fit on the label, though. They are looking for a simple little label that can tell about the environmental impacts. The mindset is so simplistic: if you can tell people what it is putting into the air, they can make a better decision. And it harms the Cree because you are not going to fit on the label.

BN: There are some groups trying to get Hydro-Quebec to be labeled as not clean or unclear.

PP: Some people think that having a 'large hydro' category and a 'small hydro' category would be a signal right away that 'large hydro' means Hydro-Quebec.

BN: People need to make themselves aware of the sources of electricity. Mercury is obviously one of the byproducts of these large reservoirs.

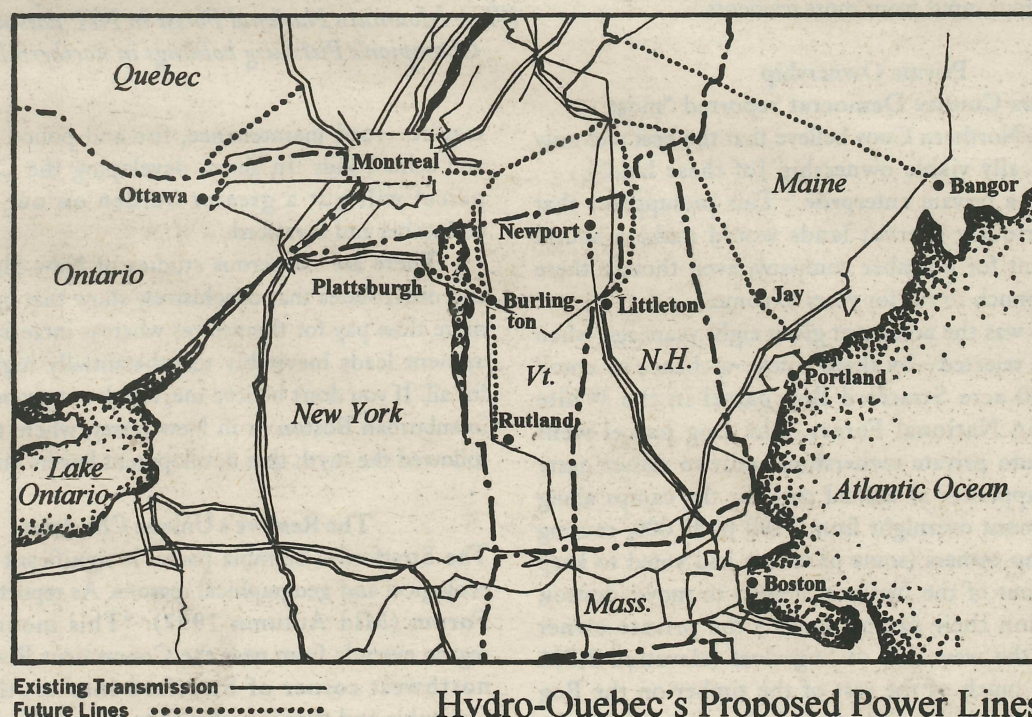
PP: What do you think about natural gas? Maine has very little coming into the state now, but two pipelines through the state are planned. There's already 23,000 MW of gas generation being planned while the total capacity for New England is only 25,000MW. It's as if this part of the world hasn't seen natural gas before and thinks it's the most wonderful thing. I think it will lead to more consumption.

BN: In our case, we started out on the Great Whale project and they wanted us to pick one of nuclear, gas or coal. We said, well, we didn't have the answer and that's when we started to look at it and we hired some experts to delve into this. The answer was conservation. They studied the Hydro-Quebec grid and some of the New England states. Ian Goodman determined that if you did conservation measures in Quebec, there was already enough electricity on the existing grid for two Great Whales. So that's what we've promoted. I think it's gone well.

When I go to Montreal, I look around at the uses and I see a lot of fluorescent bulbs that weren't there before. It seems to have not caught on as much as we hoped, but that's the alternative we promote. We don't promote other sources. Use what you have now, already, before you continue with other sources that are sure to damage the environment and your people.

PP: But isn't it hard getting people to conserve because energy is very cheap? You read these things that say energy is so expensive in this region, but for what electricity can do, what you can get out of it—run motors, blowers and refrigeration—it is extremely cheap.

BN: There are a lot of things individuals can do. In my house in Ottawa I have a solar heating system for my hot water on my roof. I plug it in when the freezing temperature's gone and I heat my water all summer on my roof. It's connected directly to my hot water tank so every time I take hot water from my tank, it's replaced by solar-heated water. The same in Oujé-Bougoumou, they heat their houses and their hot water with biomass. Fire is the ultimate source for heating. So in Oujé-Bougoumou, they literally found a way to transport fire with water. That's the concept that they have there. Heating their houses with hot water space heat.



Hostile Selectmen Shelve Vickie Bunnell Memorial Forest Plan

by Jamie Sayen



In late June the group working to establish an 18,600 acre "Vickie Bunnell Memorial Forest" on lands currently for sale by Champion in Stratford and

Columbia, NH disbanded because of hostility to the plan from several selectmen. The proposal for the Bunnell Forest was conceived by Scot and Bonnie Williamson and John Harrigan, friends of the Columbia, NH lawyer and judge murdered by a gunman who killed three others in Colebrook, NH on August 19, 1997 (see Forum, Mid Autumn 1997).

The Bunnell Forest proposal called for the establishment of a 5,000-acre "working" community forest to accompany a 13,600 acre "forever wild" reserve. It was one of the loveliest ideas to come from the North Country in a long time, an entirely fitting memorial to Vickie, a caring and unselfish pillar of this community, because she lived near and loved these lands.

The proposal to establish a Memorial Forest was especially fitting for another important reason: it would have enabled a badly managed tract to begin to heal its wounds, much as the establishment of a memorial to Vickie would have contributed so much to healing some of the wounds suffered by this community last summer.

While saddened that the campaign to honor Vickie has disbanded, her family and friends made the proper decision in light of the decision of some of the selectmen and women of Stratford and Columbia to impose their short-sighted demands upon this generous proposal.

Unfortunately, headline writers at local newspapers reported that "lack of support" and "not enough local support" for the plan doomed it. This is misleading since there never was an informational town meeting where residents could discuss the plan and evaluate the objections raised by our selectpersons. Instead, select boards from the two towns effectively killed the plan without input from most residents.

Private Ownership

The Coos County Democrat reported "most people in Northern Coos believe that the best and only economically viable ownership [of these lands] . . . would be a private enterprise." This presupposes that these seriously overcut lands would make a sound investment for a timber company, even though there won't be much to cut for years to come.

This was the argument given eight years ago when Stratford rejected—by three votes—a chance to enroll the 7,000 acre Stratford Bog parcel in the White Mountain National Forest. The Bog parcel went instead into private ownership, and two rather nasty things happened: a) annual rent for the camps along the Bog went overnight from \$180 to \$2,000, causing most camp owners (some of whom had voted to keep the Bog out of the National Forest) to move, destroy, or abandon their camps; and b) the private owner stripped the west side of Sugarloaf (elevation 3,701 feet) and much of the rest of the timber on the Bog tract. The residents of Stratford had no opportunity for input into these decisions. As Scot Williamson noted

in the Caledonian-Record (St. Johnsbury, VT), the Vickie Bunnell Memorial Forest proposal was the only proposal that provided the towns with any input into the management process of the Champion lands now for sale.

Development

The other major reason given by the two selectboards for opposing the proposal was that it would foreclose the development options on these lands. And they were right; establishment of a Vickie Bunnell Memorial Forest would indeed have foreclosed development options on those lands. Hallelujah! Didn't we just spend the better part of the past decade trying to find ways to protect forest lands from development?

The Columbia-Stratford selectmen and women appear to be laboring under a delusion about development. They seem to think that littering this undeveloped, mountainous terrain with a few houses will increase tax revenues for their towns. While this might be true, they conveniently overlook the even greater increase in services these scattered developments will

Goback Mountain in Stratford and Mt. Blue (recently renamed Bunnell Mountain in honor of Vickie), Cleveland Notch, and Moran Notch in Columbia.

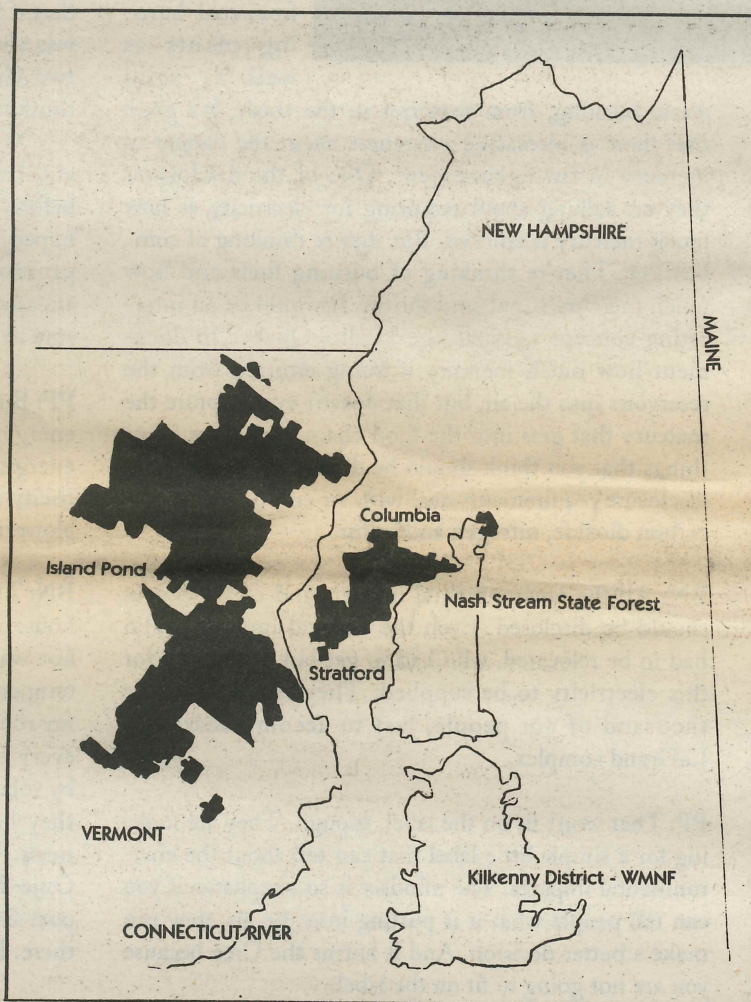
"Williamson, a former NH Fish & Game deer biologist who now works for the Wildlife Conservation Foundation, was a close friend of Judge Bunnell. He believes that this tract is ecologically significant and that it merits protection for purely biological reasons. 'I think of this as a convergence of many interests: an ecologically important parcel with some unique wildlife habitat, as well as a memorial to Vickie.'

"Although it awaits a comprehensive ecological inventory, Williamson describes the land as a mix of softwoods at higher elevation and mixed hardwoods at lower elevations. While there are no lakes, it contains the headwaters of six streams and Cranberry Bog. There are 13 high elevation peaks in Stratford and six more in Columbia. A quarter of the tract is high elevation spruce-fir forest, a rare habitat type in New Hampshire. High elevation spruce-fir forests provide primary habitat for gray jay, boreal chickadee, spruce grouse, blackpoll warbler, white-winged crossbill, yellow-bellied flycatcher, and gray-cheeked (Bicknell's) thrush.

"There is a 1989 report of a sighting of a peregrine falcon near the Lightning Mountain Cliffs in North Stratford. A lynx reportedly entered the area in 1997. There have been no confirmed sightings of lynx in New Hampshire in a couple of decades.

"In addition to its ecological significance, this Stratford/Columbia tract is of enormous geographical significance. Running west to east, it provides vital connections from near the Connecticut River in Stratford to the Nash Stream State Forest, which in turn nearly connects with the White Mountain National Forest. In Vermont, Champion's holdings run from the Connecticut River west and south to the Victory Bog Forest. Linking other critical biological areas such as the White Mountain National Forest, the Nash Stream State Forest and Victory Bog is of the highest importance to a successful conservation strategy.

"Probably the biggest potential stumbling block to local support is concern that Stratford and Columbia will lose property taxes if the tract goes into public ownership. However, Williamson and the people he is working with understand this issue and are making sure that these towns will lose no tax money. A likely solution would be to set up an interest-bearing trust fund to cover taxes which are extremely low—approximately \$1.25 in Stratford and \$0.43 in Columbia."



Map of Champion Lands in VT and NH currently for sale. Map also shows Nash Stream State Forest and Killkenny District in the White Mountain National Forest in NH; does not show Champion's Pittsburg holdings in northern NH.

require—road maintenance, fire and police coverage, and school kids. In short, developing the Champion parcel will put a greater burden on our taxes in Columbia and Stratford.

There are numerous studies of New Hampshire and other states that conclusively show that open lands more than pay for themselves whereas increased development leads inevitably to substantially higher taxes for all. If you don't believe me, check out property taxes in suburban Boston or in New Jersey, where they have followed the myth that development lowers taxes.

The Reserve's Unique Character

The Stratford-Columbia parcel is significant for both ecological and geographical reasons. As reported in the Forum (Mid Autumn 1997): "This mountainous region extends from near the Connecticut River in the northwest corner of Stratford into southeastern Columbia and thence eastward to the northwestern tip of the of the Nash Stream State Forest. It includes

What Happens Next?

