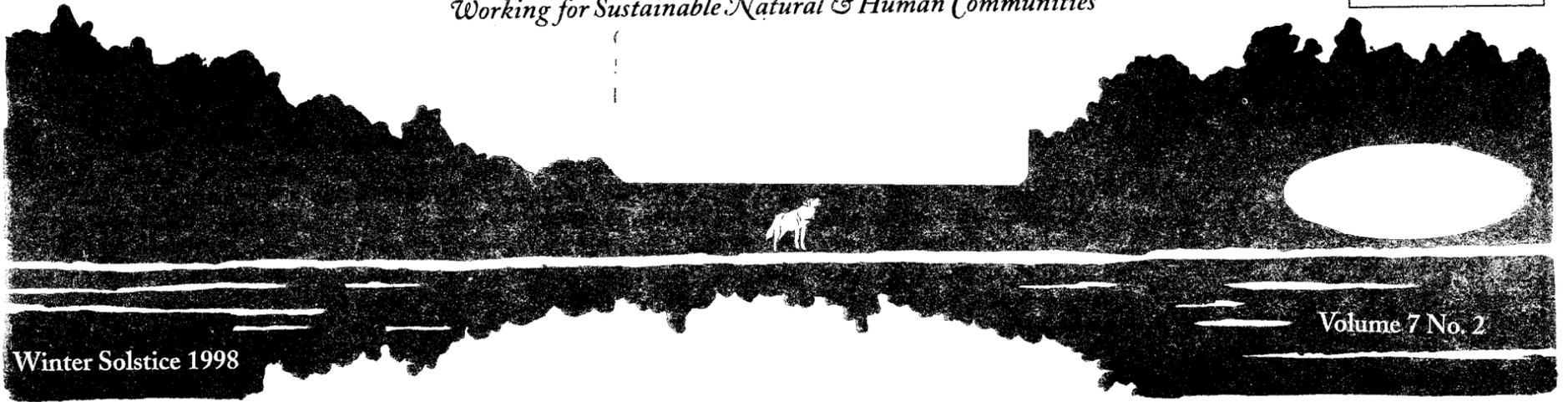


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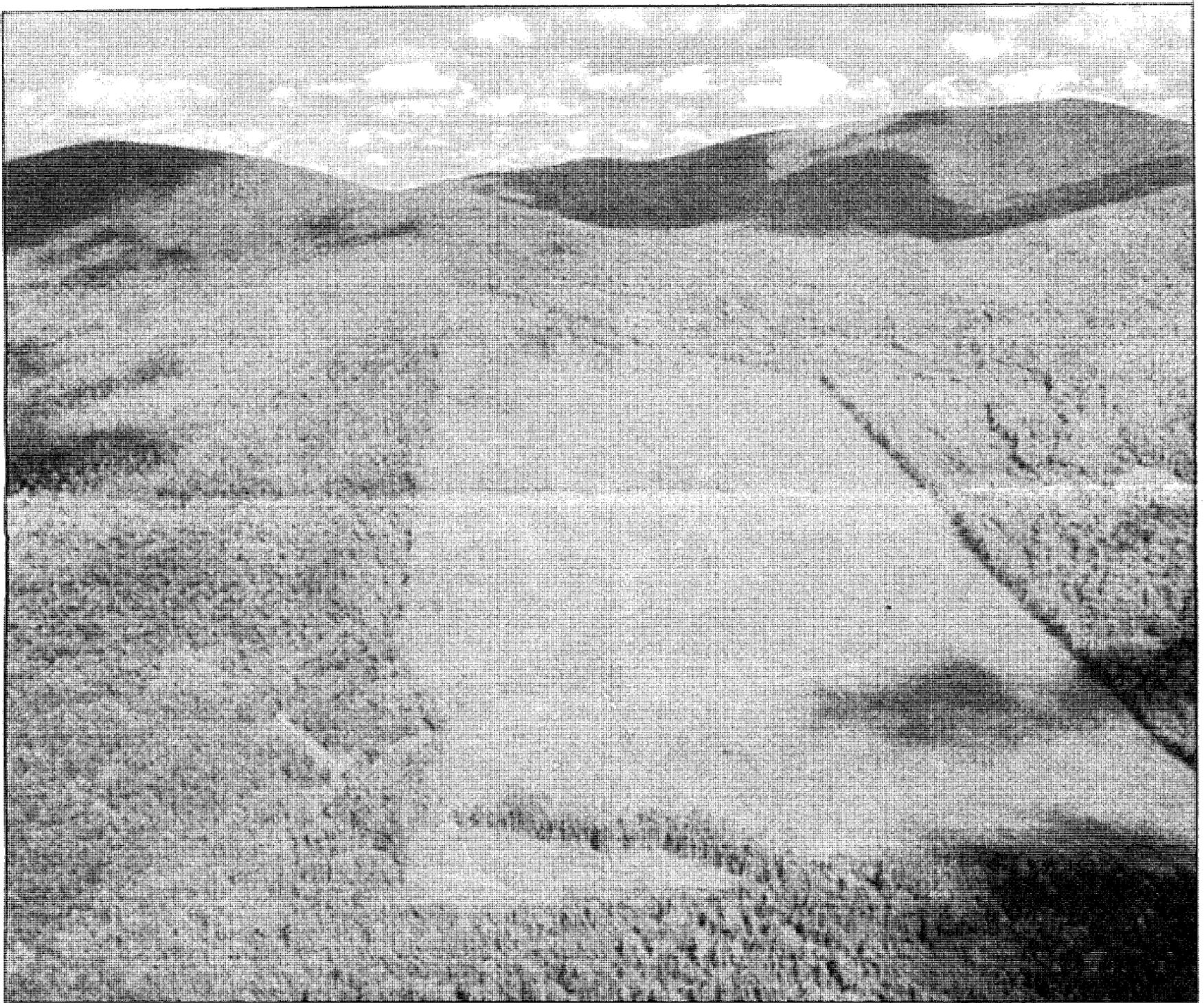
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Winter Solstice 1998

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Liquidation Cut in Columbia, New Hampshire.

LAND SALES ROCK REGION

CONSERVATION FUND TO PURCHASE CHAMPION LANDS — p.3

MAINE'S NEW LARGE LANDOWNERS — profiles start p. 3

BUYING BEAUTY STRIPS: conserving land or buying public perception?—p. 7

& much, much, more news from the Adirondacks to Gulf of Maine ...

A Time to Choose and to Act

A *New York Times* editorial of last April lamenting the loss of the small farm and citing the opportunities and virtues of small scale agriculture addressed the release of a report by the Department of Agriculture entitled, 'A Time to Act.' During the Carter administration, a report from the secretary of Agriculture which reached similar conclusions about the obvious decline of the small farm and its implications for society was entitled, 'A Time to Choose.'

Maybe we fail to act because we never choose. Or, more precisely, by deferring to the centralizing forces of market concentration and unfettered technology in food production and distribution, we choose an economic system that dehumanizes landscape and populace—and relies on piddling regulatory approaches to safeguarding public interest.

(One neat example of the follies of regulation: the USDA's recent promulgation of cropping and waste management rules for mega-farms will address practices on small farms too. Why? Because the big operators argued for it. Why? Well, you figure it out.)

Consequences of Giantism

Given current trends, the average American will increasingly ingest savorless food that: is derived from bioengineered crops raised on heavy inputs of chemical fertilizers and petroleum; is grown on mega-farms hundreds and thousands of miles removed from the consumer; represents wasted soil and polluted water; funnels profits to monolithic corporations that own everything from land to seed company rather than supporting local communities; and, of course, is sold in supermarkets that themselves are an expression of sprawl, the automobile, and the loss of the mom and pop corner store. (President Clinton is said to boast that he knows more about agriculture than any presidential predecessor: more the shame.)

As the French would say, food is a fundamental reflection of a society's soul. Have we got one?

It is proper, of course, to celebrate the alternatives, the tenacity of the small farms that do survive, the many opportunities to eat locally and royally from wholesome food from healthy soil and semi-profitable farms. We can attend organic growers' conferences with hundreds of other faithful practitioners of the earthy ideal. Small, however, faces the challenge of survival; while Giantism, which flies in the face of social, economic and ecologic values has the advantages of money, markets and technology—as well as social policies which favor cheap inputs and thermodynamic inefficiencies.

In any case, what Stalin accomplished in his dekulakization of Soviet Russia we have accomplished bloodlessly, without terror: the virtual elimination of small business owners and replacement of people with machines in the production of food and fiber. Welcome, Archer Daniels Midlands, Monsanto, and friends.

Regrettable Leadership

Having wished to not influence the outcome of any elections, the Forum did not comment on any candidacies in the recent elections. However, I am intrigued by the leadership that Ruth Dwyer has provided the foes of the clearcutting bill in Vermont. Ruth Dwyer, to you Mainers, is a lot like Mary Adams; they'd make great drinking companions—for one another. I can only compare their leadership of rural society in the Northern Forest to that which the urban based Bolsheviks used to enslave the greater Russian peasantry.

Ruth and Mary are not saying "all power to the soviets!" but they are saying "all power to the people!"—the people who wish to maximize the use of resources, and in the process, run down what is the underpinning of rural society—our relation to the land. In other words, if we set out to design a system that would in the long term enslave a people, the system would, like our clearcut imperative, encourage them to sell into markets as price takers, to sell low and buy high, and think about today, not tomorrow. It would also create scapegoats to vent the rage of people on those who propose alternatives. (I think this describes key elements of Fascism, but under the reigning ideology of moderation, one is not supposed to say so.)

Let's be clear about Vermont's cutting bill: despite the rage against it, it was largely the creation of industry. The promise of standards that clearcuts over forty acres would abide by—which made the bill supportable and progressive—has been effectively smothered by a committee and industry lobbyists that have (not unanimously but by acquiescence in too many cases) sneered at the idea of a scientific inquiry into the impacts of large cuts and possible ways to mitigate. Some environmentalists have praised the work of the committee but perhaps this is to maintain their illusory seat at the table. The legislature gave adequate directive to the Administration, who must claim the failure to exercise imagination and fulfill a mandate in a heated political atmosphere.

But on the other hand, the Ruth Dwyer-Mary Adams argument that protecting clearcutting—the symptomatic pimple of Giantism—is protecting a way of life is perverse. The intensity of their passion is proportional to their bankruptcy of vision for rural society. A recent National

Public Radio puff piece on the Maine Woods presented a laughable situation. While the stage props of the industrial paper colony are collapsing one by one, Mary Adams is more intent on focussing resentment on the people who might conceivably have something to offer the people of Millinocket than on acknowledging that conservation and preservation might—just might—work for Mainers.

Two Proposals

The Northern Forest Forum and Northern Appalachian Restoration Project recently signed two letters being circulated by the American Lands Alliance and RESTORE: the NorthWoods, respectively. One urges the Clinton Administration to protect roadless areas of 1000 acres and more on the National Forests. The other urges that the state of Maine conduct a feasibility study for establishing a National Park in the heart of the Maine woods.

We favor two things for the future of the Maine woods and the adjacent North Country of Vermont and New Hampshire. We want to see a sawtimber economy that preserves the opportunities of the small scale and puts real power into local economies and encourages self-regulation. We also want to see extensive tracts preserved and restored, with roadless areas that allow these woods, trees, and creatures to be and become what they are. Economically, this will optimize our options. Socially, it preserves our humanity, because, as David Orton points out in his essay on page 8, our humanity is intrinsic in Nature, not to be found 'elsewhere.'—A.W.



Fred Tuttle triumphed in the Vermont Republican primary. He also called on his Democratic opponent, Patrick Leahy, to spend his considerable campaign warchest on something valuable, like land protection. This photo of Fred holding a photo of his father holding a photo of his father was taken by Peter Miller and appears in Miller's reissued Vermont People. (Available in bookshops or from Silver Print Press, RD 1, Box 1515, Waterbury, VT 05676.)

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Editorial views expressed herein are those of the writer and not necessarily those of other contributors or other NARP projects. We welcome diverse submissions on the Northern forest and related topics. Please send all material to the address above. Please address letters for publication specifically to the editor.
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The Industrialization of Maine's North Woods Has Failed

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The experiment of industrializing the Maine Woods has failed. For a long time we wanted desperately to believe that we could have private ownership of the forests and at the same time maintain all the traditional public values of Maine's wildlands. But the veil that has hidden the truth about the myth of the working forest is falling away.

It is clear now that unsustainable forestry, unprecedented subdivision and development pressures, and massive land ownership changes are showing aside what has made the Maine Woods special. At risk are the unique qualities of an extraordinary place that we the people have long held so dear—protection of our watersheds, opportunities for a quality fishing experience at a truly remote pond, preservation not just of 'beauty strips,' but of habitats across the landscape for the full range of native wildlife, and the chance to capitalize on the mystique that the reputation of the Maine Woods as a world-class wilderness has provided for centuries.

In the past several months one shocking piece of news after another has hit. As the old corporate empire of Maine's North Woods is replaced by a new one, people are increasingly realizing neither private landowners nor the State of Maine can adequately protect the wilderness at risk. That is why the boldest conservation proposal on the table, the proposed Maine Woods National Park, has been drawing more and more attention.



Stratford and Columbia, New Hampshire land recently purchased by The Conservation Fund.

Photo courtesy of Alex MacLean.

ting fewer trees to bring harvesting into line with blows. South African Pulp & Paper (Sappi) has sold

Unsustainable Forestry

In July, conservation groups released information obtained from the Maine Forest Service under the state's Freedom of Access law, revealing the amount of forest clearcut in 1997. Historically, the 15 largest landowners have been responsible for 90 percent of all clearcutting in the state. In 1997, they promised they would voluntarily limit the practice. However, the Forest Service data showed they clearcut another 24,000 acres in Maine last year. Perhaps even worse, the spraying of toxic herbicides, changing the mix of trees that would naturally grow on many sites, and timber stand manipulation have all increased. For instance, in 1997 the paper companies sprayed herbicides on more than 43,000 acres, up 35 percent in one year.