Clearly, the narrow-minded response of the two selectboards is a setback. Because one former Champion land manager who is now a Stratford selectman expressed hostility to the idea, while most of the rest of the selectmen and women sat silently, the Williamsons and Harrigan realized that it could become very distasteful to turn a wonderful idea into a political football to be kicked around by ideologues. So, they disbanded the formal campaign to acquire the Champion tract and designate it the Vickie Bunnell Memorial Forest.

However, their idea deserves a better fate, and I hold out hope that the next owner of the Columbia-Stratford lands manages the tract guided by the spirit of the proposal to create a fitting memorial to Vickie Bunnell.

Meanwhile, I know many, many members of this community join me in expressing heartfelt gratitude and admiration to Scot and Bonnie Williamson, John Harrigan and the others who conceived this beautiful notion to honor the memory of Vickie Bunnell through the creation of a memorial forest.

Mead Outlines Ice Storm Salvage Liquidation Plans

by Jamie Sayen

"Looking out over the scraggly area in which heavy salvage cutting has already begun, Mr. Merski said sadly, 'Big areas will look like this.' Then, brightening, he reached down to touch a little maple and said, 'But the future forest is already here.'"

—Edith Tucker, *The Northern Beacon*, July 6, 1998

Anyone who believes that industrial-style forest liquidators lack a sense of humor should read Edith Tucker's masterpiece of irony "Mead Crews Set Heavy Salvage Schedule for Damaged Forests" in *The Northern Beacon*, July 6, 1998. With a straight face, Mead Corporation foresters have launched a public relations campaign boasting of their plans to liquidate 10,000-12,000 acres of New Hampshire timber lands that experienced ice storm damage last January. A careful reading of the article shows that Mead has conscientiously studied all the recommended post-ice storm admonitions from the U.S. Forest Service and forest ecologists regarding salvage logging—and systematically violated each one.

Over the next four to five years, Mead plans to conduct clearcuts of hundreds of acres on south and east facing slopes at elevations of 1600-1800 feet. "There will be some big ones," said Don Merski, district manager of Mead's New Hampshire holdings in the Androscoggin River watershed. These stands are predominately northern hardwoods that were heavily thinned 15-20 years ago.

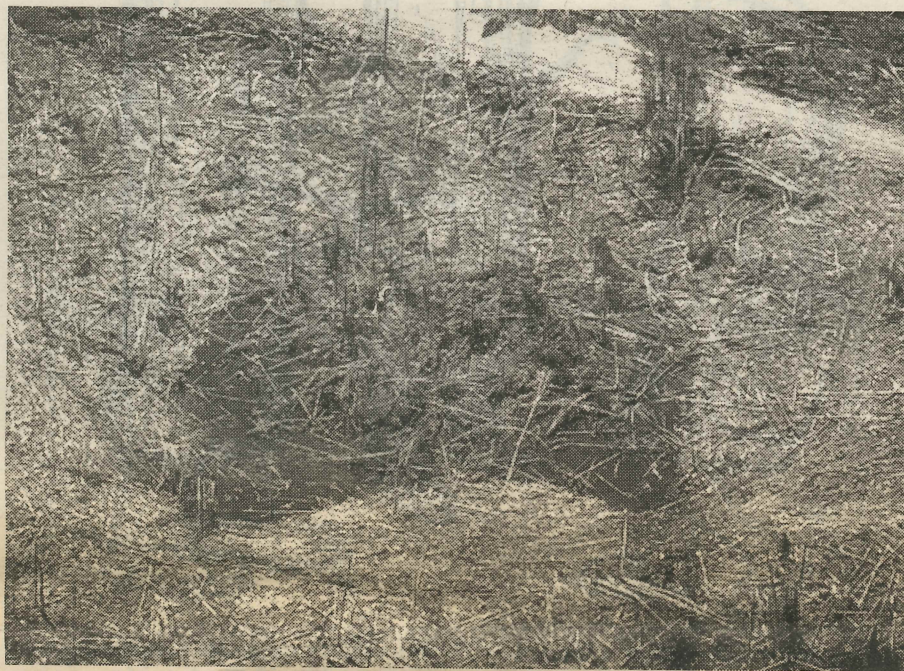
Ms. Tucker reports: "Mead foresters determined that clear-cutting was the appropriate prescription only after a lengthy assessment period, which included consultations with experts higher up in the company's chain of command, Mr. Merski said." Later, he said, "Everyone's conclusion was that it was pretty pointless to try to leave anything." Of course, anyone familiar with Mead's past forestry practices knows that even in the absence of an ice storm, Mead finds it pretty pointless to leave anything.

There is one silver lining to this latest round of forest liquidation by

Mead. As a result of the "salvage" plans in the next five years, Mead will be giving a temporary reprieve to tracts in Dixville it had originally intended to liquidate.

On the same page that featured the Mead "salvage" story, Ms. Tucker reported that the White Mountain National Forest was taking its time in developing its salvage strategy. In contrast to Mead's large clearcuts, the WMNF was opting for a "conservative approach." Neither of the strategies WMNF foresters are considering is "designed to harvest all of the damaged stands."

In the Mid Winter issue of the *Forum* we presented information on ecologically appropriate responses to the after effects of the ice storm.



Mead clearcut post-ice storm, possible spray area, Dixville, NH.
Photo © Alex MacLean.

Dr. David Publicover, forest ecologist with the Appalachian Mountain Club and U.S. Forest Service plant pathologists Walter C. Shortle and Kevin T. Smith outlined a number of issues that must be assessed before conducting salvage operations. Here are some of the most important considerations:

- Experts stated that the "proper response" to the ice storm was "patience, caution, and attention to the ecological issues" that have been high-

lighted by the storm.

- Studies indicate that salvage logging damages ecosystem health.

- Salvage logging may increase the chances of fire because it removes the vertical component of the forest (including hanging branches), and leaves all the fuel on the forest floor. In Baxter State Park, an unsalvaged area suffered little or no soil damage after a fire, while an adjacent area that had been salvaged suffered scorched soil from that fire.

- Ice storm damage is patchy. Even where severe damage occurs, there are patches with little or no damage; few, if any stands suffered 100% mortality.

- Most mortality won't show up in 1998. There is no reliable way of predicting survivors, therefore a responsi-

of the ecological damage came from salvage operations, not the storm itself. Dr. Publicover noted that this winter's ice storm was much less severe than the 1938 hurricane.

- Damage is likely greatest in "poor form trees" which have the lowest economic value. "If the tree is of good form and high value, you are better off letting it grow—the increase in quality wood around the circumference will more than offset loss due to decay..."

- Mitch Lansky spoke with foresters in Maine who pointed out that "Better stocked stands of trees with good form had less damage than poorly-stocked stands of trees with lots of branches and poor form." Perhaps this explains why Mead suffered so much damage on its managed lands.

- Lansky advised that salvage operations use low impact forestry methods. Mead is using feller bunchers to conduct its salvage liquidation.

- There is a greater chance of loss of wood quality from careless logging. Of course, Mead won't suffer from damage to its residual stand because there won't be one.

In addition to these cautionary guidelines, Dr. Publicover and other ecologists noted that the ice storm was a natural disturbance event that provided many ecological benefits to the affected forested ecosystems. Among these benefits (that Mead has chosen to forgo) are:

- Cavity nesting birds and animals benefit from the damaged trees.

- Fungi and wood boring or bark beetles should thrive.

- Birds that eat insects should flourish, as should birds that eat birds that eat insects.

- Salamanders, bears, chipmunks, fisher, pine marten all nest in woody debris and will benefit from the storm.

Mead of course subscribes to industry's Sustainable Forestry Initiative. The question arises whether Mead's plans reflect the porosity of SFI guidelines or in fact violate them.

Is Mead's "salvage" plan likely to produce a high quality "future forest"? Mitch Lansky doesn't think so. He has written: "Salvage that hurts the potential of the future stand is not silviculture—it is mining."

NH Herbicide News

by Daisy Goodman

Several years ago, the Herbicide Project and Coalition for Alternatives to Herbicides began what appears will be a protracted struggle against herbicide use in forestry and right-of-way management in New Hampshire. During the month of June herbicide the NH Division of Pesticide Control issued permits for treatment of nine bodies of water with the herbicides 2,4 D and Diquat to 'control' Eurasian milfoil.

As with aerial herbicide applications, the aquatic herbicide permits received the blessing of the Dept.s of Resources and Economic Development, Fish and Game, Health (Div. of Health Risk Assessment) and the Dept. of Environmental Services. Despite well-documented human health effects, and warnings of toxicity to fish and wildlife on the product labels, these agencies did little research into these herbicides before approving the introduction of hundreds of pounds into

public ponds and lakes.

The Herbicide Project became involved after being contacted by local community members who were alarmed at what they justifiably perceived as a threat to their water supply, fishing and swimming. Not surprisingly, the public has had access to little information concerning the products being used, other than the reassurance that they are safe, and the advice that to be effective they may need to be applied as often as yearly. (Although the state has generously taken on half the cost in 1998, the towns and Lakes Association will be expected to pay for subsequent applications.)

The Division of Pesticide, with the approval of the same agencies which signed on to the aquatic permits, has issued aerial herbicide permits to Mead Corporation and Champion International. This year's permits are noteworthy because they do not include use of the sulfonyleurea herbicide OUST, a DuPont product which has been the subject of numerous lawsuits concerning drift damage, and was last summer responsible for catastrophic crop damage to an organic

farm in Shoreham, VT whose neighbor aerially sprayed a corn silage crop.

The permits granted this year also expand the no-spray buffer required around bodies of water from 165 to 300 feet. At this writing, the rationale for this change has yet to be revealed by the Division. However, one must assume that the Division felt that 165 feet was not sufficient, a change from the preceding year.

Continuing research into inter and intra agency documents continues to build evidence of insufficient monitoring and lack of follow-up of problems with aerial herbicide applications in previous years. The inability of state agencies to effectively regulate and enforce herbicide use is a matter of serious public concern. The failure of the Division of Pesticide Control to effectively protect the environment violates its legal mandate.

For more information contact: The Herbicide Project POB 184 North Stratford, NH 03590 (603)922-5544.

Vermont Forest Policy & Planning

by Andrew Whittaker

Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire have taken very different paths subsequent to the recommendations of the Northern Forest Lands Council toward the regulation of forest practices. Mainers have enjoyed public campaigns to ban and regulate clearcuts; New Hampshire's way has been a deferential effort to develop good information and do little to apply it; Vermont's legislature has added a cutting bill to its books.

But in many ways, the three states of northern New England remain scorelessly tied in expressing public interest in forest policy through improved forest practices. New Hampshire's voluntary practices look good on paper but have not stopped the blight of clearcuts occurring in Coös and now other counties. The Maine public has been forcibly involved in forest policy like no other polity, but with little resolution.

How VT's Law Works

Vermont by contrast to New Hampshire does have a clearcutting law. Planned cuts over 40 acres that will drop below the "C line" of the US Forest Service's residual stand stocking standards must follow the silvicultural prescriptions of the Forest Service for the relevant timber type. As a de facto silvicultural standard, this will probably stand, presuming that a future legislature does not dismantle the statute.

The legislation also directs the commissioner to adopt rules that establish "requirements with respect to soil productivity, water quality, wetlands, riparian zones, significant wildlife habitat areas, unique or fragile areas, regeneration, scenic quality, and unusual environmental events such as those causing severe damage from wind, ice, disease or insect infestation."

Department Approved Clearcuts?

To deliberate on these rules, the Commissioner of Forests and Parks, Conrad Motyka, picked a committee from within his Department, the wider Agency of Natural Resources (a lone biologist), one environmentalist, and several citizens and legislators (many of the latter two have been no-shows). What was clear from committee make-up was that this would be no process such as New Hampshire's that would seek to develop guidelines on the basis of science.

This committee has met a total of 4 times since December and is now prepared to go before the public. At the June meeting, the committee agreed to present no recommendations. Discussion of the broad areas of sustainability (ie, soil, water and habitat) has fairly well established, however, the committee consensus that there is no need for regulation in these areas.

While the one biologist on the committee made an effort to present the finding of a bear habitat task force that harvesting regulations be devel-

oped, it quickly became apparent that she was flying in the face of group thought. Environmentalists on the committee have parked their rhetoric at the door but other members have been free to make often simplistic commentaries that quarrel with their statutory directive to devise rules.

Pro Forma Committee Work

The committee's work has been at least draped in the mantle of objective science (lone presenters on 3 or 4 topics).

anything to test it.

Industry observers and participants have yet to register discomfort with committee direction—in contrast to pronounced and early opposition to the cutting bill by some of the same people. Apparently they are comfortable with its indirection.

Rulemaking

The section directing rulemaking has perhaps drawn the most criticism from committee members. Notes from the

even recommendations of preferred management practices are at this time only a remote possibility. The Department's opportunity to convey the best available science to the landowning community—such as has been developed on ice storm salvage—will have been squandered.

What the Dept Wanted—It Got

The cutting bill created crystal opportunity if not mandate for Vermont's Department of Forests and Parks to achieve what it had itself stated as policy objectives in a memorandum dated 12/94 and entitled "Criteria for Forest Practices Legislation."

A major Department concern was pre-emption of local control over cutting—which the cutting bill may in effect have aided. It also asked for—and received—"enabling legislation only"—expectations and goals of policy established but not legislated. The Department also implied broad and scientific involvement presumably leading to tangible impact in forest sustainability.

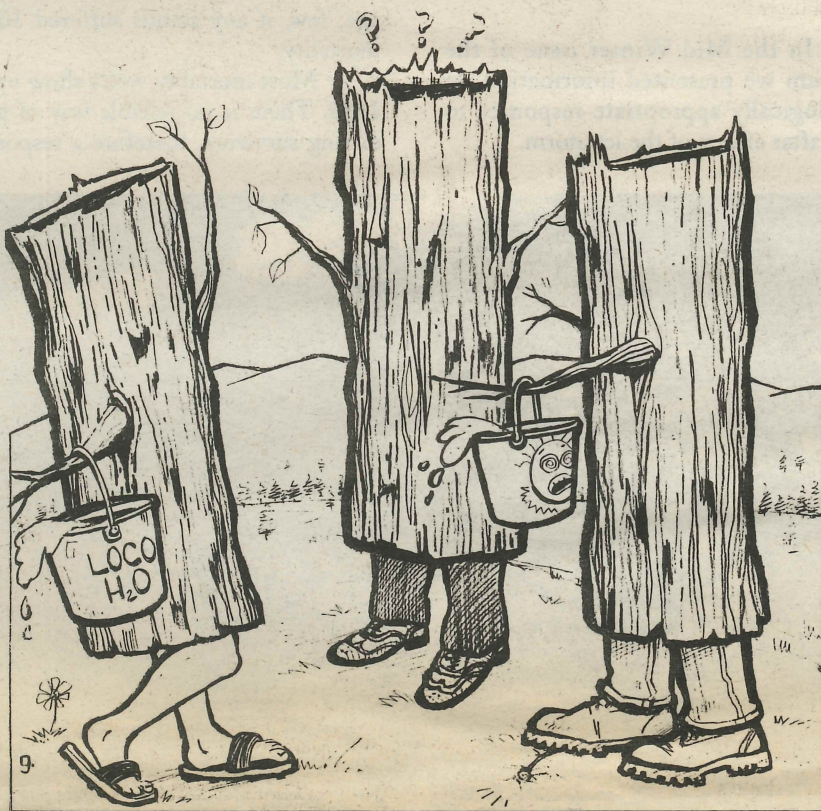
Having received what it wanted, the Department's cutting rules committee is using the excuse of POST intimidation and the old song of a muddleheaded legislature/public to avoid its mandate to implement standards for forestry. The task is not impossible nor are minimum standards something that most within industry do not apply every day. To use the opposition of those who support no forest policy in the state of Vermont as a screen for not following through is a waste of Department energies and public dollars.

What Has the Cutting Bill Achieved?

Vermont's cutting law has had its practical if unquantifiable impact. Informally, one timber operator in the Northeast Kingdom has remarked that loggers are doing all they can to avoid the law. While his remark was intended to ridicule regulation, the implication is that those who would have clearcut are now leaving more trees—rather like slowing down to avoid a speeding ticket.

Another criticism, as has been heard in other states with forest practices statutes, is that the legislation is an employment bill for foresters. The implication here is that someone clearing over 40 acres of forestland and producing great volumes of wood is somehow placed at great inconvenience by having to hire a professional forester.

While there is no legal requirement and only practical considerations that a forester be hired, the impetus of the legislation was in part that much logging was occurring without silviculture. Forty acre developments usually entail the hiring of surveyors and engineers at far greater cost. (Moreover, the rulemaking committee's inactivity (see above) weakens the bill by holding the forest plans it receives from foresters to no clear standards, on slopes or in sen-



Is Vermont's Dept. of Forests & Parks unable to rationalize conflicting industrial and environmental points of view?

Without a commitment to developing a full view of forest ecosystems however, or even a basic bibliography of relevant literature, presentations have in some ways done little more than offer opportunities for canards, chestnuts and red herrings. (Examples: the public needs to be better educated on the virtues of clearcutting; environmentalist pressure comes out of ignorance and outsiders coming to New England; a move to uneven aged management is regrettable and sentimentally based; enviros are out to "save every dandelion in the woods" (irony!!!).

In some cases, the committee has at least offered a taste of comedy in its tortuous effort to avoid the horns of dilemma. Discussion of permitting clearcuts led one committee person to recant earlier criticisms and suggest that by giving permits the Department could stand behind and promote the benefits of clearcuts to a skeptical public; to which one state forester replied uneasily, I don't know as I would want to go that far. . .

Bowing to Convenient Pressure?

Committee members—including its leadership—have questioned the topicality of the cutting legislation and in several statements the rationality of those who supported it. They have also referred to 'the political climate' which protesters of the bill have created, suggesting that they do not mean to do

first meeting suggest some were not even aware of its wording and their charge to "develop requirements."

The committee's mystification with this section is curious given its long history. The Northern Forest Lands Council's recommendation that states assess and change their forest practices statutes in the context of the "principles of sustainability" was the basis of this section's language; the inclusion of this section in the bill was the second area of compromise during early discussions of the bill (the other being the size and residual stocking of clearcuts that would trigger review). (It was the inclusion of rulemaking that made the cutting bill personally supportable to me at the time.)

Snookered?

This section certainly did not come from nowhere, neither was it intended to lead nowhere. A key usher of this bill's passage from working groups to FRAC and then the legislature (FRAC chair Darby Bradley) personally stated to me at the time, "Everything is on the table," implying opportunity for a full airing of forest practices issues. The subsequent evolution of the hand-picked committee has been in quite the opposite direction and represents to my mind a failure to live up to the nature of the compromise behind—and promise of—this law.

Rules to address soil or habitats, or

Policy & Planning...

sitive habitats, for instance.)

Several observers have suggested that the cutting bill has erected a fence of sorts around Vermont, and kept liquidators more interested in states such as New Hampshire that have no cutting law. As was noted in the Forum during the clearcutting debate, Vermont was enjoying a reputation with some Maine outfitters as the place to cut. Herbie Haynes may be in New Hampshire (see page nine) but is not in Vermont.

Liquidation Continuing?

Has liquidation slowed or merely changed form? The vacuuming of high-graded lots is likely to continue, whether under the 40 acre trigger, over the stocking trigger, or in the absence of "sustainability" standards. Lots shucked off larger holdings by Champion International, Mead and Hancock to big contractors who operate in Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine are particularly vulnerable to liquidation.

Informal word suggests that operators who are willing to cut smaller lots are invading from such states as Massachusetts that have a regulatory framework. Like the global economy which exerts pressure on any region with fair labor and environmental protections, we seem to be in a cycle that attracts cutting to the states with the fewest protections. Vermont, like Maine and New Hampshire, is somewhere on the middle rungs—and, like those states, ambivalent about moving up.

Department's Forest Resource Plan Advances to Next Round

A final draft of the Department of Forests and Parks ten year plan will be circulated this fall and the Department will again take written comments.

Property rights commentary dominated public sessions of the forest planning process, but something happened on the way to the forum. Written comment has reportedly been generally supportive of the plan.

It has also been reportedly apparent to people in the department that the angry opposition which sought to veto the plan altogether has relied heavily on "repeat performance" by the same actors. The weight of constructive response has been in support of at least the idea of a forest policy if not specific recommendations.

The last meeting of the steering committee, which has a broad representation of stakeholders, was on June 25th. Participants report that a moderating sentiment was expressed by many and several surprising members to attempts by other members to bend to the plan's harshest critics. A basic decision to "go with what was constructive" was how one member expressed the committee's general reaction to public comment.

Some of the language changes in the existing draft do reflect concessions to opposition to a state forest policy

affecting private lands. Moreover, those looking for management on state forests to reflect coherent approaches to supporting model forestry and innovative silviculture may find bits and pieces in isolated recommendations—an alphabet but no grammar. What is lacking is in fact a statement that ecosystem management is a goal—as certain recommendations suggest it could be, and as the plan's vision statements certainly imply that it ought to be.

Public comment that reinforced ecosystem management and inclusion in reserve design as a primary goal for state public lands would be helpful; as would clear support for working with landowners who wish to achieve this on private forest ownerships as well. The Agency of Natural Resources own Lands Conservation Plan (see below) would

be a good place for the Department to begin. Please look over the final report and comment!

For a copy, contact Mark Sinclair at Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, 103 S. Main St. Waterbury, VT 05671-0601; or call 802-241-3678.

Agency of Natural Resources' Land Conservation Plan in Comment Period Until September 30

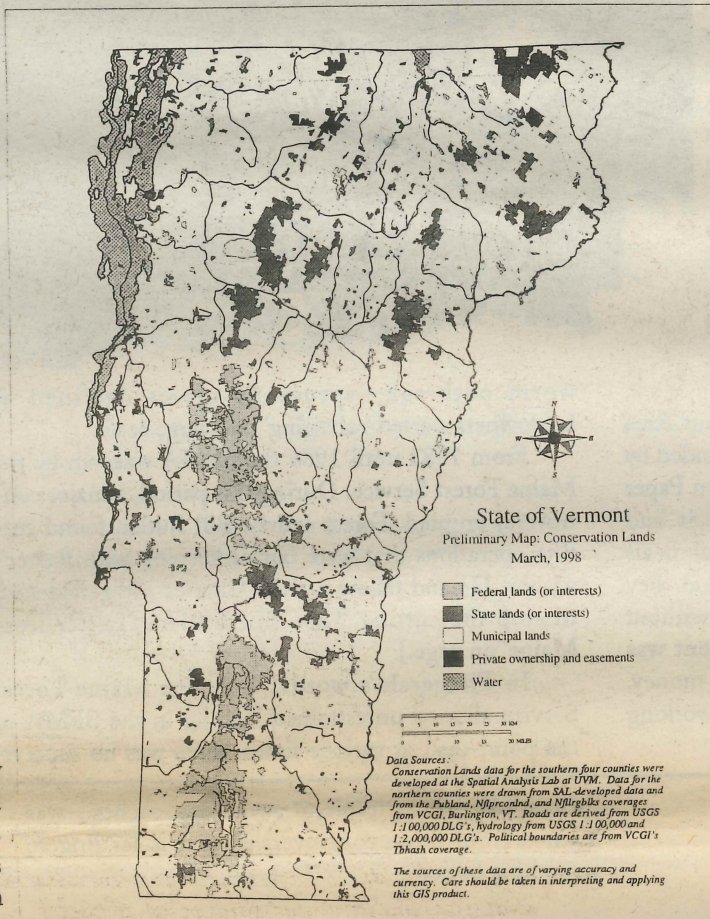
On Friday September 25, a Vermont Interactive Television comment session will afford Vermonters opportunity to comment on the Agency of Natural Resources Land Conservation Plan. The hearing (6:30pm-9:30) will take place at all 12 interactive television sites. Written comments are due by September 30.

The Good News

A preliminary reading of a copy of the report (received near the Forum deadline) suggests that this broader Agency document provides some "push" to the Department of Forests and Parks to be more proactive in their own efforts. The extent to which the insights of reserve design with core reserves, buffers and corridors to protect forest biodiversity are incorporated into the work of the

Steering Committee is encouraging and remarkable (see page 29, "Ecological Reserves and Working Forest in Vermont").

The report tackles the difficulty of implementing reserve design in the context of a landscape of private as well as public ownerships. It establishes Agency priorities for land conservation, which reflect the gamut of conservation interest from waterways to trails and existing



parks. The need for and ongoing projects in landscape inventory, GIS analysis and community involvement, are acknowledged.

"If fee acquisition of a working forest is ultimately required, the Agency will strive to acquire the minimum land area necessary . . . while managing the property in a manner that will preserve the working forest without undermining other public values."

The report also recognizes that large forested tracts of land, public and private, offer the best opportunity to protect ecologic values and economic opportunities. The report clearly also establishes that full fee title acquisition of large forested blocks is a last ditch option where easements will not work; and that the maintenance of "working forest" through easements is a higher priority. The Agency's role acquisition role in a Vermont reserve design will, if the report stands, be focused on small purchases of unique, rare or endangered communities.

But What About Champion Lands?

The plan's approach to large parcels

(presumably such as the 140,000 acres of Essex County now for sale by Champion) is summarized: "... the Agency will not acquire productive, working forestland in fee unless absolutely necessary to protect recreational and/or ecological values . . . If fee acquisition of a working forest is ultimately required, the Agency will strive to acquire the minimum land area necessary for protection of such . . . values while managing the property in a manner that will preserve the working forest without undermining other public values."

The report stops far short of a ringing endorsement of large forested reserves that are kept forever wild and roadless—and instead weights its commentary to support of working forest as the basic matrix within which much smaller reserves are located. In this, it feels it has adhered to what the public supports.

This approach confers great weight to the efficacy of easements in protecting public values. The report does not go into great detail on easements, nor does it suggest how to re-build working forest if, as in the case of Champion's lands, past ownership reflects fiber forestry and historical pattern of high-grading. One wonders, in comparing the white papers of the working groups, whether the easements each have in mind square with each other.

Comment Now

Advocates of big wilderness for Vermont must do more to convince the plan's steering committee that the state can play a role in protecting large wild areas and that these do possess ecologic value absent from a small reserve approach. Demonstrating public support for a wilderness reserve system is also needed.