In September, the results of another study on timber harvesting were released by the Maine Forest Service. That report showed that the large landowners are cutting 14 percent more wood each year than their woodlands are growing. At current logging rates the inventory of standing wood will drop by about one-third over the next century.

The obvious solutions of working to reduce demand for paper and other forest products and cut-

Champion's 300,000 Acres Sold to Conservation Fund

by Jamie Sayen

On Wednesday, December 19, 1998 the 300,000 acres of Champion timber lands for sale in the Adirondacks, northeastern Vermont and northern New Hampshire were sold to the Conservation Fund, a non-profit organization headquartered in Arlington, Virginia for \$76.2 million. Hailed as the "largest public, private, multi-state conservation partnership in U.S. history," this complex deal will protect some ecologically sensitive lands, while returning more than 200,000 acres to private timberlands owners.

The deal, announced as the Forum went to press, still has many unresolved questions. Foremost among them is the degree of ecological protection that will be afforded these seriously overcut timberlands.

The following information is based on a press release by the Conservation Fund.

New York: The Conservation Fund purchased 143,000 acres in three tracts within and near the Adirondack Park for \$46 mil-

lion. The Forestland Group, based in Chapel Hill, N.C., representing a number of institutional investors, plans to buy more than 114,000 acres to manage for timber. The State of New York will purchase 29,000 acres for \$24.9 million using 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act Funds to protect river corridors, ecologically sensitive wetlands, boreal forests, and some of the nation's top canoe routes. Included in the purchase price by the State of New York is a 'working forest' conservation easement on 110,000 acres of the Forestland Group property within the Adirondack Park.

Vermont: The Conservation Fund purchased 133,000 acres for \$26.5 million. Approximately 39,000 to 48,000 acres which are near existing public lands, including wetlands, river frontage, ecologically sensitive areas, and habitat for rare and threatened species of wildlife and plants, are targeted for public ownership. The tract includes 400 miles of snowmobile trails, the state's largest deer wintering yard, 44 miles of river frontage in the Nulhegan Basin and Paul Stream

watersheds. The remaining 85,000-94,000 acres will be re-sold to private forestry interests subject to conservation easements.

Darby Bradley of the Vermont Land Trust, one of the principals in the negotiations, stated in the press release announcing the sale: "Because of the ecological sensitivity of these lands, we believe that a core area should be in public ownership. In pursuing this goal, we want to ensure that public recreation and timber harvesting can occur, consistent with the protection of these special wildlife and plant species."

New Hampshire: The Conservation Fund bought 18,000 acres, abutting public conservation areas near the Connecticut River, and including Blue Mountain and 12 other peaks above 3,000 feet as well as 28 miles of stream frontage. The Fund paid \$3.75 million. Approximately 5,800 acres are above 2,700 feet and have significant alpine habitat. The conservation plan for this property is still in formulation, but will emphasize long-term restoration of privately-owned working forest with protected ecological reserves. Funding is

Cont. on page 27

growth have been rejected. Rather the forest industry and Maine Forest Service insist that the answer is to use more 'intensive management.' That means increasing the spraying of herbicides, increasing the use of artificial, monoculture tree plantations, and increasing the extent of clearcutting. Those are the very activities that got us into the mess of overcutting the woods and destroying our wild forests in the first place.

Mega Land Sales

The next shoe to drop was a series of huge land sales to out-of-state corporations. In the space of a month, from October 6 to November 2, announcements about three major land sales came like successive body

905,000 acres to Plum Creek Timber Company for \$180 million. Bowater is selling most of its vast empire of Great Northern timberlands, one million acres to J.D. Irving and another 656,000 acres to McDonald Investment Company. Roughly half of the 2.5 million acres which are changing hands fall within the boundaries of the proposed Maine Woods National Park and Preserve, including the lands bordering the east side of Baxter State Park, the shores of Moosehead Lake, the Upper West Branch of the Penobscot River, and the headwaters of the St. John watershed.

Continued on Page 4

Industrialization Has Failed

Continued from Page 5

Some people see the land sales as a lost opportunity to protect these and other treasured areas of the Maine Woods. I believe the sales present a chance to focus greater attention on the forest and on the national park idea as part of the solution to the social, economic, and ecological problems facing northern Maine. But it is important to understand how each of the new landowners is different.

Up a Creek

Plum Creek Timber Company likes to perpetuate the story that it began in 1947 when D.C. Dunham built a sawmill in the Flathead Valley of western Montana and named his new company after a creek made famous in the novels of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Actually the company is part of the sad legacy of the congressional giveaway which financed the construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad starting in 1864.

By the 1980s, when Congress deregulated railroads, Burlington Northern, Northern Pacific's corporate descendant, was ready to spin off millions of acres and a variety of new subsidiaries. The spin-off that got the major timber assets adopted the name of the little Montana sawmill business, Plum Creek. Yet, until it became completely independent, Plum Creek was still merely a regional player.

In 1989, everything changed. Plum Creek, by then based in Seattle, Washington, set its sights on breaking out of the Northwest to become "one of the premier forest products companies in the nation." Since the company went public a decade ago, Plum Creek has undertaken an extremely aggressive program of corporate growth.

Plum Creek has a four-point strategy to reach its goal of "achieving superior financial returns for our owners:" (1) Amass a lot of land, while it is still cheap, so the company will have "operating flexibility and control over our destiny." (2) Sell or trade for top dollar the most valuable real estate. (3) Undertake aggressive fiber farming on the working forestlands. (4) Shift from a Master Limited Partnership into a Real Estate Investment Trust in 1999 to bring in more capital.

So far, the strategy is working. In 1997, Plum Creek earned \$112 million. That is half what it made the year before due to the loss of business from the economic meltdown in Asia, but that is just a speed

With the addition of the Sappi lands in Maine to its portfolio this fall, Plum Creek has moved up a notch to become the fifth largest timberland owner in the United States.

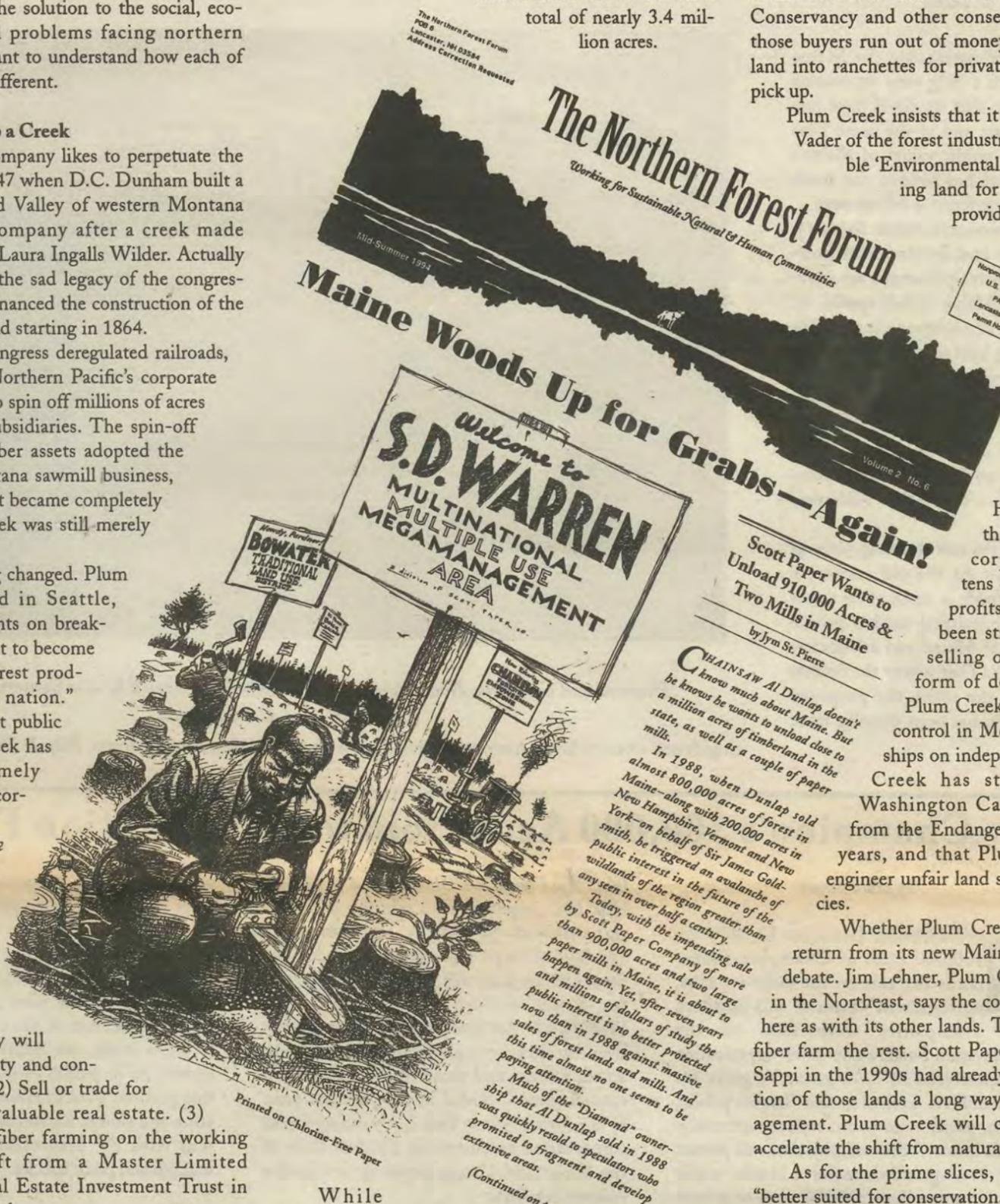
bump. Today Plum Creek is one of the top five landowners in the U.S. It runs a dozen mills and employs 2,400. The five year average return to shareholders through 1997 was 28 percent. The company's top executives have done even better, raking in a hugely disproportionate share of net proceeds and gaining control of tens of millions of dollars of stock.

In the meantime, Plum Creek insists that while it is building the business into a powerhouse, it can also be a good corporate citizen and a leader in what it calls Environmental Forestry. The company's track record on those points is decidedly mixed. Check the details.

With the addition of the Sappi lands in Maine to its portfolio this fall, Plum Creek has moved up a

notch to become the fifth largest timberland owner in the United States. In addition to its 905,000 acres in Maine, the company's holdings include 1.6 million acres in Montana and Idaho, 309,000 acres in Washington, and 538,000 acres in Louisiana and Arkansas for a total of nearly 3.4 million acres.

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While Plum Creek may continue to go after large tracts in new states, already it has become a big player in four regions of the country. This buying spree has been financed by both the liquidation of old-growth forests in the Northwest during the past decade and by unloading extensive tracts in Montana and Idaho as well as the sale of lands and a mill in Washington. Income from these sales during the past couple of years has helped fund the purchase of over half a million acres in Arkansas and Louisiana as well as the latest acquisition in Maine.

Plum Creek's accelerated logging program in the Northwest is about over. Now that most of the big trees have been cashed in, the company is focusing on converting to aggressive tree farming and on getting more value from its so-called higher and better use or HBU lands.

In its southern region, for instance, "Plum Creek practices high-yield plantation forestry, which is like growing an enormous garden of trees," according to the firm's latest annual report. The Arkansas and Louisiana lands were bought only two years ago and already 100 percent of the seedlings planted on Plum Creek's timberlands there are genetically manipulated stock.

At the same time, the company is trying to sell at

retail prices some of the lands it acquired in the West at wholesale cost. Plum Creek's World Wide Web site contains beautiful pictures of forested shorelands, subdivision maps, and addresses for local real estate agents. In Montana alone, tens of thousands of acres are being aggressively marketed as rural lots. So far, fewer than 20,000 acres have been sold and four-fifths of the Montana land sales have been to The Nature Conservancy and other conservation buyers. But as those buyers run out of money, fragmentation of the land into ranchettes for private buyers is expected to pick up.

Plum Creek insists that it is no longer the Darth Vader of the forest industry, that it does responsible 'Environmental Forestry,' that it is selling land for conservation, that it is providing good jobs, and that it has awards and testimonials to prove it is protecting endangered species.

George Draffin of the Public Information Network says the company is fibbing. He has documentation that Plum Creek pays no corporate income tax on tens of millions of dollars of profits, that Plum Creek has been stripping the forests and selling off choice parcels in a form of double liquidation, that Plum Creek has used its monopoly control in Montana to impose hardships on independent mills, that Plum Creek has struck a deal in the Washington Cascades for exemption from the Endangered Species Act for 50 years, and that Plum Creek is trying to engineer unfair land swaps with public agencies.

Whether Plum Creek will try to maximize return from its new Maine lands is not open to debate. Jim Lehner, Plum Creek's general manager in the Northeast, says the company will do the same here as with its other lands. That is, sell the best and fiber farm the rest. Scott Paper in the 1960-80s and Sappi in the 1990s had already taken the transformation of those lands a long way toward intensive management. Plum Creek will continue and probably accelerate the shift from natural forests.

As for the prime slices, Lehner says the lands "better suited for conservation, recreation or responsible development" will be sold. So, many of the shorelands Plum Creek bought at tree-growth value (under \$200 an acre) in Maine will go to whomever is willing to pay development prices.

How much will that be? A lot more than \$200 per acre. The parcels in a typical offering from the Plum Creek lands for sale in Montana are priced from \$4,917 to \$38,000 a acre. If the lands in Maine are listed at similar prices it will represent quite a mark-up.

The King Administration does not want to acquire any large tracts of forestland for full protection. Instead, Governor King says the State should try to buy a few narrow shorelands. In fact, he prefers buying only development rights, so that logging can continue even in the beauty strips.

The State had hoped to acquire no-development easements on a few thousand acres of working forest beauty strips from Sappi before it closed on the sale of its more than 900,000 acres here. However, the handshake deal, which covered some but not all of the Sappi shorelands on and near Moosehead Lake, fell through in November. Now the State and The Nature Conservancy are trying to negotiate with the new owner. Plum Creek is interested in selling development rights, but at a premium. Governor King had offered Sappi no more than \$250 per acre.