As one who has long advocated both sawtimber management and a wilderness approach on the Champion lands, I personally feel the plan could do more to suggest ways to marry these approaches. The degraded conditions of such timber holdings invite management that will perpetuate the downward cycle of timber quality: who will be interested in investing thirty years of light cutting to re-build quality?

It is also clear that we have not yet recognized the unique value of a core forested area comprising over 100,000 acres of forest and the opportunities for re-wilding that it offers.

For a copy of the report, or more information, please contact Mike Fraysier (802-241-3682 or mfraysier@fpr.anr.state.vt.us) or visit the Agency web site at www.anr.state.vt.us

The Draft Lands Conservation Plan is an interesting document that seems to reflect hard work and honest effort to meld various perspectives and priorities. It deserves close reading and constructive response. Be sure to comment by September 30. — A.W.

Excerpts from Draft Land Conservation Plan on page 29

Baxter State Forester Jensen Bissell

The 200,000-acre Baxter State Park, home to mile-high Mt. Katahdin, is Maine's premier wilderness. It is to be kept, as governor Percival Baxter expressed in his deed, "forever wild." But not all of it. Not everyone knows that 30,000 acres of Baxter State Park is subject to logging. This also is as Governor Baxter wanted.

In 1955, Baxter wrote to the legislature that, "In my travels in foreign lands I have seen beautiful great forests that for centuries have been producing a crop of wood without depletion. In Sweden, Norway, Finland, Germany, Chile, Russia and elsewhere what has been done by scientifically controlled forestry can be done in Maine. I now make it possible for the state to try a major experiment here at home, an experiment that can mean much for our future timber supply, which all admit is the chief natural resource of our State."

"... I want this township to become a show place for those interested in forestry, a place where a continuing timber crop can be cultivated, harvested and sold; where reforestation and scientific cutting will be employed; an example and an inspiration to others."

Cutting in the Scientific Forest Management Area (SFMA) did not begin at once. It was to be funded by a trust that Baxter left. In 1972, Great Northern Paper Company wanted to exercise cutting rights it had within the 'wilderness' portion of the Park. Such deals (where companies still had cutting rights to land they sold to Baxter) had been consummated before without major protest. But this time, the embarrassment was too much. The Park paid GNP, using Trust money, thus diminishing \$725,000 of what was to be working capital for the SFMA.

In 1976, the Baxter Park Authority (which consists of the state's Attorney General, head of the Maine Forest Service, and commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife) appointed a head forester for the SFMA. Road building did not start until 1981, and cutting by 1982. By then, the state was in a major spruce bud-

sion at all of the thirteen skidders operating in the area. It's obvious, from observation of the landscape and piles of logs in the yarding areas, that the cutting covered the spectrum from heavy high-grading to commercial clearcutting, along with other less than sensitive practices such as whole tree skidding to roadside."

In 1986, cutting operations were suspended and an Advisory Committee (which includes Fitzgerald) was appointed by the Baxter Park Authority. In 1987, the Authority hired a new resource manager, Jensen Bissell.

Jensen has a Bachelor of Science degree in Resource Management from the College of Forestry at the State University of New York at Syracuse. He spent a year after college logging in New York State. Then he went out to Oregon, where he worked as a forester for the Bureau of Land Management for nine years.

He left the BLM (just before the spotted owl controversy) to come back east with his wife. He did not want to work in southern New England. Finding the job of Resource Manager advertised for the SFMA was, Jensen told me, 'serendipitous.'

This interview is divided in two parts. The first part examines the silvicultural approaches of the SFMA. The second part (in the next issue) explores the SFMA's approaches to logging. While the scale of roads, trails, and mechanisation goes beyond the Low-impact Forestry guidelines for woodlots (listed in the last issue), management of the SFMA is still in telling contrast to the Park's industrial neighbors. This is also as Baxter wanted.—*Mitch Lansky*

Part I: Silvicultural Approaches

Learning from Controversy

Mitch Lansky (ML): You stepped into this job after a lot of things had become quite controversial. Some folks would say that wrong steps were taken. How aware are you, as you're managing, of that behind you—those problems of overcutting and undersight?

Jensen Bissell (JB): When I came, a lot of people in the forestry sector looked at me like I was crazy. "You left your job in Oregon and came here? I wouldn't touch this with a ten-foot pole."

I have the best job in the world. But nobody thought that when I came. But the timing was good because things were so difficult. How could they but get better? And there was a lot of support from the Authority and from the Park director to try to get this right. The argument that I find is that people describe this as you did, as a controversy, and try to point out mistakes that people made. Well, I'm sure to make mistakes. It's not whether you'll make mistakes, it's what happens when you realize it.

I find that there was kind of a vindictive attitude on both sides there. People want to point out mistakes and lay blame to a bunch of honest people that were trying to do a good job. When those points were made, it might have to do with how they were made, or the contexts that were made in, or it might have to do with the personalities of the people that heard those mistakes. They got very defensive about it, and from then on, things went down hill.

But when I came, it was good because there was so much support because the Park generally realized that we've got to do this a different way. We realized we weren't on target, but we were trying to get on target. So they were willing to make changes and support that for a while. I could ask for enough rope to hang myself, and everybody was willing to give it to me. And that's a good spot to be in.

ML: What do you think—not in terms of silvicultural

worm outbreak—spruce-fir prices declined as landowners started 'salvaging' on a large scale.

From 1983 until 1986 the SFMA was run by the Maine Forest Service. During this period, a major controversy erupted. Forest activist Bill Butler, found cutting operations that were out of keeping with Baxter's wishes. He and fellow activist Charles Fitzgerald sued to stop the cutting. [See Bill Butler's 'Letter from Maine' on page.]

In Fitzgerald's words, "... the Maine Forest Service allowed unrestrained logging in the SFMA to the point that, at various times, there was no supervi-

approaches, but in terms of social approaches—was learned from those controversies that is leading to something better?

JB: One thing we learned was the importance of the involvement of the advisory committee and both the expertise and the wide range of philosophies they can bring to the table. This is a public forest. The public has to look at this. We need to consider points of view from a number of areas. But also to understand that our mandate isn't what the public wants—it's what Governor Baxter wanted. The interpretation [of Baxter's Trust communications] we can argue about, not the general direction.

Baxter's mandate

ML: Did you have an interpretation of what you thought Baxter wanted and did you feel that you were suited to fulfill that desire?

JB: The interpretation I got was one that I read out of materials I got before [interviewing with the trustees]. I read all the communications about the Scientific Forest Management

This is a public forest. The public has to look at this. We need to consider points of view from a number of areas. But also to understand that our mandate isn't what the public wants—it's what Governor Baxter wanted.



Jensen Bissell. Photo courtesy of Baxter Scientific Management Area

Area. And of course, a lot of the controversy written in the Maine Times [about the cutting controversies] dealt with the interpretation of what Governor Baxter wanted.

So I felt that, yeah, I was a good fit for my interpretations of Baxter's wishes. Beyond that, it seemed to me very unclear that there was anything else that could be rooted as having been defined or institutionalized regarding the SFMA.

ML: Baxter talked a bit about turning the SFMA into a 'showplace.' It seems that it was important that it be a 'beautiful, great forest,' and that implies, beyond just forestry, aesthetics, large trees, and large volumes. He also wanted it to be a showplace for silviculture. I wonder how you, over time, have been interpreting what he wanted—those vague ideas into something more specific, especially the idea of 'scientific forestry.'

JB: 'Scientific forestry' can be debated forever, but simply put, it's forestry based on science. The way Governor Baxter described his desires for the SFMA also clearly includes the term 'beautiful' and there's an aesthetic there that is very difficult to define scientifically.

What I found when I talk to people about the forest is that we share a very uniform aesthetic. Everybody knows what looks good. There's very little disagreement about that. When people see a forest that appeals to them, it appeals to almost everybody. When they see a forest that doesn't appeal to them, it's disappealing to almost everybody. I've never found disunity in that approach. So I feel that what I would feel looks good is right, because it will probably look good to most people.

It's clear that Governor Baxter wanted all those things, but when people describe that, they often use the connective that you used 'but.' And that 'but' shouldn't be there. It's not necessary to define a forest that is aesthetic, great, beautiful, high-volume production, with that 'but' in there. Those things should fit together very well.

Bissell Continued

ML: I guess the 'but[t]' is in the log. [both chuckle]
To what extent do you see 'scientific management' as 'ecosystem management'?

JB: Well, to a great degree, they are the same. But I'm hesitant to really talk about this. When you begin to talk about the whole system, and management within the whole system. . . I can't credit this phrase, but somebody said it and it wasn't me, but the thought was, "ecosystems aren't just more complicated than we think, they're more complicated than we can think." That stuck with me. It might be true. My feeling is, though, they might be more complicated than we can think, but they're not more complicated than we can feel. And there comes a point when you can't possibly gather enough scientific data to answer your question, but we probably could step back and make a very sound judgment, based on what we know and what we feel is right. There's a point where ecosystem management and scientific forestry differ—they separate because you need to make a subjective judgment.

European influence

ML: Baxter spent a bit of time in Europe and he was obviously moved by the type of forestry he saw there. But forestry in Europe has changed since then. You have been to Europe, and I wonder if there are things that you saw on your trip that you have wanted to incorporate into the Park.

JB: We have incorporated some things that we saw on the trip. There were clearly goods and services and forest products produced that Baxter felt were important for society, and he recognized were important in Maine. There was also a longevity and a beauty there that he felt might be missing or imperiled in Maine. I think those were the core issues that he tried to allow us a chance to demonstrate in the SFMA.

The Europeans were, in many cases, focused on a crop tree, or a final tree approach. We have instituted a number of sites where we've tried that type of approach. Instead of looking at the trees we want to remove, we look at the trees that we really want to hold. We found that in our stands, because they are disuniform—the Europeans tend to do this in plantations—our stands have trees that are all diameters and all species within a given stand. It does provide a clarity of thought approach that is very refreshing to go ahead and look at those trees you want to keep—all the trees, whether they be two inches or twenty inches—pick the ones you want to keep and then manage the adjoining trees to affect that.

ML: Do you mark the crop trees?

JB: Yes, we mark them and maintain that mark. We're still looking at this. We have a couple of stands where we have put this in place and we put in permanent plots so we can look at the development of this over a long term. We find right away that it gets to be a situation where you can't have large-removal harvests. They fit more in our mixedwood stands, and you have to have light, consistent removals over time because you have to treat your crop trees very carefully, and slowly bring them along.

We've also found that we were looking, for instance, for maybe fifty trees per acre, and we were finding thirty. There weren't that many good trees there. That's a problem that's disturbing to us, but it's something we clearly have to work for.

The other thing we've done is—the Europeans have something they call Femelschlag, and we have a

couple of areas where we put that in place. It's kind of a reverse group selection. They'll make very small openings in the forest as an initial harvest, and from then on, it's simply a gradual enlargement of that opening until the openings merge, sometime fifty or sixty years down the line.

I can't impress on people the power of actually seeing this, when it's been in place for fifty years. It's one thing to hear someone talk about it or see their first harvest. It's another thing to stand in the center of an opening with trees that are thirty or forty feet high and watch that gradually decline toward the edges when again there's a mature stand there, and realize that they're going to come in for the twentieth time and work that edge out a little bit more, and see how that really has taken place over a long period of time.

ML: I'm told that some of the forests in parts of Germany average around sixty cords per acre. Yours average a little over twenty five . . .

JB: In most cases, they're not comparable land types. I was really astounded about how Oregonian, a lot of the German forests looked. We saw forests in Germany where they

had gathered Douglas fir seed from the mouth of the Columbia river nearly a century ago and had planted it and grown the trees. I thought I was back in Oregon. This was tall wood, which was indicative of a good site. The rainfall in many areas was above sixty inches a year on productive forest soils. It's not comparable.

ML: Your Boody Brook area . . .

JB: Still not those kinds of volumes. The Boody Brook Natural Area is valuable as a comparison to other sites on the SFMA and in Maine.

Silvicultural approaches

ML: What are some other silvicultural approaches that you are taking that might be different?

JB: Our silviculture isn't based on produc-

So find your best trees, and allow them to grow better. That's the simple philosophy as we go into these stands.



*Saw timber stand in the making.
Photo courtesy of Baxter Scientific Management Area*

tion. We don't ever estimate how much the stand is likely to produce by a given cut or a given harvest. We don't know that. We'll go in and take some preliminary plots, and measure the stand structure in a preliminary way either over a whole area or a particular block.

The first thing we'll do is put roads in. Then we organize the area based on operational blocks that are really attached to extremes in topography and a lot of

other artful judgments that we put together to make operational areas. We also identify areas we're not going to operate in, either because we want to hold them for reserves that are representative but we don't want to work in there right now, or there are environmental concerns, or we need them for connectivity, or a whole host of figures.

We end up with some areas that we want to approach on a harvesting basis, and we'll take some

preliminary plots. We've already walked through them, so we have an idea of what's there in our head, but we'll document that with a plot or two or four or eight or whatever we need to get a comfortable feel about stand structure. And usually, we've been doing this for long enough that. . . you know the stands aren't terribly variable. We end up having a good idea of what we're going to work with.

After that, the silviculture, the removals, are organized on a hierarchical basis. We're looking to improve volume that we have currently—standing trees. We don't care if they're two feet high or fifty feet high. The overarching goal is to improve the potential of the stand to grow and develop over time.

So find your best trees, and allow them to grow better. That's the simple philosophy as we go into these stands. That might mean that we have to have overstory removals or heavier cuts, but we found we hardly ever need that. Generally, there's a plethora of trees of suitable size and vigor and potential existing on the site. So you focus on trees that don't have that potential or equal vigor...

ML: That would be your 'pecking order. . .'

JB: Yeah, that's kind of a pecking order thing. After that you kind of mix in requirements you know we'll need for our harvesting system to make things work out. You look at how your layout will be and what trees you'll mark. We tend to mark a whole stand more lightly than we would like it to come out because we know we're going to have some yarding roads that will take out trees that we don't mark. That's unavoidable to some degree.

Stands are usually cruised immediately after harvest, and that goes into our database so we can track the stand based on its operational date and its current volume and structure at that point in time.

Stand Structure

ML: In reading over the draft plan, my understanding was that a large percentage of what you manage is going to be even-aged—either single-aged, or two-aged stands. Perhaps eighty percent would be that way and only twenty percent would be what you would call 'multi-aged' stands. In fact, the plan made it seem like the multi-aged stands would diminish by a few percentage points.

JB: Why do you say that?

ML: Well, it went from 21% current to 19% for your target. And so my first question on this is why such a high proportion in even-age, rather than go towards more uneven-age?

JB: We're still talking about that. But the fact of the matter is, played out over the long term, if you actually try to

visualize this, we're talking about a hundred and forty year rotation, with a twenty-year cutting cycle. That means that, understanding you wouldn't enter a stand until at least forty, we have something like six entries into a stand before final harvest, if you want to call it that. At final harvest time we're talking about leaving some volume per acre as residual holdovers for a whole host of bio-

Continued on page 26

logical reasons other than timber.

But the fact of the matter is, in Maine forests, with our typical mixes, if you enter stands every twenty years with a removal, no matter how careful or how light, for six times, you will have an uneven-aged stand at the end of one hundred and forty years. It's unavoidable. From age forty, you have a hundred years before what you call a 'final harvest' of that stand. Most removals that you conduct in that stand will elicit some response in regeneration.

So, I know how it sounds. It sounds like an area-based, even-aged approach, but with that length of rotation, and that

Instead of looking at the trees we want to remove, we look at the trees that we really want to hold.

length of cutting cycle, and the sylvics of Maine trees, you will have, basically, an uneven-aged forest over most of the SFMA. It's unavoidable. It's difficult to harvest the Maine woods light enough not to trigger a regeneration response.

As foresters, we're still hung up on making this strict division between 'even age management' and 'uneven-aged management.' I think most Maine forests naturally progress to forests holding two or three identifiable-age structural cohorts—mostly as a result of distinct disturbances. I think that both pure one-age forests and pure all-aged forests are rare in Maine and may be mostly a forestry textbook construct. Our approach will generally allow us to develop stands with generally uneven structures, or more importantly, a landscape with a diverse mixture of forest structures.

ML: So, in some ways, the way you have it in the plan is misleading?

JB: Well, what you're reading is the target summaries for stand development structure and distribution, which are really rough targets, taken out of the Council's [Maine Council on Sustainable Forest Management or MCSFM] work. It's useful to place the ideas on the table for debate, but just like you said, it's not really. . . Technically, that's even-aged management, but it won't produce an even-structured stand.

ML: You spoke of your 'final harvest' as removing perhaps eighty-seven percent of the volume.

JB: Well I don't know of anybody that's practicing removals on one hundred and forty year old stands, so I'm not sure what the stand will be like, frankly, when it's time for that removal. I don't really know. So I've tried to envision the fact that we plan to culture a lot of large trees that we feel are fairly stable, but a lot of them will have been cut along the way too.

The problem, the conundrum at a hundred and forty years, is going to be that there are too many good-looking trees to conduct that kind of harvest on. And it might not be an important question then.

ML: Why one hundred and forty years? I've got several bits of information that would suggest that with red spruce, one hundred and forty years is certainly not the culmination of its growing. At the Weymouth Point area, where Bob Seymour was looking at an uncut, two-aged stand with an older cohort, and it was the older cohort that was putting on the volume. It showed no signs of having reached its culmination. It was still pumping out a lot of growth. His research on Austin Cary's and other's look at old-growth red spruce in the Adirondacks and in Maine showed that there was almost a linear relationship between age and diameter. It did not seem to slow down at one hundred and forty,

at two hundred, or two hundred and fifty.

So when you're putting on increased growth of diameters that keep on getting bigger and heights that perhaps that are getting bigger, why cut it?

JB: Well, a good question, but that's a very difficult thing to ascertain. I mean, the traditional argument about rotation age, from a biological standpoint, being the intersection of periodic mean and the annual mean, indicates, when we look at our stands and our cores, that probably it's around eighty. I think that we would need a lot more study on this for me to determine that spruce would productively grow that long in the future. I don't know if those relationships you've argued about are really going to hold

through over the

been across the diameter classes.

ML: So then you really do have the potential for uneven-aged management?

[Femelschagwald] : . . . very small openings in the forest as an initial harvest, and from then on, it's simply a gradual enlargement . . . until the openings merge, sometime fifty or sixty years down the line.

JB: Yes, because our quality extends across the diameter classes. Our marker is generally focused on quality, regardless of size, and even species. The first four or five years we really were hard on balsam fir. Now, even that's evolved out that

we find good-looking fir, and we hold on to it. Regardless of site or the record of fir on that site, we're holding on to the fir if it looks good.

ML: I have a friend who did some cutting on one of the larger landownerships where he did a thinning from below, and he was a bit upset because he ended up cutting trees that he knew had a lot of potential, but they were just a smaller-diameter. . .

JB: When the Swedes came up and tested the Rottne, they did two larger blocks for us. We put a lot of plots in beforehand—we wanted to see what the volume was and the production—and that's where we used our numbers to crunch how that would come out for us.

We didn't mark either stand. They were offended at the idea that we would mark the stands, and we understood that. We talked at length about how we would approach it, and what we would do. But what they really did, after their harvesting, was remove both ends of the bell-curve of the stand. So we ended up with a very aesthetic, very homogenous stand of eight-inch trees or ten-inch trees. They took out the big trees and all the little trees.

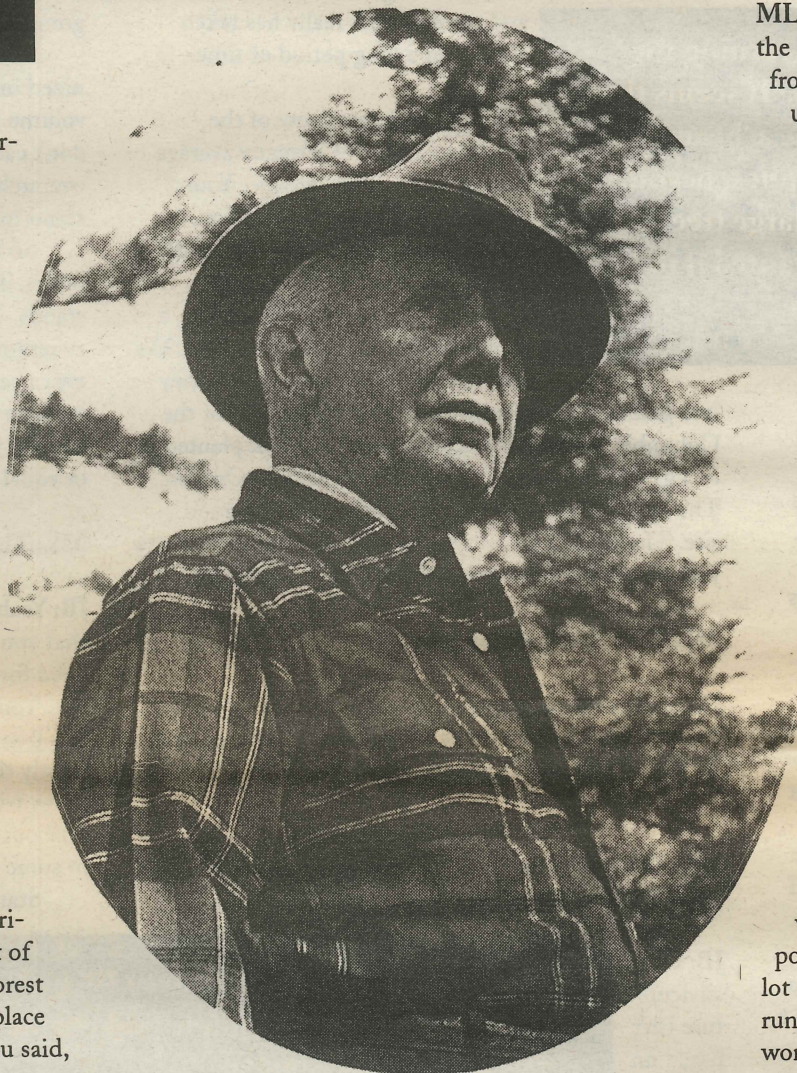
We find that that's not the way our cuts look. We tend to take out trees all over the diameters so we get this kind of ragged look—not so much in these overstory removals of poplar, because we have two stories already and we're working in that upper story, mostly taking out poplar. But in our softwood stands, we tend to leave a lot of mixture. We're going to be missing this middle rung of the ladder for a while. But in thirty years we won't be, and it will be almost impossible to say, "Yeah, it's time to take off this overstory." I can't imagine it, personally.

There will be some stands on poorer, ledgier sites, that are less productive where that two-stage shelterwood, or three-stage shelterwood will fit well. But it's not a big part of our land area.

ML: I was asking you [during lunch] about overstory removals and you said that you can't see doing that to some of the stands that might apparently be ready, like over-mature poplar.

JB: It's something that we're really going to have to look at the next year or two because we have large areas of old burn types—from the nineteen thirties' burn and from right around the turn of the century—that have overstories of poplar, and some birch and some softwoods mixed in—large understories, two-storied stands with a softwood understory on a primary softwood site. We know we need to release that softwood if these are going to be the show-case forests of two thousand fifty.

But we find that when we enter [these stands], we don't want to release them all at once. That we hold on to a bunch of poplar, because it has some structural characteristics we can't find elsewhere and won't have for a while. And then we have some softwood in there that we don't feel we're really ready to turn over yet. So, it's hard for us, and maybe it's a hang-up we have, that we still seem to find reasons or potential to hold onto some part of the volume. So I know that we have an



Percival P. Baxter
Photo courtesy of the Baxter Collection, Maine State Library.

landscape.

ML: They hold through on individual trees though, and you would be watching those individual trees.

JB: I made that point a while ago. If you really envision you've got this a hundred and forty year stand that's harvested every twenty years, six or seven times, I can't picture that I would go in and say, "Yeah, let's leave five cords an acre here." There are going to be too many trees there that have too much potential to remove at any one time. I don't think it's a bad outcome.

There's a very large possibility that we will flow out of some area approach and into just a continuous cycle of that.

ML: One of the problems of the area approach, where you're doing thinnings, versus uneven-aged silviculture, is that sometimes the thinnings you might do simplify the stand structure. You might do a thinning from below [a thinning of the smaller diameter trees in a stand] where you get. . .

JB: We never have. Our stand removals have always

Letter from Maine

Why is the Forestry Profession Embracing Multi-Aged Silviculture?

The public's rejection of industrial forestry, apparent from Maine to the West coast, is acknowledged by the academics who taught it and the government foresters who practiced it on public lands. Only as unruly a bunch as those who challenged our war against Vietnam (and as few) dared question the murder of North American forests: the tame environmentalists pointed at the Amazon rain forest, not at what big owners were doing to Maine. We didn't stop the plunder; most of the North Woods, the industrial forest, is a sorry remnant now mindlessly haggled by clearcuts for hardwood chips.



Some thirty years ago I said to a forester for one of Maine's forest management firms doing heavy commercial

clearcutting, cutting everything merchantable, "What do your client owners think of this practice?" He answered, "All they care about is that the checks get bigger."

A sea change in forestry is the sole topic of the July 1998 issue of the *Journal of Forestry*, the magazine of the Society of American Foresters. The topic is 'Multi-Aged silviculture: Solutions for Today's Challenges.' Key words include structural diversity, balance, sustainability, selection, and uneven-aged management. The editor and some of the authors accept the premise that "silviculture and land management goals are inseparable, and as management goals change with society's needs, silvicultural practices must change, too." For a group claiming to promote forest science, the stated premise admits that forest practice is political, and, therefore, unscientific. In turn, it points up the irrelevance of foresters; if silviculture is scientific, there ought not to be fashions in the silviculturist's prescription.

Some of the articles in this *Journal* approach the new fashion grudgingly. Writing of the Central Appalachian forest, two USFS researchers say "the

property rights of forest owners entitle them to define the forest benefits they desire." But this says the landowner is the forester already! Invoking the multitude of nonindustrial private owners in West Virginia as requiring a wide variety of outputs is an argument similar to one heard in Maine for many years. But the forestry on small Maine holdings is as bad as industry's—the industry controls forest practice through the depressed prices it pays both owner and woods operator. This economic control is amplified and extended by industry's complete domination of the Maine Department of Conservation and the Maine Forest Service, their respective chiefs on loan from International Paper and Baskahegan, an industrial-strength landowner. Worse, for forty years or so the University taught industrial forestry to the dull lot who have butchered Maine.