Continued on Page 5

Development rights may be acquired on a few beauty strips before Plum Creek sells its prime lands in the Maine Woods for exclusive, private vacation houses. However, a flood of serious questions persists. Such as, why should we acquire only development rights when full ownership usually costs little more? Where will the money come from since the Land for Maine's Future Program is nearly broke? Even if a state bond issue is passed, will it be enough to fund "protection" of more than a few working forest beauty strips?

With the impending purchase of a million acres from Bowater for \$220 million, Irving leaps from seventh place to become the largest landowner in the state.

If federal funding is to be used, as proposed, is it a prudent expenditure of American taxpayers money to subsidize degradation of wild forests in Maine?

Canadian Takeover Becomes Canadian Revenge

The Sappi land sale is neither the latest nor the biggest in the Maine Woods this fall. The sale of two gigantic pieces of the Bowater ownership is equally alarming.

J.D. Irving Ltd. is part of the web of privately held companies owned by the Irvings of New Brunswick. One of the wealthiest families in the world, they own scores of companies in a wide variety of businesses, including forest products, papermaking and packaging, publishing, shipbuilding, trucking, oil shipping and refining, gasoline sales and restaurants. Forbes estimates their net worth to be \$4 billion. The magazine says the Irvings "control an empire that dominates Atlantic Canada's commerce." For the past decade the Irving conglomerate has been penetrating markets in northern New England as the first phase of their intended push down the East Coast.

John DeMont, in his book *Citizens Irving*, writes that "Maine, a mirror image of New Brunswick with its untapped forests, rural, unsophisticated economy and clannish citizens, is the natural place to begin an assault on New England. . . Maine is nothing less than the family's springboard into the United States, and into. . . international power."

Irving has been involved in forestry in Maine for more than half a century. However, most of the 575,000 acres of forest they own here were acquired in the last 15 years. With the impending purchase of a million acres from Bowater for \$220 million, Irving leaps from seventh place to become the largest landowner in the state. On top of their nearly 1.6 million acres of forest in Maine, last summer Irving reportedly also bought 30,000 acres of prime farmland in Aroostook County for their agriculture operations. They control millions more acres of forest and farm

land in the Canadian Maritimes.

Irving is piling up Maine mills too. The company is buying Bowater's huge Pinkham Lumber mill in Ashland. In November, Irving spent another \$9.5 million in a separate deal for Highland Lumber in Dixfield, the largest white pine sawmill in the United States.

Irving is known for its heavy-handed timber practices. The company has bought 'green certification' for 417,000 acres in New Brunswick, but the Sierra Club of Canada says that is a sham. At least there is little worry that Irving will market land for development. They have a reputation for buying, but not selling land.

The Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842 set the Maine-Canada border much farther north than the Canadians wanted. With the recent mammoth acquisitions in Maine by Irving, Fraser and other Canadian companies, Canada seems determined to get northern Maine back. The possible construction of an East-West Highway, which could further divide the state economically, and a budding secessionist movement by disgruntled locals in the northern counties may feed into that trend.

Meanwhile, Bowater is moving



Plum Creek clearcuts in the Snoqualmie Pass east of Seattle, Washington. Photo by George Wuerthner.

ahead with plans to sell or close its unprofitable Millinocket paper mill and says it will mechanize its East Millinocket mill. Both of these actions threaten hundreds of jobs. And Bowater still wants to unload the rest of its Maine holdings, including over 300,000 acres, lands of inestimable value abutting Baxter State Park and in the Debsconeag Lakes region.

How Y'all Doin'?

The buyer in the latest of the big land sales in Maine is the most mysterious.

McDonald Investment Company Inc. of Birmingham, Alabama, a wealthy family group, is picking up 656,000 acres from Bowater for \$155 million. The lands are in Bowater's West Branch District, from Chesuncook Lake to the Quebec border, including a lot of prime frontage

The King Administration does not want to acquire any large tracts of forestland for full protection. Instead, Governor King says the State should try to buy a few narrow shorelands.

Moosehead and other lakes.

Very little information has surfaced about McDonald since the sale was announced at the beginning of November. This much is known. Its money comes in part from cable television. It has been acquiring small tracts in Maine and New Hampshire for a couple of years. It owns land in Florida, the Carolinas, New York and Ontario. It has sold conservation lands and easements in a number of states.

McDonald has retained Wagner Forest Management Ltd. of New Hampshire to manage the lands it is buying in Maine. Calls to McDonald are referred to Wagner, a company known for better forest management

too. The smart money says McDonald will waste little time getting in line with those who want to sell working forest easements to the public.

Desperately Seeking Alternatives

A century ago the Industrial Revolution arrived big time in the Maine Woods. That was when Great Northern Paper Company was chartered to build the largest industrial paper mill in the world, right in the heart of the Maine Woods and International Paper Company formed here as the first true modern multinational pulp and paper corporation.

In 1998-99, the last of the Great Northern empire is being dismantled. But that does not symbolize the end of the industrialization of our forests, which continues at a breathtaking pace. Rather it underscores the urgent need for alternatives. Two-thirds of the world's original forests are gone. Ninety-five percent of the original forests in this country are gone. Only one percent of the land in Maine is permanently protected.

We need to restore many of our wildlands. But it is obvious that, in Maine, neither private landowners nor the State can adequately protect the public interests at risks in our forests. Working forest easements are being pushed by the State and the landowners as a win-win solution. They are not. Scattered working forest easements will not preserve the wild character that defines the Maine Woods. More and more people are figuring this out.

No wonder the idea of creating a new Maine Woods National Park to restore to the people the heart of our cherished wilderness continues to gain public support.

Jym St. Pierre is Maine Director of RESTORE: The North Woods, 7 North Chestnut Street, Augusta, ME 04330, 207-626-5635, jym@restore.org. ❄️

A Western View of Plum Creek's Foray East

by Steve Thompson

There has been much speculation about the implications of Plum Creek Timber Company's purchase of 905,000 acres of industrial timberland from SAPPI, especially given Plum Creek's track record in the West.

But what is that track record? Confusion is understandable.

Some media reports

that Plum Creek is a model corporate citizen. Other reports suggest that there is no timber left on Plum Creek's timber lands in Montana, Idaho, and Washington. What's the truth?

Here's my mountain-top view from western Montana:

While it's an exaggeration to say that Plum Creek has no merchantable timber across 1.5 million acres, it's undeniably true that Plum Creek has cut its Montana timberland at an unsustainable rate.

Plum Creek executive Bill Parsons said as much himself a few years ago when he told a Montana legislator that, "We have never said we were on a sustained-yield program, and we have never been on a sustained-yield program. Let's get to the heart of it. Sure, it's extensively logged, but what is wrong with that?"

Since then, Plum Creek has developed a much slicker public image. But good PR cannot erase the effects of its ongoing 15-year timber liquidation campaign on the mountainsides, watersheds and communities of western Montana.

A few years ago, Plum Creek suspended its controversial practice of clearcutting square-mile sections of forest. It announced its new practice of "environmental forestry." Unfortunately, it's not as good as it sounds.

On a small percentage of their logging jobs, Plum Creek's environmental forestry deserves praise. Their loggers leave some big trees, structural variety and a healthy mix of native tree species. These showcase jobs typically are in highly visible areas.

The majority of their logging, however, is in less visible areas where virtually all of the merchantable timber is removed. Loggers and foresters in western Montana often refer derisively to Plum Creek's forest practices as "cull tree release," highgrade logging, or "take the best and leave the rest."

The main reason Plum Creek is aggressively purchasing timberlands in New England and the South is that its lands in Montana, Idaho and Washington are virtually played out:

The boom-and-bust timber cycle is bad enough, but perhaps even worse is Plum Creek's plan to sell 150,000 acres in Montana for real estate development. With most of the merchantable timber gone, the company identified lands in the valley bottoms and foothills

tion strategy. State and federal governments are scrambling to pay the ransom to rescue the broad public interest, to somehow pre-

plementary benefits allowed by the Government were many and lavish."

In the 1980s, the forested grant lands in Idaho and Montana were spun off from the railroads to their corporate successor, Plum Creek Timber. That's when the timber liquidation began in earnest.

What does this mean for Maine? Will Plum Creek overcut the forests and sell prime timberlands to real estate speculators? It's hard to say. Plum Creek clearly is entering a new phase of its young corporate incarnation. In some ways, it is starting over in Maine, and its behavior will largely be governed by social license.

It must be distressing for Mainers to learn that Maine's timber companies once again are overcutting the state's forests, according to a September report released by the Maine Forest Service. Forests exist on the scale of centuries, while most corporations exist on the scale of quarterly profit reports. That's why society must set the groundrules for sustainable forestry, both through the political system and

A Letter From Montana

To the Editor:

The recent acquisition of SAPPI lands in Maine by Plum Creek Timber Company does not bode well for New England or its forests. One only has to drive through Snoqualmie Pass on I-90 east of Seattle to see a hacked up and denuded landscape left by Plum Creek's forest 'management'.

Plum Creek has never been secret about its forest policies. I recall reviewing a copy of Plum Creek's stockholder's prospectus that someone had sent me back in the early 1990s. In it, Plum Creek was quite candid about its future course of action. In the brochure it told its stockholders that it planned to 'liquidate' its timber holdings in the Pacific Northwest within ten years. Well ten years have nearly passed and the company has lived up to its promises.

During this period of liquidation, I have watched hillside after hillside scalped of its trees. Salmon streams ran brown. The spotted owl was driven closer to extinction. In Idaho and Montana, grizzly bear and bull trout habitat was torn asunder with roads and clearcuts. Worse, Plum Creek played its workers against environmentalists. During the spotted owl controversy it exported raw logs cut from its lands to Japan, then turned around and bid realizing from overseas sales of timber, Plum Creek was able to outbid smaller, local mills, blaming it on lack of timber supplies effectively driving its competitors out of business. When large private companies like Weyerhaeuser, were exporting more than 3 billion board feet of unprocessed raw logs a year.

Now that Plum Creek has butchered its lands and much of the public lands to boot, it is selling off its most desirable holdings for recreational subdivisions. The federal government, for instance, was just forced to ante up \$15 million dollars to buy a little over 2,500 acres of land along the shore of Lindbergh Lake or watch it go to developers for lakeshore cottages.

Unfortunately, it will be difficult to buy up the majority of Plum Creek holdings that are currently available for sale. Much of it will likely be sold off, leaving behind not only a deforested landscape, but a highly fragmented one at that.

Meanwhile, Montana's Republican Governor, Mark Rasicot, blatantly lied to Maine's governor Angus King in a letter this past fall saying Plum Creek had been a good corporate resident in the state. The only way Rasicot could have written such a letter is if he never left Helena, for you couldn't travel anyplace in western Montana and not see what Plum Creek has done to the landscape.

If I were Maine environmentalists, I'd get a copy of the company prospectus for 1999 and see what they tell you about their plans for the Maine Woods. I suspect they will continue to follow what has been a very successful strategy that can be summarized as:

Take the best, and sell the rest.

They say history repeats itself if people fail to learn from history. If the people in Maine continue to live in denial and believe that 'working forests' are working for anyone except the timber companies, they are going to wake up and find themselves not only without a forest, but without even the land base itself.

The only real solution to Plum Creek and other industrial forest corporations is public ownership. At least with public ownership we can short circuit the continued and ongoing degradation of the Maine Woods, and perhaps even prevent the eventual fragmentation of ownership that must ultimately occur if these lands are sold off to many individual owners.

Don't take my word about Plum Creek. Come see for yourself. Our working forests are just about worked over. They are bloody, butchered, and battered. Clearcuts don't lie. Neither do the rivers once full of bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, salmon and steelhead now all facing extinction due to logging roads and loss of woody debris. Neither do the spotted owls, grizzlies, caribou, and dozens of other species imperiled by the 'working forest' and companies like Plum Creek.

George Wuerthner
Livingston, Montana

where a devel-

oper conceivably could build a driveway. They are in the midst of this sale program right now.

These lands invariably are the most productive forests and the most important big-game winter range and wildlife corridors. For generations, Montana sportsmen have used these lands to access hunting and fishing opportunities.

Loggers and sportsmen across western Montana are dismayed at this second stage of Plum Creek's liquida-

vent these lands from being chopped into ranchettes and rural subdivisions. The price tag is in the tens of millions of dollars, and many areas will be sacrificed due to a lack of public resources.

Sadly, most of these lands originally were given to the Northern Pacific railroad in 1864 as a gift from President Abraham Lincoln and the American people. They were granted to the railroads to "promote the public interest," but the gift was abused. As President Coolidge said in 1924, "the defaults of the Northern Pacific were numerous and flagrant, and the sup-

through our marketplace choices as consumers.

A few years ago, an executive for International Paper foreshadowed today's headlines in a comment quoted by forester Gordon Robinson in his book, *The Forest and the Trees*. "Hell Robbie. We're on sustained yield," IP's Jude White said. "When we clean up the timber in the West, we'll return to New England, where the industry began."

This time around, if the public remains vigilant, perhaps the industry will get it right.

Steve Thompson of Whitefish, Montana is a consultant for the national Campaign to Stop Exporting Forests and Jobs. His piece on Plum Creek has also appeared in several Maine newspapers. ❄️

BUYING BEAUTY STRIPS

by Mitch Lansky

In September, Jim and Jenness Robbins, of Robbins Lumber in Searsmont, announced that they would like to make a deal with the state over a township (formerly owned by Diamond International) they had purchased around Nicataous Lake in Hancock County. They proposed that the state purchase, for five million dollars, an easement (500 feet wide) for development rights around the lake. The brothers had bought the land, they said, with the intention of developing the shoreland to help finance the deal. But when they saw the beauty of the largely undeveloped lake, they decided they would rather protect it, and contacted some organizations, such as the Forest Society of Maine, with experience in trusts and easements. The proposal was praised by the Bangor Daily News and several conservation groups all who wanted to see the lake 'protected.' The only obstacle cited by supporters is that there are limited funds, and suddenly a lot of lands have come onto the market that many would also like to see protected in some way.

As taxpayers, however, there are a number of facts we ought to know first before agreeing to such expenditures of scarce resources:

Who financed the purchase of these lands? If they got loans from a bank, such as Farm Credit, is it appropriate for a federally-backed institution to finance land speculation (which was the Robbins' original intention)? Short-term loans for such purposes have led to rather heavy-handed management by contractor-owners of other Diamond lots.