Writing from Utah, one of the authors warns that social values are subject to change, shifting management objectives and even interpretations of what constitutes sustainable forest management. He does say that resource objectives should not dictate silvicultural systems or prescriptions. Here we could live with his description of their spruce-fir system as 'even-aged' because of catastrophes at very long intervals of 200 to 300 years, rather than our promise of a feller-buncher every forty.

In the Pacific Northwest, the word is that uneven-aged silviculture was taken up by small owners, followed by state and federal, and last, large industrial managers. It is presented as a socially acceptable alternative to economically reliable even-aged management with clearcutting. The writer, a professor at Oregon State, is willing to consider all-age management solely to gain public acceptance. It is regrettable that he continues with, "... questions about timber quality and production will be a deterrent to widespread accep-

tance until any growth-and-yield trade-offs are quantified." We may ask why the professors have not, long ago, determined these values. I have asked some why they don't model all-aged stands; they answer that it is too complex.

The author of the final article also criticizes his colleagues for lack of research on silvicultural methods other than simple liquidation. He is Robert O. Curtis, scientist emeritus USFS, Olympia, WA. He shows a 1936 experiment on selective cutting in Douglas-fir which turned out badly, but only because 'Depression-era markets and inadequate logging technology' led to failure to obtain Douglas-fir regeneration. Other difficulties in the experiment are mentioned. One might conclude that the trial was designed to fail. Curtis points out that eastern educators, among others, focus on this episode as providing a convenient rationalization for a practice that was only a little more than highgrading, proving that clearcutting is the only system available for Douglas-fir. The history is all too human; please read it.

We can thank Curtis also for an earlier study on Level of Growing Stock, reported in the July 1997 *SAF Journal of Forestry*. The title is 'LOGS—A Pioneering Example of Silvicultural Research'. It begins by stating the hypothesis it was meant to test—that essentially the same cubic-volume production could be obtained over a wide range of stand densities, and that thinning merely redistributed a constant volume increment among varying numbers of trees. This generalization was incorporated in standard silvicultural texts of thirty years ago, unfortunately including that of David Smith of Yale, as Curtis tells us. He writes "The LOGS results show clearly that the assumption of constant gross total cubic-volume increment across a wide range of stocking levels is incorrect in young Douglas-fir stands." We look in vain for

eastern studies to support or refute this. Maine 'intensive management' is usually thinning or spacing, or sparsely-stocked sunburned plantings, and herbiciding to eliminate 'competition'—Minnie Mouse forestry.

In addition to contradicting the spacing hypothesis that increment is independent of stocking level, the LOGS study shows that at ages between 45 and 58 years the current annual growth rates are two to three times greater than the mean annual increment over the entire period. Curtis notes that these study installations are now well within the range of harvest ages used by some owners. This translates into cutting trees off when they are really beginning to grow, arguing against short rotations.

To paraphrase David Smith, an awful lot of bad silviculture has left us a lot of awful forestry. The only difficulty with the present course correction is that we won't see any difference for at least a hundred years, when we begin to see a multiaged forest. Again in the July 1998 *Journal of Forestry*, Robert Seymour, professor of forest ecosystems at Orono, with Laura Kenefic, USFS graduate research forester, accepting that we might have multiage conifer forests in Maine, question traditional silvicultural methods of achieving balance and sustainability. They, in turn, credit Kevin O'Hara of the University of Montana for raising the questions, and for developing general arguments, which, they state, may not be self-evident to foresters familiar only with traditional approaches. Noting that O'Hara's work contradicts other growth studies that show a decline in growth efficiency in older trees, they offer the reward of growing more and better fiber than promised by 'intensive' clearcut methods in a better forest than most of you could or will see in Maine. The cancer of greed in the large owners has devoured hope of an esthetically and economically satisfying forest.

Bill Butler
23 July 1998

Bissell

area-based approach on here, but it's unlikely that we're going to be really strict in adhering to that, on that acreage every year.

ML: Do you think that you could do an uneven-aged approach now that we have computer capabilities for record keeping and good capabilities of doing surveys of the plots? In Germany and Switzerland they're doing the Planterwald, the nature-oriented forestry—where they're doing group selection and single-tree selection, and they're holding trees to fairly large diameters. In fact it's easier to justify the larger diameters [under these systems].



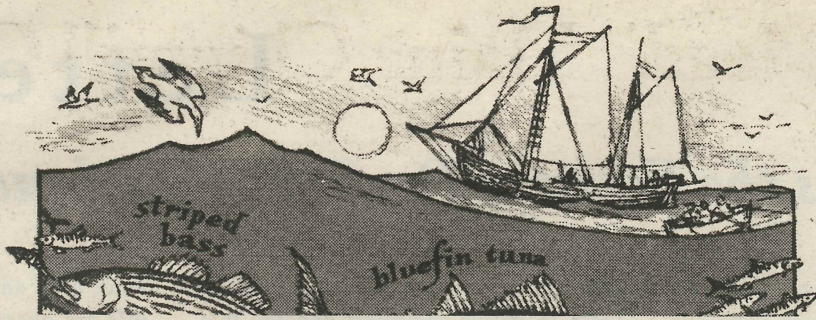
Sappi Lands near Little Brassua Lake. Percival Baxter intended that forestry in Baxter State Park be compared to its industrial neighbors. Photo courtesy Conrad Heeschen.

JB: I don't have any doubt... My feeling is that we will evolve to this over a period of time, the next several decades. We have conducted partial cuts on a lot of acres now on the SFMA, and in some regards it's a stronger removal than will be done in the future,

because we had more difficult quality to remove. After this, I think when we go back to those stands and look at them with the idea that they are 'shelterwooded', and that this was an 'even-aged' approach, we're going to find it very difficult to conduct a final harvest removal at any point in time, because there's always going to be too many good trees [in the stand] to do that to.

So we're going to have a period of rough two-stage, or three-stage shelterwood types of approaches that are going to gradually become uneven-structured stands. (*Interview Concludes Next Issue*)

Coastal Waters Watch



WILDERNESS IN THE GULF OF MAINE: A progress report

By Ron Huber

Large swathes of the waters and submerged lands of the Gulf of Maine *WILL* be designated wilderness. The process is no more stoppable than the nascent forest wilderness movement was at the last turn of the century.

Whether sooner rather than later remains to be seen; the tools needed to free large areas of our vast salty neighbor to the east from the hamfisted management regimes of state and federal government are now available, awaiting some John Muir o' the Sea to arise and use them.

The Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment's Marine Protected Areas Project (GOMMPAP) as delineated by participants at the projects April 1997 conference in Freeport, Maine, has completed Phase One—assembling the models and legal mechanisms with which the first Gulf wilderness areas will be identified and designated. See list of available resources, below.

With this step complete, the next step—looking for locations—now commences. NARP's Coastal Waters Project will focus on moving the Hague Line Peace Park proposal forward. As advanced by biologist Martin Willison of Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, the Peace Park will consist of a ten kilometer wide band stretching the length of the US-Canada offshore boundary dividing the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank. This roughly 2,000 square mile reserve, encompassing a wide variety of habitats and species assemblages, will be permanently freed of fishing, mining, drilling or other extractive activities.

Because the Peace Park reserve will be limited to federal waters of both nations, Coastal Waters is also examining the notion of designating certain inshore commercial shipping lanes in state and provincial

waters as no-take marine reserve zones as well.

What both concepts have in common is that they are extensions of regulatory regimes already in place, would cover a variety of habitat types, and are already subject to enforcement oversight under existing government mandates.

Contact Coastal Waters at (207) 594-5717 or by email <coastwatch@acadia.net> for more information.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE AT THE GULF OF MAINE MARINE PROTECTED AREAS WEBSITE!

The following website will take you to the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment's Marine Protected Areas Project webpage: www.gulfofmaine.org/library/mpas/mpa.htm

Below is a description of some of the documents available at the site. Irritatingly, many of the documents are available only as 'pdf' files, which require an additional software tool, the 'Adobe Reader' to view them. Even then, pdf files are clumsy to read. The editors of the website need to make their documents available in the same web-based format that most documents on the web are commonly available in.

Documents available from or through the GOM MPA website:

1) Hard copies of 'An Evaluation of Legal Mechanisms for Establishing Marine Protected Areas in the Gulf of Maine' are now available through the Maine State Planning Office. For a copy, please call Lorrain Lessard at (207) 287-1486. This report is also available through the Project's web site at: www.gulfofmaine.org/library/mpas/mpa.htm.

[Note: PDF file]

2) Draft copies of 'Evaluating the Role of Site Selection Criteria for Marine Protected Areas in the Gulf of Maine' are available electronically through GOMMPAP director Sam Brody

(gom.mpa@whoi.edu) and will also be on the Project's web site (www.gulfofmaine.org/library/mpas/mpa.htm) in the near future." [Note: Not available at the website as of July 25th]

3) In collaboration with the International Marine Mammal Association (IMMA), the Project has produced a MPA Educational Fact Sheet. The Fact Sheet is meant for the general public or anyone interested in marine conservation issues. It can be accessed through IMMA's web site (www.imma.org) and will be posted shortly on the Project's web site (www.gulfofmaine.org/library/mpas/mpa.htm). Please download a copy, photocopy it at least 20 times, and distribute it to interested parties. Hard copy version will also be printed in the near future.

4) Students at the College of the Atlantic in Maine have produced a report entitled 'Evaluation of a Proposed Marine Protected Area Along the Hague Line.' Hard copies can be obtained for \$4.50 by emailing Traci Hickson at earthday@downeast.net. The document will also be posted on the Project's web site (www.gulfofmaine.org/library/mpas/mpa.htm) in the near future. [Note: not yet available at the GOMMPA website as of July 25, 1998]

5) Upcoming products include: a) a GIS map and database of existing coastal and marine protected areas; and b) a report entitled 'An Evaluation of the Establishment Processes for Marine Protected Areas in the Gulf of Maine: Understanding the Role of Community Involvement and Public Participation.'

For these and other information, including an online discussion forum on Gulf of Maine topics, and an extensive bibliography of marine reserve-related research papers, visit the Gulf of Maine Council's website: www.gulfofmaine.org.

Back to the Land

"We put our back to the land, both as nurturer and as defender."

Reflecting on the Forest Floor

by Thomas Foote

During and after the January '98 icestorm, I rejoiced at the power and the random symmetry of nature—at the even spread of litter across the forest floor. All that wonderful biomass going back to earth!

After all, dead brush is good for the forest floor. It eventually becomes food for the next crop of trees, providing the vigor needed to reach for the sky—the natural fertilizer for a forest is the forest itself.

However, limbs and tops serve many beneficial mechanical functions as well. They break up and slow down summer's hot surface breeze that would otherwise suck moisture from the ground. Together with the leaves they ensnare come fall, they cushion the forest floor from the weight of winter snows and from a multitude of insulating air pockets to further buffer

the forest soil from winter's cold.

In the end, the heat of decay—the slow fire of the soil—helps the northern forest soil community continue its vibrant dynamism through the winter months, thus yielding up an open porous sponge for Spring snowmelt.

And of course decay is not an end but just a beginning, for decayed organic matter becomes humus—the glue binding mineral particles together, the catalyst platform for most soil chemistry, the holding zone for otherwise water soluble organic compounds produced at much effort by past biologic life and crammed full of stored solar energy.

Humus holds these important nutrients as on a platter, waiting for the next probing root hair to suck them up, together with moisture and send them aloft to complete the pageant of life.

Separating the mechanical and the

chemical from the biological is an intellectual trick mankind uses to order the universe. Such tricks inevitably narrow the view.

Thus I look to rejoice daily at the random kindnesses of the natural world. From birth through death, we are blessed with the universal grace of life.

Nowhere is this grace more evident for me, more tangible, than within a natural forest. It seems to me the ultimate human challenge that our generations must successfully negotiate—how to work from within a natural forest to acquire the materials we need yet leave the essence—the dynamism—of the forest intact and ongoing. If we can succeed with the forests of the earth then we can probably succeed at living in balance with all earth's lifeforms and ecosystems. If we cannot succeed with the forests, then we most likely will not prevail beyond

the next millenium in our self-assumed role as the dominant life force on earth.

A certain humbleness is, I believe, appropriate.

Earth Cycles

Gunshots! Shattering Glass!

Prunings pitch earthward.

Crystal Forest feeds itself.



Mead's Maine Chipmill Gets The Big Boot

by Ron Huber

"To fight and conquer in all your battles is not true excellence. Excellence consists of breaking your enemy's resistance without fighting." -Paul Watson.

Maine public radio news at noon on June 10th was terse and to the point: "Mead Paper is scrapping plans to build a woodchip facility in Hanover.... Mead had proposed a plan that would have created 35 jobs, but the plans generated opposition in the town. . . . Mead promised to make some changes in its design, but in a statement today, the company said those changes raised the cost of the project too much."

What happened?