What role in the financing of the land purchase did Champion

International play? Champion owns all the wood (except white pine) and will do all the managing for the next 45 years.

Should we be thrilled that Champion will not clearcut within 500 feet of the lake when LURC will not permit such heavy cutting anyway within 250 feet and Champion, on its own land, has buffers of 600 feet? Do we need to pay the Robbins brothers for them not to do massive clearcuts in this thin zone, when few other landowners in the state would do such a thing in the first place? Cutting less than 30% of

Robbins brothers actually pay for the land, and how much do they expect the state to pay them per acre? Are they asking the state to pay them more for the development easement than they paid for all the rights to the land?

How much land could the state have bought if they used the same money to purchase the same land at the same price that the Robbins brothers paid? Would it be better to own all the rights to half a township rather than just the development rights to a 500 foot riparian zone?

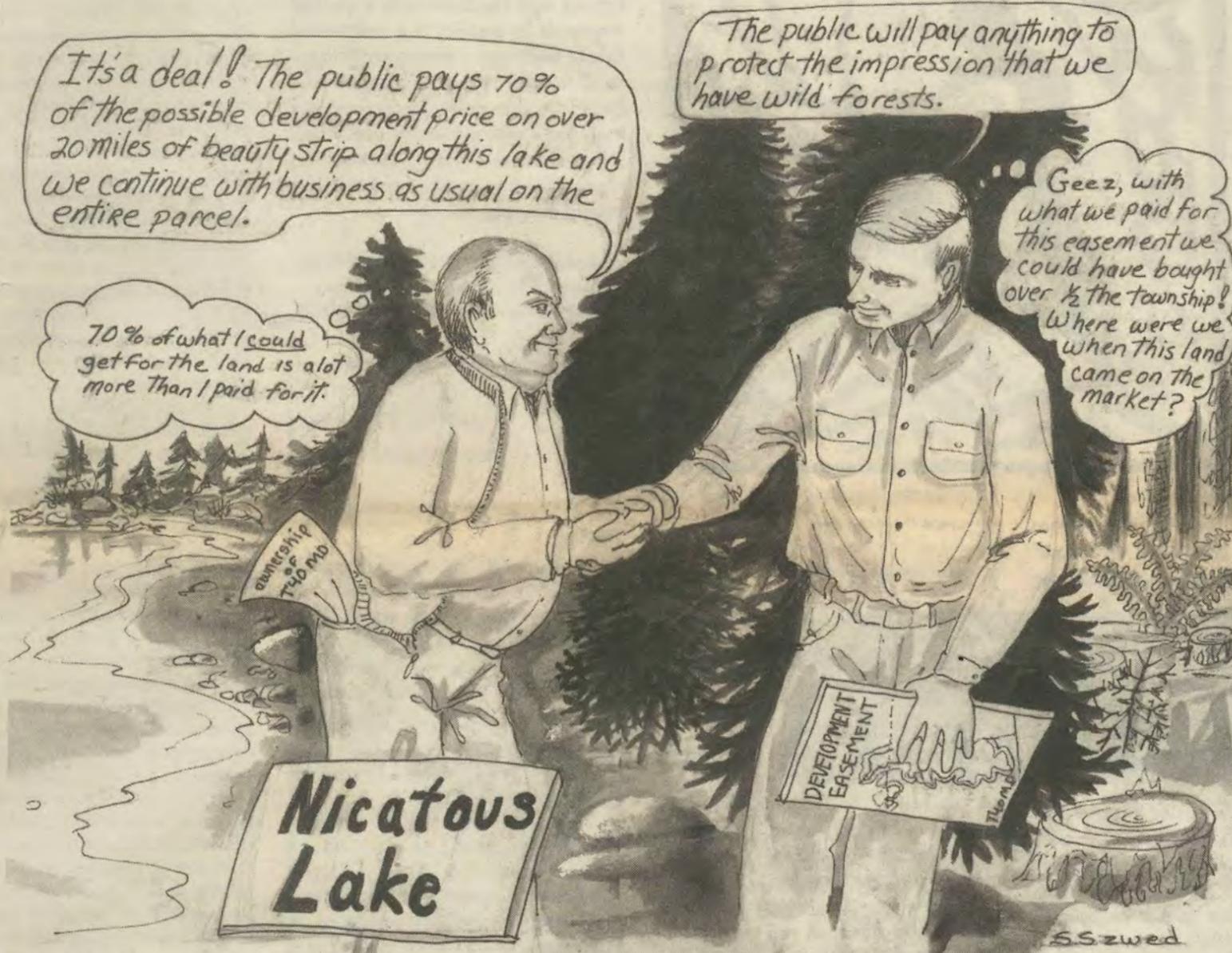
The Robbins brothers are asking

there?

Who would pay for the infrastructure required to support a new development?

Asking these questions does not mean rejecting the deal. It could be that there are good answers that would make this transaction—buying the development rights of a beauty strip that already has some development on it—more desirable than competing options, such as full fee purchase of other lands. To embrace the deal without answering these questions, however, would be a bad precedent. It may lead to a form of

BUYING PUBLIC LANDS OR PUBLIC PERCEPTION?



extortion where landowners with extensive riparian buffer zones could threaten to develop them unless the state bought the development rights.

This is not the first such use of public funds to buy development easements of beauty strips. A few years ago, the state purchased such easements on land belonging to Boise Cascade and Baskahegan. Within weeks after the Robbins proposal, Governor King started negotiating a similar beauty-strip easement deal with Plum Creek, which

recently purchased SAPPI lands. Now McDonald Investment Company is hinting it would like to sell easements on the land it purchased from Bowater.

the volume in this 500 foot zone in a ten year period does not have to be a sacrifice. Landowners can get high yields with selection silviculture over long time periods. What type of logging will Champion pursue beyond the beauty strip? Champion is one of just a small handful of landowners that clearcuts, sprays herbicides, and plants monocultures on any scale. Indeed, Champion last year suggested it would subject 40% of its land to an average of 40-year rotations, and recently has suggested that it would like to increase its level of 'intensive' management. Should the public reward this type of management which violates so many biological principles?

Is the shoreland of the lake really a pristine wilderness that would be violated by any development, or are there actually a few dozen camps already there?

How much per acre did the

for up to 70% of the anticipated value of the land if it is developed. Do they assume that literally every acre around the state is developable? The land is now under LURC jurisdiction. Would LURC allow development on the scale that the Robbins brothers expect the state to pay for?

The land is currently all under the Tree Growth Tax. Landowners who opt for the Tree Growth Tax are voluntarily zoning their land as timberlands so the land is taxed only for current use, not for its development value. Whoever does develop the land will have to pay a fine to get the land out of Tree Growth. Is this fine being taken into account in the value of the development rights that the state would purchase?

Why hasn't the land been developed up until now? Have there been restrictions on the deed? Is some of the land either inaccessible or undesirable for houselots? Has the market not been

We need to ask if there are other, less costly remedies to protecting areas of high public value. The land is zoned for timberlands under Tree Growth, LURC is supposed to be protecting riparian zones, and the Forest Practices Act is supposed to protect forests that lie beyond the beauty strips. The degree to which the public might succumb to pressure to buy the development rights of beauty strips is a measure of the degree to which our current forest policies are not working. One thing is certain, if this precedent is established, we will soon discover that we do not have enough money to buy all the riparian beauty strips in the state. ❄️

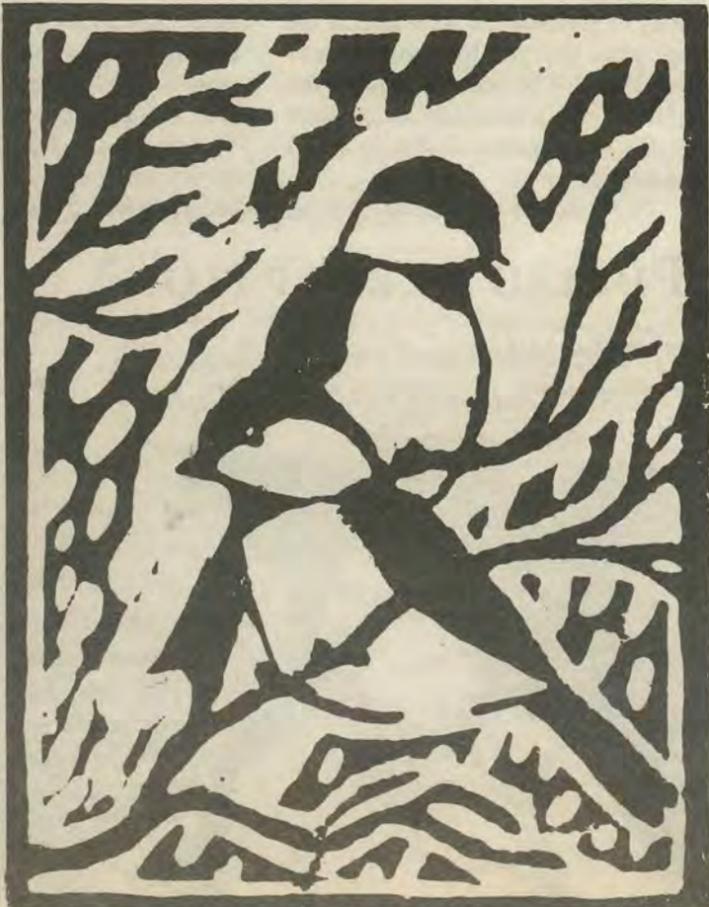
Disenfranchisement of Nature, Alienation of Humanity

by David Orton

Recently I have been thinking a lot about the language that is used to portray industrial forestry, the forests, and wildlife and plant life, the worldview which is hence taken for granted and my own alienation.

I have just finished reading *In The Spirit of the Earth: Rethinking History and Time*, by Calvin Luther Martin (the name is a legacy from a protestant missionary father), 1992, The Johns Hopkins University Press, paperback edition. This book was important for me in helping understand what we have lost as we have objectified the natural world and dissociated ourselves from it spiritually, as human-kind moved away from hunter-gathering societies.

Martin also wrote the very important 1978 book, *Keepers of the Game: Indian-Animal Relationships and the Fur*



with the West; it was not aboriginal." He says that in hunter-gatherer societies, all of nature is seen as "empowered—is conscious, intelligent, sensate, and articulate." Thus hunters have to learn the language of the "other-than-human being."

One way this is done is through the vision quest. In the vision quest was

achieved the "blending of self and non-self in one's own life." Men primarily related to animals while women related to plant beings. Martin says in a hunting and gathering society "Only a fool would imagine himself as somehow exclusively a human being." So the confidence and respect in hunter-gatherer societies comes because of a sense of kinship with plant and animal beings.

The other-than-human persons, vegetable and animal, will give themselves to me, as long as I refrain from over-exploitation, as long as I treat their flesh and substance, including their remains, with respect and avoid all other forms of offense—this is the prevailing sentiment. Nature conserves me, not I it—this is the underlying ethic. . . the mind continues to imagine a relationship of interpenetration of the human with the other-than-human person.

The evolution of society has meant a narrowing of human discourse because, and this is the insight, the other-than-human persons have been disenfranchised into dumb brutes or unconscious vegetable matter. Human communication has narrowed, not expanded as animistic spirituality was replaced by what Martin calls a sky god or gods. So plants and animals are now non-persons. With the sky gods, only humans have souls, which enormously elevates them above other creatures and even more plants. Only human can

converse with the sky gods and become ordained to convert the 'heathen' indigenous peoples.

For Martin, the beginning of animal and plant domestication ushers in the genesis of our modern domination of nature. For hunters and gatherers we are what we consume: Hunting peoples stress courtesy and restraint in the hunting and gathering process, because they know, as wolf knows, that at the very core of their being they are in fact these creatures whom they consume. It is ironic that the Report Of The Royal Commission On Aboriginal Peoples has turned wildlife into a 'resource', as industrial forestry has so turned Canada's forests.

What would it mean for humans to interact with the forest with a spiritual respect or to partake in a commercial fishery from such a perspective? Do we need to return to some form of animism? Or does deep ecology provide a basis for a new environmental ethic? What is the relationship between the ethics of hunter-gatherer societies and present day deep ecology?

To contact the Green Web or David Orton, write R.R. #3, Saltsprings, Pictou County, Nova Scotia, Canada BOK 1P0

New Green Web Bulletin Available

A new Green Web Bulletin (#66) "Industrial Forestry and a Critique of Natural Resource Management", is now available to activists, by contacting the Green Web. It is about 4,500 words (28 kb) long. It is based on a lecture on forestry by David Orton, to students at Mount Allison University in NB, in early November 1998, for a course called 'Natural Resource Management'.

The lecture, given from a left biocentric deep ecology perspective, used philosophical and practical examples, situated in a Maritimes and larger context. It covered a critique of 'resourcism'—looking at nature as an object to commodify for human and corporate use, using the work of John Livingstone; described forestry conflicts like Nova Nada, the Christmas Mountains and Clayoquot Sound, as concerning clashes of irreconcilable values and described those values, also outlining the role for the environmentally conscious; discussed the human-centered language of industrial capitalist forestry and illustrated, using the work of Calvin Martin, the narrowing of human discourse in regard to relating to nature as we have socially evolved; critically assessed Elizabeth May's recent forestry book *At The Cutting Edge*; and concluded by describing how the industrial forestry situation is getting worse and why, and about the need to get involved. ✨

Sierra Club of Canada Objects to Irving Certification

Excerpts from a letter to Scientific Certification Systems, the company which certified J.D. Irving's Black Brook, New Brunswick operations, from the Sierra Club of Canada.

Sierra Club of Canada is a supporter of FSC Principles and Criteria. As a result, we believe it is critical at this early stage in the history of FSC, that there should be strict adherence to FSC principles and criteria. To this end, Sierra Club of Canada challenges the granting of Forest Stewardship Council certification of the Black Brook Forest Management District, currently under the management of J.D. Irving, Ltd. of St. John, New Brunswick.

FSC Principle #9 relating to the maintenance of natural forests states explicitly that "Primary forests, well-developed secondary forests and sites of major environmental, social or cultural significance shall be conserved. Such areas shall not be replaced by tree plantations or other land uses." We believe J. D. Irving, Ltd.'s management plan objectives require an unacceptable increase in the conversion of primary natural forest cover to even-age softwood plantations in the Black Brook District.

The Sierra Club of Canada believes that the planned conversion of 32,000 hectares of primary forest to spruce plantations explicitly contradicts the intended focus of forest conservation under principle 9.

We further believe, that the rational[e] used to justify this hinges on the SCS reviewers unfounded assumption that "Unplanted softwood forests of northern New Brunswick typically exhibit only one or a small number of dominant tree species, not unlike the planted black spruce stands JDI is now creating on such sites."

We contend that primary forests have ecological attributes very different from those found in spruce plantations and that there is ample data to refute this simplistic assumption. The assumption regarding softwood forest conversion is even less relevant however, given that JDI's 25 year management strategy also calls for the conversion of an additional 26,000 hectares of mixed wood and hardwood forest to softwood plantations. We question the validity of SCS reviewers proposing the same rational[e] to justify the conversion of mixed and hardwood forests to plantations. We further state that the conversion of these forest areas also contravenes FSC principle #6 criteria 6.3 and 6.6. with regard to the maintenance of ecological functions and failure to adopt strategies to reduce dependence on pesticides.

Sierra Club of Canada is requesting committee members review these issues regarding Black Brook [the letter also objected to SCS's 'cavalier' disregard of indigenous people; SCS's disregard of the FSC Maritime regional standards working group; lack of consideration for allowing biological maturity of the forest tract in question and the lack of public accountability in the certification process] and that certification should be suspended until such time as the management of the Black Brook District honestly reflects FSC principles and criteria.

Rita Morbia
Biodiversity Campaign Coordinator

Elizabeth May
Executive Director ✨

The evolution of society has meant a narrowing of human discourse because . . . the other-than-human persons have been disenfranchised into dumb brutes or unconscious vegetable matter.

Trade. Keepers really helped me understand the fur trade in Canada and, contrary to the Report of the Royal Commission On Aboriginal Peoples, the negative impact of that trade upon indigenous peoples and their willing and wanton participation in that trade. (See the May 1995 Green Web Bulletin #46, "Some Limitations of a Left Critique and Deep Dilemmas in Environmental-First Nations Relationships", for a summary/discussion of Martin's *Keepers of the Game*.)

The following are some ideas from Martin's *Spirit of the Earth*. His book owes a lot to the 1972, ground-breaking work by Marshall Sahlins, *Stone Age Economics*: Sahlins finds hunters blessed with abundant leisure, few wants, and a technology easily adequate to meet those wants, and well fed, healthy, and full of confidence in nature's bounty—so long as they kept a few key principles in mind.

The principles were periodic movement and restraint in wealth accumulation and population growth. It was Sahlins who said that hunters were "the original affluent society."

Martin points out, in a great line, that "Destitution resulted from contact

Irving Attempts to Dominate Regional FSC Process

by Charles Restino

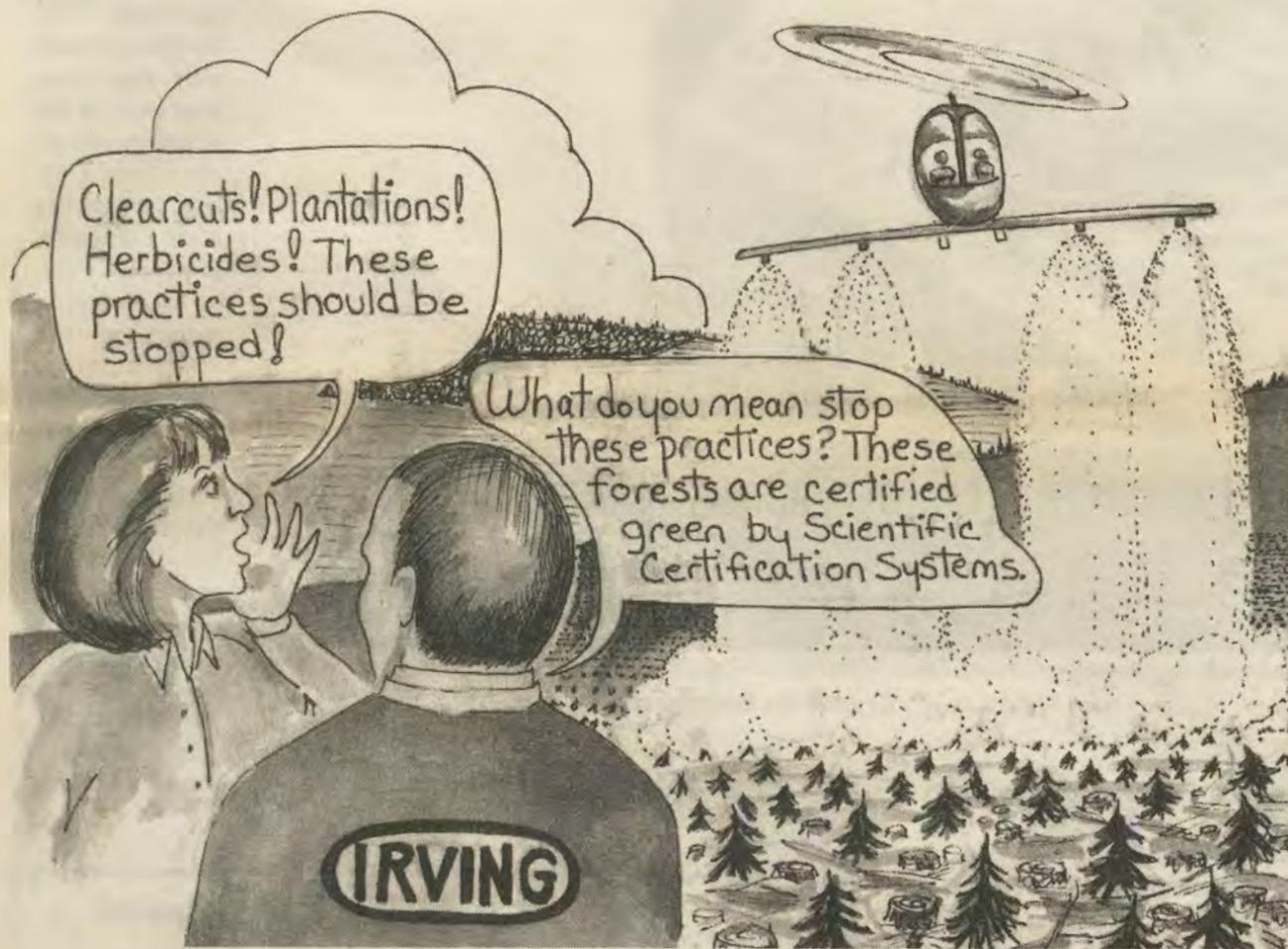
J.D. Irving, the northeast's largest forest products company, has been investing a lot into sprucing up its public persona in recent years, especially since the passing of founder K.C. Irving a few years back. As New Brunswick Senator Charlie McElman once observed, safely protected by parliamentary privilege, "That Irving empire operates with the power of a lion, the appetite of a vulture, the grace of an elephant, the instinct of a barracuda, and the principles of an alley cat." These attributes enabled old K.C. to amass a personal fortune estimated at 7 billion dollars, but his reputation as a tight fisted autocrat was clearly one reflection of corporate 'attitude' his heirs preferred be forgotten as the com-

nificant concessions in order to protect ecological values. JDI expected, and was given special status within the standards development process from the very beginning. As a condition of their participation, the company insisted that all discussions remain confidential, a condition clearly violating FSC statutes.

While supposedly representing large industrial interests at the negotiating table, the JDI steadfastly remained focused on its specific vested interest in certification. When it was unable to negotiate standards to its liking, JDI would consistently set out to discredit the process itself. As the negotiations dragged on over JDI's demands for more industry control over the process, it became even more obvious that its sole objective was to exploit the regional standards process to vali-

malize the district's age class structure, over five decades of Irving 'stewardship', serves as a graphic example of the company's cynical mismanagement of its Black Brook district. It has also ensured that large scale insecticide spraying will be needed in the future to 'protect' extensive tracts of even aged conifers. Without question, JDI's softwood management objectives and AAC projections are intrinsically connected with the unrestricted use of biocides. FSC principles require that management policies minimize dependence on biocides.

Throughout the process JDI demonstrated no plausible commitment toward honoring its agreement to support FSC Principles. In doing so, the company consistently negotiated in bad faith, while making every effort to subvert and delay the process when strate-



pany enters the global marketplace of the 21st century.

Nevertheless, working to develop regional forest management standards with the company during the past two and a half years, has convinced me K.C.'s legacy permeates every facet of the Irving way.

The multi-stakeholder process to develop Forest Stewardship Council standards in Maritime region has been complicating JDI's version of forest certification since it began in April 1996. Having already bought and paid for an FSC 'well managed forest' certification for the company's Black Brook holdings by Scientific Certification Systems of Oakland, California, JDI realized it was essential for them to control any process which could jeopardize their existing certification.

From the outset, the company saw the benefit of developing regional standards which would uphold its SCS certification without having to make sig-

date its existing FSC certification.

JDI's current forest management policies contravene international FSC principles in a number of areas. These include the widespread conversion of mixed forest habitat to softwood plantations, the extensive planting of exotic species, and management objectives requiring complete dependence on a variety of biocides. In fact, biocide use is reflected in every aspect of JDI's operations, from the protection of seed orchards and the production of tree seedlings, to being an integral element in plantation establishment and maintenance. JDI's use of chemical herbicides (5,000 hectares per year in Black Brook alone), vastly exceeds industrial norms within the region.

The company's long standing policy of total insecticide intervention within the Black Brook district is a significant factor contributing to a serious age class imbalance within the management unit. The failure to nor-

gically expedient. JDI also violated consensus process principles and the trust of fellow committee members, by withholding crucial information regarding the Black Brook certification for more than ten months.

Having repeatedly failed to get what it wanted from the regional standards process, J.D. Irving has now embarked on a concerted effort to delay the final approval of regional standards and force the attrition of key members of the standards committee. The company is fully aware that many members of the committee who have participated on a voluntary basis for over two and a half years no longer have the financial resources or patience needed to continue to endure JDI's relentless efforts to control the process or destroy it. In spite of the company's PR veneer, those who have had to deal with 'the Irvings' soon find out just how aggressively the company is committed to having things its way—or no way. ❄️

More on Nova Nada

(Letter in Yarmouth, N.S. Vanguard): Though we're exiled from Nova Nada, our friends in Nova Scotia keep us abreast of news there. Besides the usual assortment of editorials around our issue—some of them good, some woefully misinformed—we recently heard of the \$70 million loan guarantee given to our 'good neighbors' the Irvings via Atlantic Towing Ltd.

Ah, the tides of misfortune that beset the earnest businessman. The Irvings still have that \$42 million to pay back for the Whale barge mess; and they just bought 1 million acres of land in Maine. In desperation for their very survival as a force in today's market, they had to beg the government for help with their ships. No wonder they couldn't grant us a 2-mile buffer zone!

The latest news saddens but hardly surprises us. The front-page photo of Russell MacLellan and J.D. Irving in the Oct. 7 Chronicle-Herald said it all. (Who's really in control there?) But I was intrigued by J.D. Irving Ltd.'s insistence on a 'level playing field.' Ironically, MacLellan used the same phrase in his correspondence with us, as an excuse for remaining uninvolved in our dispute with the Irvings. Our 'playing field' was hardly level. They both must mean another use of the phrase—a playing field that levels any competition in the way of the Irvings.

The rampant exercise of rapacious greed does create jobs. Forgive me for asking—how long and on whose terms? I wish someone would study the number of non-Irving workers who have lost their jobs as a result of the expansion of this mini-empire. I'm one of them—hence my change of address. Goliath's boots leave a large and indiscriminate wake.

Nova Nada is a small corner of sacred silence—alarmingly rare in our modern world. We want to preserve it not out of land-grabbing greed, but as a haven used by thousands of others over the last twenty-six years. Is that really too much to ask billionaires? Our societal leaders continue to sacrifice quality of life, and our irreplaceable natural resources, for a bit of short-term economic flurry. It's good for the Irvings, it's good for the current politicians; but does it serve the common good? That is the true test.

Fr. Tom Renaud
Holy Hill Hermitage
Skreen, Co. Sligo
Ireland

The Roman Catholic monastery and retreat center at Nova Nada in southwestern Nova Scotia has struggled with nuisance from J.D. Irving logging operations for several years. ❄️

Loggers' Border Blockade: Finding Work in a Colonial Economy

by Mitch Lansky

In the latter weeks of October, a band of northern Maine loggers blocked off crossings at three checkpoints on the Maine-Quebec border. They claimed that they could not get work because logging companies were instead hiring bonded Canadian labor. The laws state that Canadian bonds can only be hired if employers can find no Americans first. Yet here were desperate American loggers claiming that they wanted to work, but weren't being hired.

This is not a new issue. In 1975, the Maine Woodsmen Association, an organization of loggers and truck drivers, went on strike against the paper industry. One of their complaints was the high numbers of Canadian workers in the woods driving down wages and taking away jobs. Although the strike was abandoned under strong pressure from then Governor Longley (the elder), their protests did lead to a reduction in Canadian bonds in the woods. For a while.

While the attention of the public was elsewhere, Canadian loggers have been slowly increasing in northern Maine. Maine loggers have, periodically, complained about this at hearings—from the Northern Forest Lands

Council to the Maine Council on Sustainable Forest Management—but various committees and officials have told them that there was little that could be done.

That there are hundreds of Canadian workers working in the Maine woods while Maine workers are unemployed raises many questions that need to be answered:

Given that thousands of loggers have lost their jobs over the last few decades to mechanization, how can there be a shortage of Maine loggers, rather than a surplus?

If there is a shortage of Maine workers, why haven't the employers raised wages and improved working conditions and instituted training programs to attract loggers rather than lower the piece-rate wage and require expensive logger-paid certification?