Where the biggest chipmill in New England would have rumbled and roared, 24 hours/day, seven days a week, transforming tens of thousands of acres of the Maine Woods into perhaps a million tons of anonymous woodchips, a quiet forested mountain shelf peacefully abides, alive with oak, maple, spruce, ferns, lady slippers, frogs, black bears, and all their many relations, low on the shoulder of Puzzle Mountain, in the middle watershed of the River valley of southwestern Maine.

Things weren't always so rosy. Shortly before Mead Paper Corporation threw in the towel on June 10th on its proposed mega chipmill in the tiny town of Hanover, Maine, everything looked like it was going Mead's way: Large sums had been invested in political contributions and select consultants' fees; there were only friends in the governor's mansion and state legislature. Local newspapers were primed and poised to support Mead editorially. The town planning board, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and US

Army Corps of Engineers stood ready to fast track Mead down their well-greased skids. Veteran chipmill builders/operators Fulghum Fibers had been hired to design, build and operate the mammoth million ton/year tree-gobbler. The site itself was replete with survey stakes and test bores; even violated with a dirt road.

Yet in a matter of a few short weeks the chipmill went from 'done deal' to checkmated so completely that Mead dared not even apply for a single permit, anywhere, on any level of government. The company had been outmaneuvered in a textbook-perfect NIMBY-Plus action, in which people banded together across socio-economic strata, sought and obtained expert help from outside their community, and successfully repelled the unwanted industrial invader.

Mead's hearts & minds forays—dog-and-pony shows at the Hanover Town Hall, replete with slick PR displays, jobs 'n taxes rhetoric, softball question-dropping shills sprinkled through the audience, and the other banal industry psy-op tactics, were so full of manure that they caused a grassroots group to immediately sprout up.

Initially a quarter-dozen residents of Hanover who saw the canker in Mead's rose—the transformation of their quiet rural village into a round-the-clock noisy and dangerous industrial zone—found each other in their discontent.

Dubbing themselves River Valley Voice of Reason (RVVR) they researched carefully, discovering the chipmill-fighting Dogwood Alliance through the World Wide Web, to their great joy, for 'You are not alone' is ever one of the most empowering things to learn. Dogwood sent advice both written and in the person of John Johnson, whose tour of the site and meeting with key RVVR activists, strengthened their resolve even further.

They sought out the weak points

of the enemy (the noise, traffic, property devaluation, overcutting, wetlands degradation etc that accompany creation of a high capacity chipmill), and pulled together a multi-tiered defense strategy of town-level chipmill moratoria, a credible demand for full review under Maine's mini-NEPA, tight supervision of town and state permit reviewers, a meeting with a ranking EPA-Region 1 official already interested in intervening in Maine's statewide chipmill frenzy, consciousness raising local petitions and telephone trees; a very readable, informative, friendly-yet-alarm-bell-ringing newsletter, (the next-to-last issue of which featured a splendid article by Dogwood Bill Belitskus) sent to every property owner in town, anti chipmill signs along the roads, full-page ads in the local newspapers, and more.

Soon the well laid plans of Mead were crumbling. Town and state officials, buried under a blizzard of calls, faxes and letters from dozens of informed and outraged residents and vacation home-owners, refused to accept Mead's application, citing conspicuous gaps in information on noise, traffic, property values and wetlands degradation.

The state went further under pressure from NARP's Coastal Waters Project, which saw Mead's proposal as an export operation in the works, certain to bring exotic lobster-killing parasites in the ballast tanks of incoming foreign woodchip ships, ordering the company to prepare a Wood Supply Study under Maine's Site Location of Development Act (38 MRSA 485-A-1-A) that would lay bare the size, duration and cumulative impact of the woodchipmaker project on existing forest users, both human and wild.

Because the 'significant public interest' and other red flags in state law were triggered, the company's application would be 'elevated' to the Maine Board of Environmental Protection, an

appointed decision making body that would have required formal public hearings, enabled cross examination by RVVERs and Dogs alike of every assertion made by Mead and Fulghum's 'experts', and generally requiring that every facet of the company's plans be held up to scrutiny.

On a parallel track, EPA Region-1 was sharpening its knives to dig into the Woodsupply study, should Mead have the audacity to prepare it. Even mainstream moderate group Maine Audubon Society was preparing a lethal injection of forest sustainability comments and objections.

Like a pitbull fighting a herd of angry porcupines, Mead fruitlessly growled and snapped, barking threats and blandishments, enlisting the bureau chief of a major Maine media outlet to violate the journalistic code of ethics and extol the chippers at a public meeting she was covering; even flying townspeople to what Mead imagined was a perfect Potemkin Village of a chipmill (the Dewey Rose, Georgia operation) that the Hanoverians nevertheless correctly saw as a noisy, dangerous forest eater.

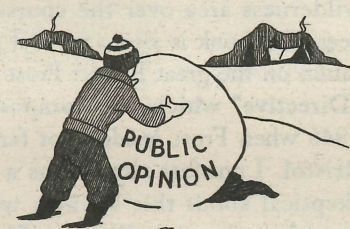
Forced to follow the law, Mead finally decided that the cost of protecting the Hanover community from its noise, traffic and other insults was too high; furthermore, that it didn't want to reveal how much deforestation it would take to operate the mill at the profit margin it desired, nor how long it would be around.

The March date for construction startup became the April date, became the June date, then, like a soap bubble in a hailstorm, went poof! on June 10th, leaving nary a trace beyond a few survey stakes, a degraded wetland, and an empowered community willing to share what it learned with other towns, should Mead be so foolish as to try again elsewhere in Maine. ☞

Vermont Forestry News
cont. from page 23

Ecological Reserves & Working Forest in Vermont

Excerpts from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Draft Lands Conservation Plan



From the Ecological White Paper

"Unfortunately what gets lost, and is often the source of conflict between interest groups, is that we now know that protection of these [ecological] values is not possible by simply focusing on isolated parcels of land or isolated species."

"To protect Vermont's native biodiversity, we envision a reserve system that would use fee acquisition for the core reserve areas themselves and easements or other protection tools to protect the surrounding lands and the interconnections between core reserves. While these spiderwebs may appear intimidating on a planning map, the reality is that much of the land area covered by the reserve would be private land, subject to easements to maintain the ecological viability of the landscape and to prevent fragmentation. Public ownership would be targeted at the smaller core reserve areas where uses would be limited in an effort to maintain natural communities that have high levels of biological integrity. The surrounding areas, protected by easements, would help maintain sustainable working forests, as well as Vermont's traditional rural landscape, for many parts of the state."

From the Forest Resources Values White Paper

"In implementing its Lands Conservation Plan, the state will ensure the continued, sustainable extraction of timber resources from large blocks of working forest lands while striving to ensure that the following values inherent to large acreages of forest land are protected in a balanced manner: [Aesthetics; Wildlife; Fisheries; Recreation; Timber Production; Watershed protection and Prevention of fragmentation]. The Agency should not pursue acquisition or other means of conserving isolated parcels without any of these public values."

"It is becoming increasingly clear that land owned in fee by the state is expected to provide values not guaranteed on private lands. However, the resources of the Agency are not expected to increase to meet all of the demands of various interest groups. . . . Traditional uses of forest land need to be maintained unless a present use is causing severe damage to natural resources; the state should pay special note to important areas within a large parcel it may be considering to conserve . . ."

Reading the Mountains of Home: A Dialogue Between Wilderness & Culture

Reading the Mountains of Home, by John Elder, Harvard University Press, 1998; \$22.95 (hardcover)

Reviewed by Jamie Sayen

"For how else does one learn to become a person rooted in the land, how else does one nurture a family life in tune with the seasons, except by the stories and examples of those who preceded us in this place on earth?" (page 218)

The challenge to live well on the land requires that we develop economies and political systems that respect the limits of the land; we must provide adequate protection for the land by establishing large systems of wildlands or ecological reserves, and our management of the land must have a low impact. But it requires something more—a rebirth of a land-based culture. Cultural restoration is the soul of ecological and economic restoration.

A sure sign that the Northern Forest region is in the early stages of cultural renewal is the development of a Northern Forest literature, "a dialogue between wilderness and culture." (page 83) John Elder's new book *Reading the Mountains of Home* is a wonderful contribution to this dialogue. I hope, and trust, that it is just the beginning.

Elder, who teaches English literature and is one of the mainstays of Middlebury College's acclaimed Environmental Studies Program, lives in Bristol, Vermont, not far from the 3,740 acre Bristol Cliffs Wilderness area in the Green Mountain National Forest. His short book is a series of meditative walks he took in this wilderness area over the course of a year. The book is also a parallel meditation on the great Robert Frost poem "Directive" which was composed in 1946 when Frost resided not far from Bristol. I confess that I was a trifle skeptical about this formula when I started reading, but Elder swiftly won me over with his persuasive, but low-key, meditations about the land, the poem, and events in his own life, as well as a number of so-called "environmental" issues, such as wilderness protection and the role of humans in nature.

This book is a deep, lyrical celebration of living very locally. Yet, it's very focus on such a small plot of land leads the writer and reader into meditation on universal questions of living lightly on the land.

Although a reviewer of this book can select from a wealth of subjects, I will focus on two closely related themes: the lessons to be learned from the subtle wilds of the East, and the differing views of wilderness held by wilderness lovers of the Eastern and Western United States.

As Elder points out, the designat-

ed wilderness areas in Vermont are not virgin. Once they were cleared; once there were farms and sawmills. Today, our eastern wildernesses and National Forests teach us that "wilderness can grow as well as shrink" (page 20). Wilderness can be restored, if we will

too much into what Elder has written. Elder writes: "But a dialogue between wilderness and culture is what we need now anyway, not a resolution. . . . The western-based environmental movement has often asserted the value of 'virgin wilderness.' But Vermont's

return to wilderness around the wreck [of an airplane that crashed on South Mountain described in this chapter] offers instead, the image of a marriage. Not a dichotomy, but a dynamic, procreative union." (page 83)

Earlier, Elder has warned that wilderness designation can be a trap, a "false dichotomy" that sees humans and culture as separate from wild nature. He points out that Native Americans "live in daily communion"

with the land. He reiterates Bill McKibben's message that Eastern Wilderness offers us the opportunity to integrate culture and wildlands. I think most western wilderness defenders would agree. However, the West still has undeveloped wilderness on a large scale. These last remnants of unmanaged, ancient ecosystems should be protected for their ecological value. This does not mean segregating humans from these areas; rather, we must exclude destructive human activities that compromise the integrity of these last virgin systems. If such places still existed in Vermont, I suspect that Elder would agree that they should be protected from inappropriate human activity because of their ecological value and rarity.

This raises a second point. Elder sometimes seems not to make a clear distinction between wilderness that has been through a process of re-wilding, and virgin lands. I share his celebration of the recovering wildness in the Northern Appalachian region. But, we can never know what has been lost from the ecology of the pre-settlement forests. If half of Vermont was re-wilded, as portions of the Green Mountain National Forest are, and the other half were "virgin", I'm confident that ecologi-

gists could point to substantial ecological impoverishment in the re-wilded portion. Now, don't get me wrong; I love these re-wilding areas, and am working feverishly to assure that ever greater portions of this beautiful region enjoy a similar fate. But, I can never forget that much has already been lost. And, of course, how much more will we lose, if we delay protecting vast wildlands tracts for another 50 years of industrial-scale logging?

Reflecting about Vermonter George Perkins Marsh, whose 1864 classic *Man and Nature, or Physical Geography as Modified by Human Action* played a pivotal role in securing protection for the Wild Forests of the Adirondack Park a century ago, Elder writes: "The Western wilderness ethic affirms that wilderness has integrity—that the value of land does not derive from its immediate usefulness to humans. Marsh's complementary insistence is that humanity should preserve wilderness because we too have integrity." (page 128) We aren't "interlopers" Elder writes, but "a part of the natural world, drawing strength, with the trees, from a common source." This, for me, is the essential message. But, I must add, we have a responsibility to conduct our lives in accordance with the limits and possibilities of the landscape, and not as the develop-at-all-costs mentality of so much of Euro-American culture.

A page or so before the end of the book, Elder reflects on a map of the Green Mountain National Forest. "The map offers a big picture, within which nature and culture enclose one another, in contrast to the more polarized vision of the western wilderness movement." (pages 233-234) I confess to some discomfort with this statement, which I feel is a trifle too simplistic for such a deep and honorable book. In repudiating the "polarized vision" of the westerners, has Elder not set up his own false dichotomy between eastern and western wilderness protection?

Yes, wilderness defenders do things differently from region to region, just as different regional ecologies create differing local cultures. What works in Vermont, may or may not work elsewhere. What is important is not that Vermont has found the right answer, but that some Vermonterers have found an important truth that should be of value in informing other regions. But, I for one have learned a great amount from our western colleagues. The issue to me is not our approach or theirs, but the dialogue we need to have with each other, and with many, many others.