Why does the U.S. government pay for border crossings on private roads that are used primarily to import labor and export raw sawlogs?

With much of the forest land in the unorganized territories of northern Maine owned by absentee (and often foreign) landowners, profits leave the state. With Canadians cutting mature wood and Mexicans doing planting and brush clearing, wages leave the state. With the export of raw sawlogs to Quebec mills, the potential for value-added products, and the taxes and jobs that come with them, leave the state. One retired logger, who had been in the 1975 logger rebellion, quipped to me that not a lot of apples fall off the cart as it leaves the state.

What we have in northern Maine is a colonial economy. The landowners, who want to maximize their incomes, have an incentive to reduce labor, keep wages low, minimize regulations and taxes, maximize government 'incentives' (including tax breaks, infrastructure, or export assistance), and maximize their power over the political process to ensure they get all of the above.

What is best for these landowners in the short term, however, is not necessarily best for the citizens of Maine in the long term. Eliminating jobs through mechanization has meant high unemployment for northern Mainers. The relatively low tax rate for large landowners has meant less money for Mainers for schools and roads. The weak regulatory climate has allowed landowners to overcut

and to degrade the quality of the forest resource.

Something is very wrong when 1% of the state's population cannot be supported on 50% of the state's land. Wages in the unorganized territories, according to LURC's 20-year assessment, are 72% of those of the rest of the state. Eighty three percent of those employed in the region must commute to the organized townships just to work. It is telling that loggers feel that they have to shut off the borders just to get a job.

We call Latin American countries that have a huge disparity of wealth 'banana republics.' Sending 'aid' to such countries generally does little benefit to the bulk of the poor. Instead it tends to benefit the elites who control the land. The landless poor can only find low-wage work on the absentee-owned plantations. Only land reform has made a difference in people's lives, by keeping money in the communities. The unorganized territories, where a few dozen landowners control nearly 90% of the land, would certainly qualify as a banana republic if it were in Latin America (it is ironic that the township



Canadian loggers supported the Maine Woodsmen Association Strike of 1975.

Photo from Mitch Lansky's *Beyond the Beauty Strip*.

from which many of the loggers, such as Hilton Hafford, the leader of the blockade, come from is called Allagash Plantation).

Maine leaders have been competing with one another lately to help correct the problem of 'two Maines.' Their solutions have, invariably, rested on big-bang solutions—attracting big industries with big tax breaks, or building big roads. A recent series in Time Magazine is raising questions about the benefits of corporate welfare. The loggers' blockade is sending us a message about who has been neglected in our policy decisions to date. Our leaders ought to listen. ❄️

Champion International Looking (to the) Green

On November 16, Champion International Corporation announced plans to invite third party review of its U.S. forestry operations on 5 million plus acres. The company's Northern Forest holdings, the former St. Regis lands, include over 700,000 acres in Maine and 330,000 acres currently being peddled in the Adirondacks and North Country of Vermont and New Hampshire.

The review process will apparently certify Champion's compliance with the American Forest and Paper Association's Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), a voluntary industry set of guidelines on forestry practices. "Third-party review under SFI builds on our commitment to practice sustainable forestry that goes beyond state and federal laws and regulations and helps to insure public confidence in our forestry practices on the ground," said a company press release.

Champion also recently expressed its intentions in the state of Maine to respond to projected shortfalls of softwood by practicing intensified forestry. This will involve herbicide spraying, plantations and pre-commercial thinning.—A.W.

Two Maines? Canada Feeds Off The Poor One

Canadians view Maine as a third-world country, so I've heard Don Tardie of Fraser Paper say.

Indicative of third-world status is export of unprocessed natural resources by exploiters. These often are encouraged by co-opted politicians and bureaucrats. Here the most arrogant government agency is the US Department of Labor. They have the brass nerve to tell Maine that besides exporting our logs, we will also let Canadians come in to cut them—economic insult added to economic injury.

Figure 1, the Department of Labor map, sets the scene. Note that the counties along the northern and eastern borders abutting Quebec and New Brunswick are those showing a decline in jobs in five years.

Readers of the Bangor Daily News may recall the 'Two-Maines' series which contrasted the economies of northern and southern Maine. Figures 2 and 3 show the regional per capita incomes and populations, and their trends, both favorable to the lower counties.

In pointing out the disparity in a six-part series, the BDN documented the symptoms of this weak economy. They stopped before arriving at the causes.

Note that the poorest counties, Washington and Aroostook, have the distinction of being largely owned by industrial-strength people like Steve Schley, with a million acres. Great Northern, International Paper, Irving, Champion, and Georgia-Pacific are in the game, too.

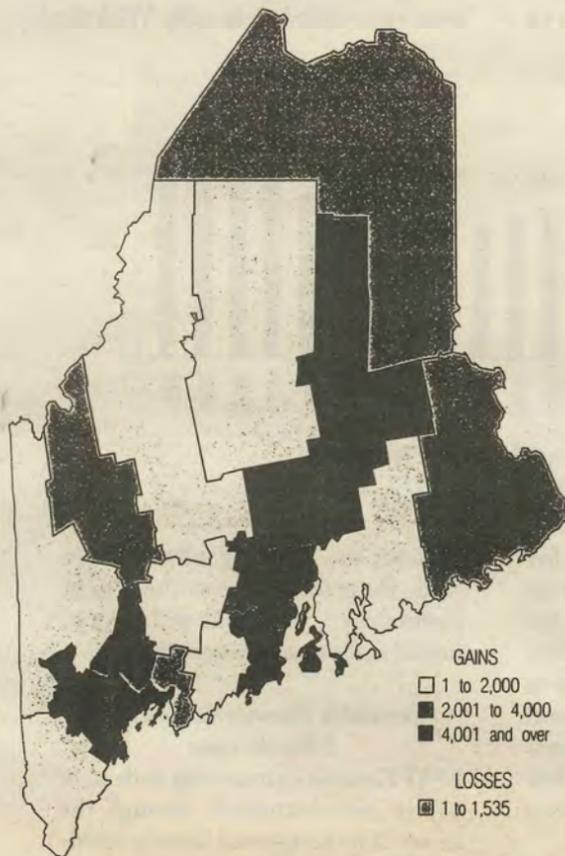
Of course, the forest industry is operating here. They always tell us how important they are to the state economy—so why is the region where they are biggest the poorest?

The answer is that thousands of the jobs utilizing the natural resource, the forest, are in Canada, where the trees are landed. There are forty mills just across the border. Not satisfied with taking the sawmill jobs, Quebec requires the US landowners to take on another

600 of their subsidized woods workers as well. In turn, the availability of Canadians is used to defeat any bargaining strength residents should have.

A courageous dozen of Maine woodsmen and their families who are protesting Canadian machines and workers taking our US jobs are addressing vigorously the fundamental reason that northern (and eastern) Maine is a poor place. The principal natural resource, the forest, has been diverted by Schley of the Pinguereau and

The Number of Jobs in Maine Increased by Over 40,000 Between 1992 and 1997



International Paper, to name just two, to benefit the Canadian economy, not ours. Schley called in the State Police to open his private hauling road at St. Pamphile, where US Customs keeps a gate for his sole use.

What Schley and the rest do is to sell their trees to Quebec mills just over the border at St. Pamphile, Estcourt, Daaquam, St. Juste, towns where Maine residents have picketed. The landowners are persuaded by Canadian subsidies so effective, that, as Bob Hintze of IP put it, "When we get as good a deal in Maine as we do in Canada, our mills will be in Maine." Canada, of course, does this to create jobs for their citizens. They aren't satisfied with several thousand mill jobs using as much as 500 million boardfeet of Maine logs, so they put in their woods-workers and machines as part of the package, accounting for 600 more jobs. These woodsmen and machines coming into Maine each Monday, and the trees they cut pouring out of Maine are what we see.

We ought to be looking at the dollar amounts entailed; this is what is lost to the Aroostook (and Maine) economy. Some aspiring PhD in economics should be doing this. Our state economist and planners, and the fed-state labor department don't want to see any such numbers. I have

asked DOL if the earnings of Quebec woodsmen are tallied in the Aroostook reports—no response. But you may see that if this payroll is counted, it's a fiction; but to count it would reveal the hemorrhage. One woodsman, Bob Matthews of Houlton puts it this way:

Anyway, I never could understand why the Canadian labor issue never raised the public's ire more than it has; which is close to not at all. Wait till the Irvings add the Bowater holdings to their Maine acquisitions, you'll see some exemplary labor policies then. There will not be two Maines, just one, but New Brunswick will be a lot bigger.

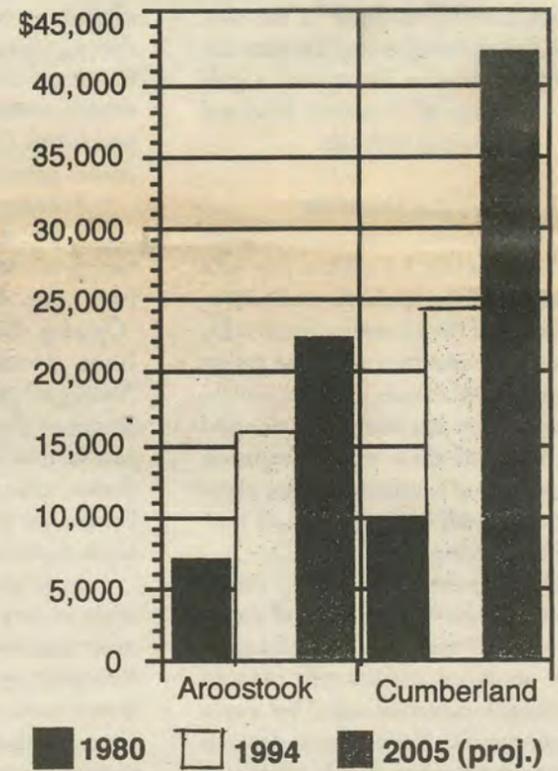
Matthews wrote that before the recent Irving purchase of another million acres. As I wrote to the Labor Department last August, there is a small industry of scavengers attached to the labor import process—lawyers, labor agents, brokers, and, shamefully, the U.P.I.U. (the paperworkers' union) which contracts for some of the Canadian woodsmen.

Of the forty ostensible employers, a few are admittedly foreign, many are a P.O. box with an agents name. To this total we must add the bureaucrats in state and federal labor departments who facilitate (and defend) this economic drain.

Does anyone really care? NRCM and ME Audubon worry about the backdrop for their canoe

Personal income

The gap in per capita personal income between Aroostook and Cumberland counties continues to widen.



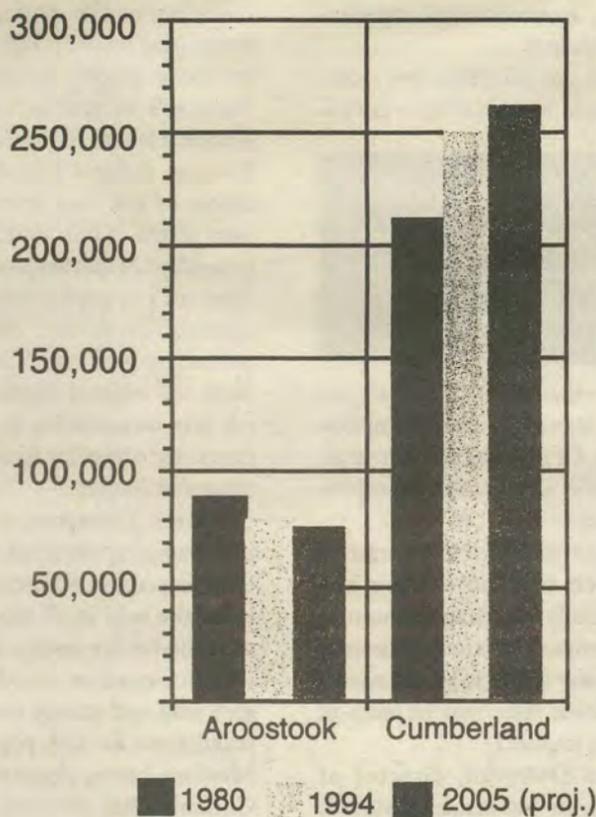
Source: State Planning Office Bangor Daily News

trips, but not about a well-stocked forest with happy, prosperous Maine workers. Since 1975, when we of the Maine Woodsmen's Association raised the issues, the caravan of politicians of all persuasions has piously ignored this loss to our economy. Thanks to a small band of determined workers who last week plugged the border, the current guardians of our jobs are attentive when the Labor Department arrogantly states that we are not going to get rid of the 'bonds.' (Remember, if you think this is an issue only in John Martin's parish, the threat of the commuters has been applied by St. Regis (Champion) and Georgia-Pacific, for examples.) Maybe we should tie a tentative can to the politicians' caudal appendages until we see real action. Our congress people and, especially, Gov. King, can stop the bonds tomorrow. Our next legislature can modify the Tree-Growth tax shelter to discourage log export. Stay tuned.

Bill Butler
19 Nov 1998



Population



Source: State Planning Office Bangor Daily News

Sustaining Forests, Jobs & Trade in a Global Economy?

The monstrously palatial Mount Washinton Hotel, famous as the site of the international currency fixing Bretton Woods Conference of 1946, provided an appropriate site for an October conference on international timber trade and regional trans-border policy hosted by the National Wildlife Federation. The earlier 'Bretton Woods' ushered in many of the institutions and terms of today's global economy.

The day provided an amazing

out actual numbers on Quebec's raw log imports.

"There is no more room in Quebec to increase the availability of timber," stated Robitaille; "we would need to invest more in intensive silviculture, a matter being debated," he said of efforts to increase Quebec's cut.

The Quebec paper industry has shifted from roundwood to chips, Robitaille reported, and depends heavily on waste from sawmilling, an industry which it has apparently swallowed (in addition to a \$1.5 billion capital investment in

Energy left no doubt that New Brunswick has stared into the ugly truth of spruce/fir shortfalls, human population explosion and steepening consumption—and answered with a \$25 million annual expenditure on timber stand improvement. The province's \$2 billion forest industry provides one in eight of its jobs. "We cannot afford to make a mistake," said Richard.