And the final litmus test for the Vermont approach so eloquently outlined by Elder is that it shows some results in securing more land protection, while nurturing a culture that can live within its ecological means. ■

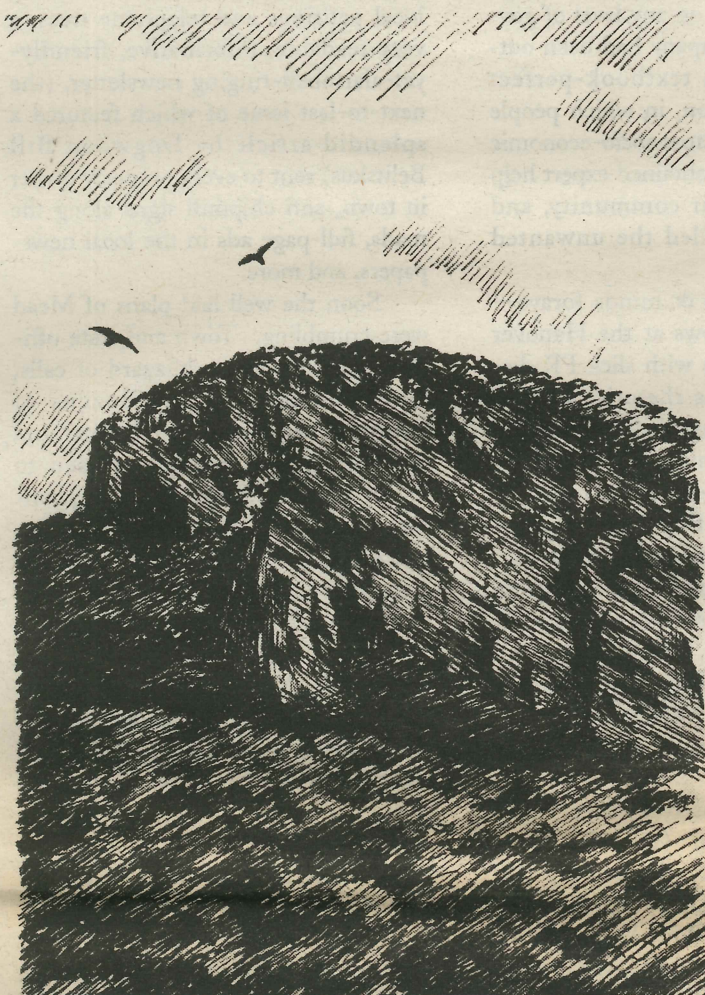


Illustration by Mark Schroeder from Reading the Mountains of Home by John Elder. Copyright 1998 by the president and Fellows of Harvard College. Reprinted by permission of Harvard University Press.

let it; and it will reassert itself as soon as we stop logging, farming, or otherwise managing it.

On page 62, Elder quotes these two lines from "Directive":

You must not mind a certain coolness from him

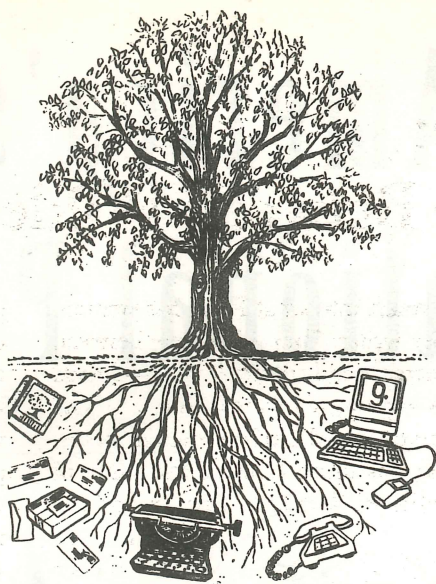
Still said to haunt this side of Panther Mountain.

"Presence within absence is Frost's theme," Elder writes, "and my own." Frost refers to the glaciers that covered the region 15 millennia ago, but are now, at least temporarily, absent. The same can be said for the panther, for the pre-settlement forest, and for the human beings who lived here in balance with the landscape for thousands of years. "Silence and absence teach us to pay attention." (page 64)

Vermont "shows that wilderness can overtake civilization," he writes. "Nature also surrounds and defines our settlements."

At least one Vermont-based reviewer of this book seized on Elder's treatment of the differing approaches to wilderness protection between Eastern and Western United States' wilderness defenders. I think the reviewer misunderstood western wilderness defenders, and perhaps read

Letter to the Editor



Irving Certification Raises Credibility Problems for FSC

Dear Editor:

I would like to commend Mitch Lansky on his thorough update of J.D. Irving, Ltd.'s request for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification in New Brunswick. The Sierra Club of Canada has been following FSC's progress in Canada and is concerned about the implications of certifying Irving in the Black Brook region in the absence of regional guidelines, as well as what it would mean for FSC's credibility given Irving's treatment of their neighbours, the residents of Nova Nada, in southwestern Nova Scotia.

Irving has been steadily increasing its land acquisition in Nova Scotia and in 1994, acquired ownership of 185,000 acres of land just north of Yarmouth. Their intensive forestry operations have wreaked havoc on the residents of Nova Nada, a peaceful Roman Catholic monastery of 8 monks who live directly adjacent to their property. The monastery is rather unique, serving a broad community, and welcomes people of many different beliefs for wilderness and spiritual retreats.

Nova Nada is situated on 58 acres of pristine wilderness that is a prime

example of late successional Acadian forest, with only several cabins, a large garden and a small chapel by the lake. Their life depends on nature, contemplation and solitude of which silence is an integral part. This community is a modern day example of sustainable living and treading lightly on the earth.

Noise from logging activities that have at times, been operating 24 hours a day have made it impossible for life at Nova Nada to continue peacefully. Furthermore, it has diminished the flow of retreatants who come to Nova Nada year-round to enjoy the wilderness and concentrate on spiritual matters. Not only has the monastery suffered, but as much as \$500,000 annually injected by Nova Nada and their retreatants into the local economy is also threatened.

Neither mounting public opinion nor meetings with company officials including J.D. Irving himself have persuaded the company to grant the monastery a necessary two mile no-cut buffer zone. They have asked J.D. Irving, Ltd. to give the area permanent protection from extraction activities, a proposal which was rejected, and failing that offered to buy the land in question, to which Irving, again, said no.

Two miles is the minimum area required to keep out the worst of the noise levels made by Irving's heavily mechanized logging operations. Less than half (42.3%) or 3400 acres of the proposed buffer zone is owned by Irving Ltd. (the rest is provincially owned) and

of that 1253 acres represents lakes, wetlands, present clearcuts or other non-viable forestry areas. In essence this means that of Irving's holdings in just southwestern Nova Scotia, less than 1% is at stake. The most effective solution would be for Irving to designate all of the buffer zone a protected natural area. This would allow the monastery to survive while at the same time establish Irving's commitment to sustainable forestry and FSC principles.

Given J.D. Irving, Ltd.'s indication that they would like to certify all of their operations in the next two years, we assume this means assuring current and potential markets of their commitment to responsible forestry. However, threatening those who are stewards dedicated to preserving a wilderness area is not ecologically responsible; jeopardizing the livelihood of their immediate neighbours is not economically responsible; and driving a unique and important community out of Nova Scotia is neither socially nor morally responsible.

We believe that J.D. Irving, Ltd. will have to do better if they are seriously committed to corporate responsibility.

Sincerely,
Rita Morbia
Biodiversity Campaign Coordinator
Sierra Club of Canada

VT Green Space Conference

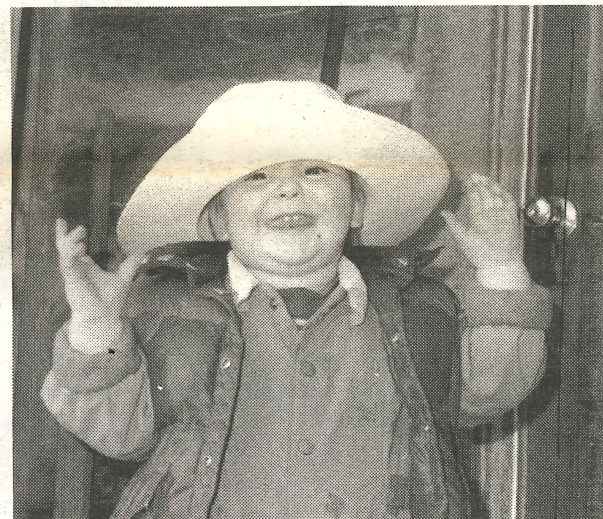
The growing dividends of public investments in protecting green space will be the focus of the Annual Governor's Conference on Recreation to be held Monday, October 26th at the State House in Montpelier.

Co-sponsored by the Vermont Natural Resources Council and the Vermont Recreation and Park Association, with support from many other organizations and agencies, this conference will celebrate past investments in public lands, document the need for additional investments, and demonstrate the many values that public lands provide.

The conference will highlight three of the most important public sources of funding for public land protection, the federal Land & Water Conservation and Forest Legacy Funds and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Trust Fund.

This conference will be of interest to both staff and volunteers who are involved in land protection at local, state and regional level.

For a copy of the conference brochure contact Vermont Natural Resources Council at 9 Bailey Ave., Montpelier, VT 05602. Or call 802-223-2328.



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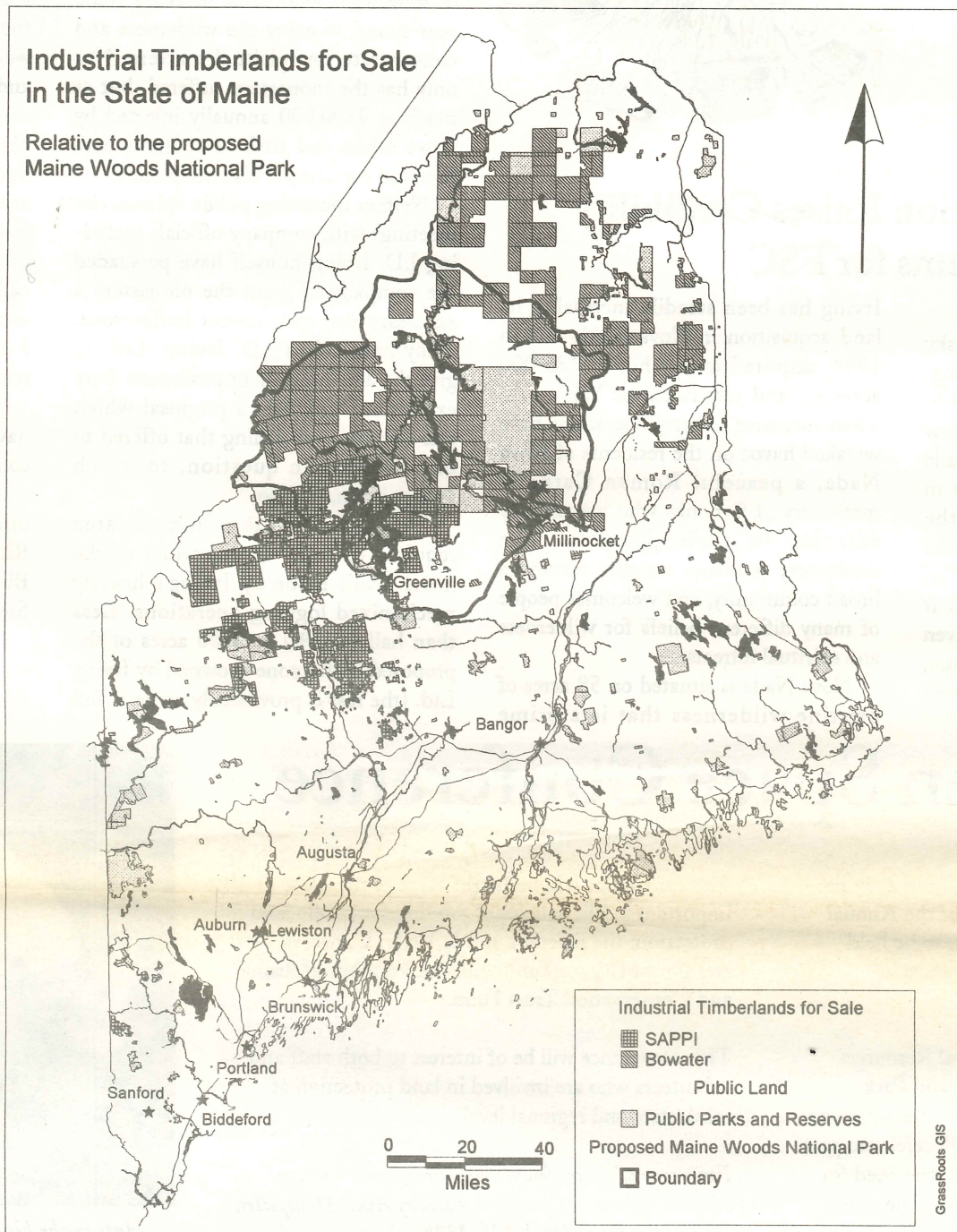
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Many of our existing national parks, such as Shenandoah, Great Smoky Mountains, Everglades, Big Bend, and Acadia were acquired from private landowners. They were purchased for the public benefit using combination of private donations and public funds. Now, a campaign is underway to use this same approach to create America's next great national park in the heart of the Maine Woods.

This is not just a Maine or New England issue. The Maine Woods is a place of national significance, with deep forests, clear lakes and streams, spectacular wildlife, and world-class backcountry recreation—a legacy for all Americans. Please join us in our important campaign to save this great wildland.

For more information on what you can do to help create the Maine Woods National Park, contact:

Jym St. Pierre
Maine Director
RESTORE: The North Woods
7 North Chestnut Street
Augusta, ME 04330
207-626-5635
e-mail: restore@mint.net

Maine Woods National Park: A Legacy For All Americans