The province is also using its control of timber allotments to encourage or mandate greater utilization of wood and more value-added at the mills. With the

Donovan and others repeated throughout the day that price premiums figure less than recognition and market share advantages.

David Ford, directing the Certified Forest Products Council, also sees in certification the maintenance of "the social license to practice forestry." Ford took note of World Bank/World Wildlife Fund plans to certify 30 million acres.

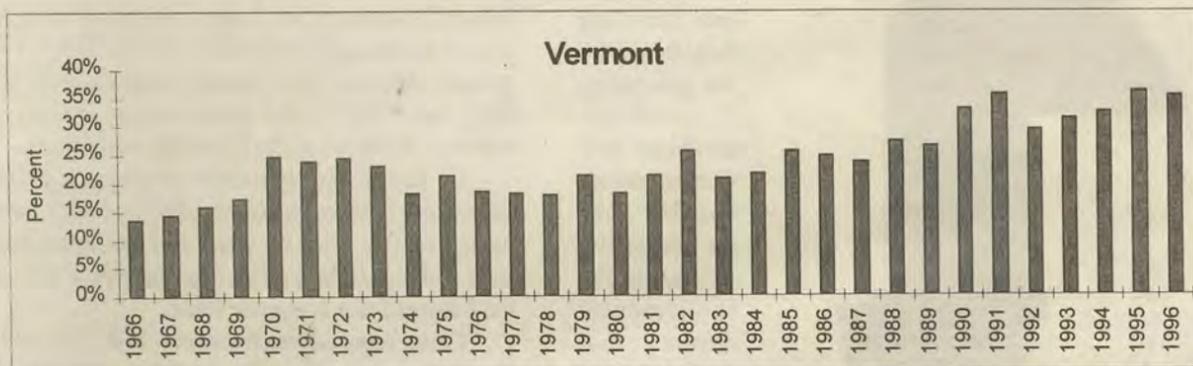
Hybrid Perspectives from Border States
Panelists from states bordering Canada had differing although not polar views of international trade and its economic impact. The Northern Appalachian Restoration Project's Bill Butler profiled 'the two Maines' that have experienced contrary direction in job creation. (See article, page 11.)

Jameson French, president of the New Hampshire hardwood processor Northland Forest Products, expressed the desire for real numbers on logs crossing the border and in particular the percentage of pine and hardwoods sawn in Quebec that originates in the states. LOGS! he said were the principal stated concern of New Hampshire sawmill owners in the recent Governor's task force on the industry, and the perceived Canadian advantages, ranging from superior capital investment, cheap energy, a full employment policy, low interest loans and low stumpage, all translate into enhanced ability of Quebec mills to compete for timber.

One partial solution that New Hampshire must pursue, he said, is cutting regulations that would address Canadian outfits cutting south of the border and trucking logs north. "Unless we move quickly to enact a bill like Vermont's we remain vulnerable," said French.

One partial solution that New Hampshire must pursue, he said, is cutting regulations that would address Canadian outfits cutting south of the border and trucking logs north. "Unless we move quickly to enact a bill like Vermont's we remain vulnerable," said French. He also advocated extending to Eastern federal forests the ban on export of raw logs from federal lands west of the 100th meridian and, more generally, domestic processing incentives such as capital gains reductions. (Resolutions to that effect have been passed by NH and VT legislatures.) State and regional support, he concluded, may be necessary to "maintain and guarantee a quality forest resource for our grandchildren."

Steve Thompson, a consultant for the emerging national 'Campaign to Stop Exporting Forests and Jobs' provided the only at all biocentric analysis of trans-border issues. He noted that where Canadian woodland caribou, grey wolf and grizzly were once source populations for sink populations in his Montana home, clearcutting in British Columbia has reversed the situation. "Community stability is not a priority in the West," he said, noting that the region, except for BC, "has reached the end of the forest frontier." While Thompson hopes for the creation of local value-added manufacture, Plum Creek is looking to fresh supplies of timber in Arkansas, Louisiana and Maine (see his commentary on page 3). —A.W. ❄



Sawlog and Veneer Log Exports as a Percentage of Log Harvest, 1966-1996
Source: Vermont Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation

glimpse of the tip of the iceberg of international trade governance, the erosion of national sovereignty over trade, and the determination of regional forest products interests to thrive in the context of the global economy. In sum, the presentations also illustrated a gulf between ecological, economic, local and more cosmopolitan outlooks.

No Fiber Shortfalls

Dr. David Brooks, economist with the US Forest Service led off the day with an analysis of the world flow of timber. Brooks traced the growth in world trade of forest commodities since the earlier Bretton Woods. Trade in paper, panels, and sawnwood has essentially doubled since 1961; of these basic categories, only sawnwood is expected to not experience an overall incline in rate of consumption between now and 2010.

Other givens of Brooks' in ceteris paribus analysis: "No evidence of a supply crisis;" "Private forests and intensively managed forests will play an increasingly important role," for paper in particular; the United States depends on imported lumber, panels especially; trade interventions are a 'blunt' instrument that have "mixed to complete lack of success" as economic tools; only as they apply to public land, where lessened economic values are accepted in consequence, do trade restrictions make sense, said Brooks.

Shifting Procurement Areas Disguising Shortage?

To put it mildly, Quebec is anxious to preserve its access to American wood, and to American markets for lumber. This was evident in the presentations of Jacques Robitaille, president of the Quebec Lumber Manufacturers Association, Andre d'Arcy of the Quebec Ministry of Natural Resources, and Charles Tardie, who spoke from the floor as a representative of the Quebec manufacturer Maibec which purchases wood in Maine.

Anything of environmental consequence had to be inferred from what these men said; industrialists in the audience were more intent on teasing

papermaking capacity over the past five years). Quebec claims to import no more than 10% of its wood from the United States and insists that its level of subsidy is minimal. (Andre d'Arcy of the Quebec ministry of Natural Resources rebutted assertions of over-subsidy, stating that official inquiry had established Quebec subsidy at .001% of market prices.)

Among the obstacles Robitaille sees to free trade (and, therefore, obstacles to a recoupment of that \$1.5 billion, one might conjecture) are: "Gaining the edge over the competition; Sustainable Forestry; and Aboriginal groups." He echoed Brooks optimism about supply: "There is a surplus of roundwood," he said, "Look at Russia." (He also noted that France and Britain are looking at sawmilling, and Chile exporting, their timber surpluses.)

As to aboriginal claims, "The situation is very worrisome: government must solve the problem," said Robitaille, not mentioning which government, provincial or federal. He concluded with an olive branch to stateside industry: use the dollars liberated from a trade war "to promote our sustainability." Robitaille added to the reasons for Quebec's mill expansion a shift to cutting in the far north: "We went back to sustainable cutting . . . and shifted our [procurement] area."

What I inferred from the Quebec delegation's presentations is that the province is committed to paper in a way that Maine companies, for instance, are not (at least not in Maine); that sustainability to the province's industry and government means a global fiber pool; and that liquidation of local supplies of wood have no real significance to them. Quebec is clearly basing its mill capacity on existing supplies of wood and, one surmises, future demand. Whether that is 'sustainability' depends on how you torture the term . . .

By contrast, New Brunswick is a bit more anxious. Taking a Knute Rockne approach to sustainability, Jim Richard of New Brunswick's Department of Natural Resources and

province also targeting 10% of crown lands for protected areas (hey! some biodiversity!), the public will soon be invited in for a consultation process.

Certifiable Forestry Races Trade Liberalization

NWF's interest in impacting trade is, of course, environmental, through the means of its Smartwood forestry certification program, which has a Northeast base of operations in Richmond, Vermont. Jake Caldwell of NWF's DC office noted the ongoing movement of the World Trade Organization toward establishing itself as an arbiter of eco-labelling as well as government rules on forest products procurement. "Who was in the room when these standards were devised? . . . Environmental organizations have concerns . . ."

Caldwell also pointed to two looming 'huge' trade liberalizations—APEC

"Unless we [in New Hampshire] move quickly to enact a [cutting] bill like Vermont's we remain vulnerable." — Jameson French.

and FTAA—that, he said, may impact price; price signals; and consumption and demand. Of regional concern: artificially low prices and 'barriers to responsible operators.'

The negotiations for these processes he predicts will move faster and faster, especially as Asian economies begin to recover (Mexico, he noted, exported its way out of crisis, an avenue the international elites may be loath to deny Asia, he implied).

Richard Donovan, director of Smartwood, in his remarks stated, "from our point of view, globalization is here to stay, there's no going back on it." He believes therefore in a maximization of advantages and minimization of harm from trade. Donovan stated his eagerness to locate and work with landowner associations interested in certification, such association being a principal means of lowering certification's costs. As to certification's benefits,

Lamb Brook Saved Again by Environmental Groups

from Forest Watch

The black bears, neotropical songbirds and other lovers of the Lamb Brook wildland on the Green Mountain National Forest can sleep soundly again this winter. Environmentalists have succeeded once again in stopping the US Forest Service from logging the remote 5,500 acre area—at least for now. The legal wrangling between environmentalists and the agency may continue for years to come.

Judge Murtha, of the federal district court in Brattleboro, denied on November 9th a request by the Forest Service to do logging and construction work in Lamb Brook prior to the agency's completion of a court-ordered Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will assess the impacts of those activities on the area's wildland values. A coalition of environmental groups, led by Green Mountain Forest Watch, filed papers with the court on October 28th to block the agency's request and keep the area wild. The judge's ruling marks the fourth legal victory by the environmentalists.

"After four court defeats in Vermont and New York City, the Forest Service should now understand what everyone else knows: the wildland values of Lamb Brook deserve protection and further study," said Jim Northup, Executive Director of Forest Watch. "The agency needs to learn how to take no for an answer and accept that the wilderness characteristics of Lamb Brook deserve protection. Unfortunately, like death and taxes it seems that another thing we can all count on is that the Forest Service will be back with their chainsaws and bulldozers," said Northup.

On October 19th, the US Forest Service asked the federal District court to clarify the court-imposed injunction against timber harvesting and road building in Lamb Brook. The agency hoped the court would allow them to clearcut 28 acres, log other sites, and

widen and place culverts under sections of the Old Stage Road for snowmobiles.

The USFS contended that the injunction should not apply because the proposed logging would be, technically speaking, not timber harvesting since no trees would be removed. And, it claimed that the substantial clearing and excavation work proposed along the Old Stage Road would be, technically speaking, not roadbuilding since it is now a trail not a road. Forest Watch and the other environmental groups responded by saying that the USFS claims were, technically speaking, putting the cart before the horse.

Judge Murtha agreed with the environmental groups. "The plain wording of the judgement, prohibiting any further harvesting or road-building, is sufficiently broad to prohibit the activities the Forest Service seeks to conduct," wrote Judge Murtha in his denial of the Forest Service's request.

"Thank heavens for Judge Murtha," said Steve Saltonstall, attorney for the environmental groups. "If it weren't for him, Lamb Brook would be nothing but a collection of stumps with a snowmobile super-highway running through it. In fact, if it weren't for the federal courts, the Forest Service would probably try to clearcut the world," said Saltonstall.

The vigilant defenders of Lamb Brook hope that the Forest Service will use the coming months to study and protect the wilderness characteristics of the area rather than single-mindedly focusing on logging it. "I am disappointed that the Forest Service doesn't have better things to do than dragging this fight on in the courts," said Jim Northup. "The agency needs to spend more time keeping illegal off-road vehicles from eroding soil, polluting streams and destroying the peace and quiet of Lamb Brook, and less time looking for legal loopholes that will enable them to log it." ❄️

A Mouse With Wings Halts Green Mtn. Logging

by Jim Northup, Forest Watch

The Indiana bat, a thumb-sized "mouse with wings," has put a temporary halt to logging and roadbuilding on 5 percent of Vermont—the 350,000 acre Green Mountain National Forest. A similar moratorium on logging may soon be

wild forests, and reforming public land management.

White Mountain National Forest staff are proceeding with plans for future timber sales, but admit that they too may have to suspend logging if Forest Watch files similar appeals there. "An appeal of the White Mountain's timber sales is as certain as death and taxes," said Jim Northup, Executive Director of Forest Watch based in Montpelier, VT.

On November 5th, Forest Watch filed an appeal of Old Joe—a 700,000 board foot timber sale along Bingo Brook in Rochester, Vermont. In its appeal, Forest Watch asked that the 400 acres of logging be suspended until the agency completes work needed to ensure that the Indiana bat, a federally listed endangered species, would be adequately protected. The Forest Service withdrew the Old Joe timber sale on November 20th citing the need to protect the migratory Indiana bat.

"Protection of federally listed Endangered Species and their habitats is of paramount importance to the Forest Service," said Beth LeClair, Acting Forest Supervisor on the

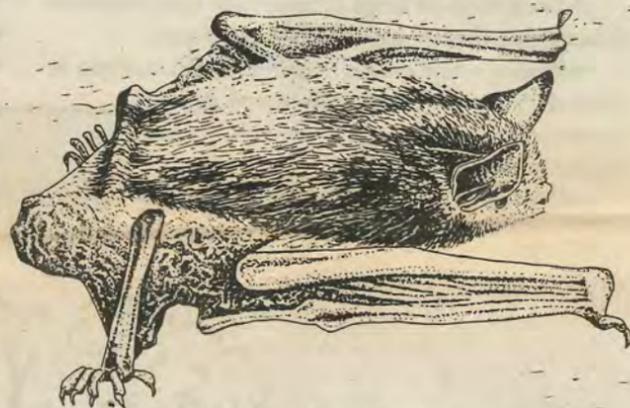
Continued on Page 15



Indiana Bat Range
Source: US Forest Service

imposed on the 750,000 acre White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire. The Indiana bat is a federally listed endangered species.

Officials from the United States Forest Service announced yesterday a suspension of all future logging and road building activities on the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF). The surprise announcement came in response to a recent appeal of a timber sale by Forest Watch, a 1,200 member environmental organization dedicated to saving and creating



Indiana Bat, *Myotis sodalis*

Better to Play Noah than God

by Jim Northup

When we think of endangered species, we often think of Giant pandas, Bald eagles, Peregrine falcons and Trumpeter swans. Most Americans would agree that these large, beautiful creatures should be protected from extinction.

Here in Vermont we also have endangered species like the Indiana bat that need protection for the same reasons that eagles do, yet some folks seem to think that it is okay to wipe out species that are small and unattractive, at least in their view (McCloughry, "A Batty Federal Law," 11/30/98 Valley News). They are either uninformed or they enjoy playing God, or both. Scary thought—an uninformed God.

Fortunately, the US Forest Service (USFS) leaders in Vermont want to play Noah, not God. They understand the serious implications of species extinctions and the scientific, legal and ethical reasons why protection of endangered species is of paramount importance to our nation and planet.

There are many reasons for protecting endangered species. The most fundamental is what David Ehrenfeld calls the Noah Principle: "They should

be conserved because they exist and because this existence is itself is but the present expression of a continuing historical process of immense antiquity and majesty." In other words, all species have an inherent right to exist and humans have an ethical duty to reserve them a space on this ark we call earth.

There are also utilitarian reasons to protect endangered species. Endangered plants and animals constitute an enormous biological warehouse that if lost could deprive us of incalculable medical, scientific and commercial benefits. Endangered species also serve as alarm bells that tell us when human actions are unsustainable and are putting our planet's health at risk. The loss of the Indiana bat, Peregrine falcon or Canada lynx may pose little direct impact to most people, yet may be indicative of degradation in our environmental support system—an early warning of ecological and economic disasters to come. By heeding these signals and modifying our actions to meet the habitat needs of endangered species, we are able to meet the needs of a host of other species, including human beings, at the same time.

The USFS move to protect the Indiana bat in Vermont comes after a

rapid population decline for the past several decades, both in Vermont and throughout its entire range, covering most of the eastern U.S. The total known Indiana bat population was estimated to be about 550,000 in 1980 and only 350,000 in 1995. Several Vermont hibernacula—caves and abandoned mines where bats overwinter—had hundreds of Indiana bats hibernating in them in the 1930s and 1940s, and have next to none in them today.

Disturbance and vandalism of hibernacula were once the major causes of Indiana bat population decline. However, conservation of known hibernacula and gating of entrances to prevent vandalism have not stemmed the Indiana bat's downward population trend. Scientists believe that removal of forest cover and suitable roost trees and use of pesticides and herbicides may now be the major causes of this bat's population decline. Scientists recently discovered that during the warm weather months, the Indiana bat roosts in big, old trees with peeling bark and forages for flying insects above and below the forest canopy along streams and wetlands. The bat also requires areas of undisturbed forest for fall swarming and mating. Logging—especially non-winter clearcutting—of old-growth forests,

other large old trees, and trees along streams and waterways is contributing to the Indiana bat's decline.

The USFS must reduce logging and modify logging practices on the GMNF to provide the conditions that the Indiana bat and many other species need. Fortunately, these changes will not affect Vermont's timber harvest levels, or the number of forest industry jobs. Only about 50 percent of the total volume of wood that grows in Vermont each year is now being cut, and only about one percent of that wood is logged from the GMNF.

Private forest land can easily meet society's demand for wood. Public land needs to be managed to provide what private lands cannot or will not—wildland, old-growth, forested riparian corridors, and habitats for rare and endangered species. Managing for endangered species on public land is not a batty idea; it's the right thing to do.

Jim Northup directs Forest Watch, a Vermont-based membership group committed to wild forests and sound forest practices. Forest Watch is located at 10 Langdon St., Montpelier, VT 05602 and may be reached via email at jnorthup@together.net or contacted at 802-223-3216. ❄️

Maine Electric Restructuring: New Packaging & Shifting Priorities?

by Pamela Prodan

With the actual restructuring of the electric utility industry underway, specific consumer and environmental protection concerns need to be addressed. Will it be possible to protect consumers and the environment from the ravages of the marketplace? After all, these were among the reasons for regulation in the first place!

A key question is whether the electric industry should be allowed to create new types of 'green power' products targeted at environmentally-conscious consumers, even if what is sold as 'green' is the same as what was being sold anyway. This is one question that will be with us for years to come. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) may weigh in on this question at some point, but not until after some consumers are fooled into thinking they are improving the environment by choosing 'green' electricity products from among existing generation sources. FTC guides for the use of environmental marketing claims already exist for tangible goods (see sidebar). Electricity, being intangible, would seem to present a new twist for marketers and regulators.

Other changes proposed by the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC) are raising the hackles of consumer and environmental advocates as well:

- slashing of energy management funding levels;
- elimination of large commercial and industrial demand-side management (DSM) programs;
- allowing a sole bidder to deliver DSM services, in effect shutting out community-based agencies that currently deliver such services to low-income households;
- allowing electricity marketers to disaggregate

programs to about one third (1/3) the projected 1999 level. In addition, the PUC proposes that paydown of past expenses be deducted from this number. The net effect would be zero new program expenditures. It is especially noteworthy that the Legislature has not repealed the Electric Rate Reform Act, a law that contains ongoing requirements for implementing energy conservation and energy efficiency techniques and innovations. So, expect a battle in the Legislature if the proposed rule is not changed to include a lot more energy management funding.

Low-income advocates are especially concerned that low-income households will not be targeted for

regulators and their consultants devised a model rule with disclosure policies and a sample electricity label to be issued with electric bills. The label is also to be used in print advertising. The information on the label is supposed to help consumers make decisions about choosing a supplier to generate their electricity. The Maine PUC intends to use the model rule and label with only a couple of modifications. Massachusetts plans to make some modifications, including disclosure of labor union contracts.

The Reality: Labels Oversimplify and May Mislead

Although it contains good pricing information, the PUC's proposed label fails to properly inform consumers about the environmental impacts and other particulars of their energy generation. If the rule is adopted as proposed, consumers will be left with a clear choice: either be uninformed about where their electricity really comes from or get off the grid and self-generate. The proposed label lists power sources such as biomass, hydro, natural gas, oil and nuclear, with the percentage in the mix, but there is no way to tell the location of the plants. There is also a mystery category called 'imports', which could mean Hydro-Quebec or it could mean elsewhere outside of New England.

A serious problem with the label is that the only environmental impacts identified on the label are three (3) air emissions: CO₂, NO_x and SO₂, which are compared to the regional average on a graph on the label.

The proposed label is silent on impacts like wildlife habitat destruction, mercury, radioactivity and methane. It gives the distinct impression that the only environmental impacts a consumer has to worry about are the three (3) emissions. For example, the more nuclear power in the mix, the better it looks because nuclear has hardly any air emissions.

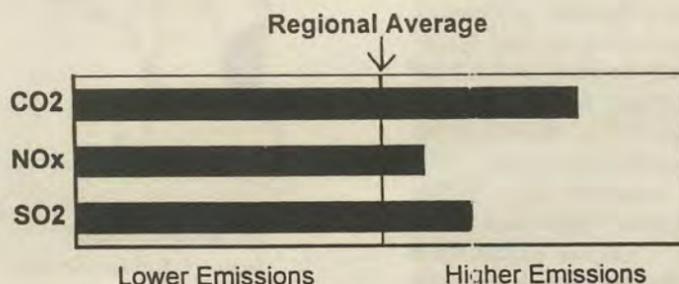
The proposed label also will not answer questions such as: If generated using oil, is the electricity from one of the 'dirty dozen' most polluting plants in New England or is it from a relatively harmless cogeneration plant? If the supplier claims the mix includes hydro, is it from a small hydro project or from one of the megaprojects that have displaced native people in Quebec and Labrador?

Making truth-seeking even more difficult for consumers, the PUC has dropped the idea of an Annual Disclosure Report, discussed in an earlier phase of the disclosure rulemaking. The Annual Disclosure Report would be the only way for consumers to know the truth about the fuel mix and generating plant locations of their chosen company.

The Green 'Product' Approach

Even if disclosure were to give full details about the location and environmental impacts of every source of generation, many consumer advocates maintain that the basic approach of allowing a company to offer different electricity 'products' is flawed. Regulators in New England considered two distinct approaches: one, as in the proposed rule, where a consumer receives information about a so-called energy product (product disclosure); the other where a consumer receives information about the company providing the energy product (company disclosure).

Public Citizen issued a report in October called Green Buyers Beware: A Critical Review of "Green Electricity" Products. It called the marketing of 'green' electricity in California "largely a hoax" and found that



energy management programs. It is also uncertain how low-income electricity life-line programs will be funded. The most effective way to assist low-income and high-use customers in lowering their electric bills is through flexible programs with energy education, appliance repair and replacement, efficient lighting and coordination of housing repair services. These pro-

Energy Quiz No. 6

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) Facts

- Question 1:** What is the volume of 1 pound of CO₂ at 1 atmosphere and 70 degrees F?
- Question 2:** How much CO₂ can a single tree absorb in a year?
- Question 3:** How much CO₂ does a person exhale in one day?
- Question 4:** How much CO₂ is emitted by the use of 1 kilowatt hour of electricity generated by a coal plant?
- Question 5:** How much CO₂ is emitted by each gallon of gasoline used in an automobile?

Answers:

1. 8.741 cubic feet.
2. 48 pounds per tree, on average.
3. About 2.2 lbs, depending on the person's activity level.
4. About 2.3 lbs.
5. 26 lbs.

Sources: Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (Oak Ridge National Laboratory); Texas Agricultural Extension Service; Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy Project.



gate their resource portfolio (in other words, allowing marketers to sell 'green power' as well as 'brown power');

•endorsing a uniform electricity label that strongly implies that the only environmental impacts of concern are air emissions;

•not informing consumers that Maine law requires 30% of their power to come from renewable sources;

•consumer disclosure that does not let consumers know where and, in some cases, how their electricity is generated.

Demand-side Management Decimated

Maine's restructuring law requires that demand-side management programs continue to be funded at a level comparable to that in year 1999. Contrary to law, the PUC is proposing to cut Central Maine Power Company's (CMP) year 2000 energy management

grams make a permanent difference in the lives of poor and elderly people and they help prevent homelessness. Community action agencies now provide these programs and want to continue. This will likely be another Legislature battle if the rule isn't changed.

The Concept: Electricity Labels

Using a stakeholder process of sorts, New England

Continued on Page 15

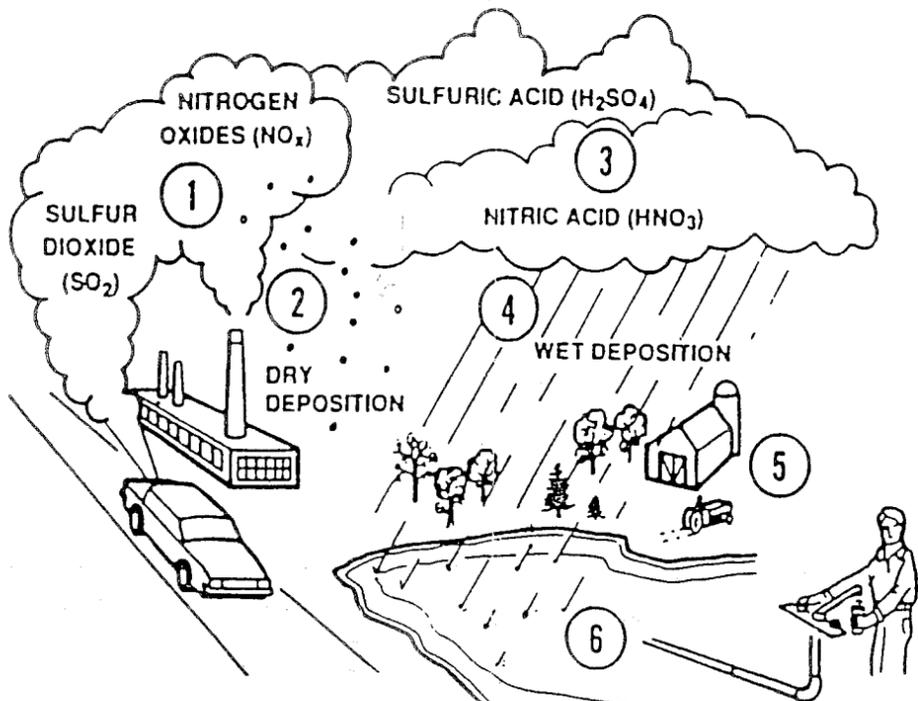
Acid Rain Retirement Fund

A Portland, Maine outfit, the Acid Rain Retirement Fund, is buying and retiring emissions allowances auctioned each year by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Fund, which actively solicits contributions from individuals, has already retired 27 tons of annual sulfur dioxide allowances, and holds the rights to a 1998 emission of 140,000 pounds of

sulfur dioxide. The organization's by-laws prohibit the transfer of these rights. Money collected and spent by the Fund has direct impact on air quality.

A \$10 membership in the Fund will retire 200 pounds of air pollutants on an annual basis. The Fund is a 501 (c) (3) and is actively conducting outreach and education on its mission. For more information, or to join, please write: Acid Rain Retirement Fund, POB 10272, Portland, Maine, 04104, or call, 1-207-780-4190. ❄

THE ACID RAIN CYCLE



Source: Acid Rain Foundation

FTC GREEN GUIDES

The FTC Green Guides are recent administrative interpretations of laws administered by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Specifically, the guides apply Section 5 of the FTC Act to environmental advertising and marketing practices. Examples provided by the FTC along with the Green Guides are not included here, but they are highly recommended reading and available on the Internet. After reading the examples, you will find yourself scrutinizing products described as 'green' or 'environmentally friendly.'

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

a. Qualifications or disclosures. Any qualifications or disclosures should be sufficiently clear and prominent to prevent deception. Factors: clarity of language; relative type size and proximity to the claim being qualified; and absence of contrary claims.

b. Distinction between benefits of product and package. An environmental marketing claim should be presented in a way that makes clear whether the environmental attribute or benefit being asserted refers to the product, the packaging or to a portion or component of the product or packaging.

c. Overstatement of environmental attribute. An environmental marketing claim should not be presented in a manner that overstates the environmental attribute or benefit, expressly or by implication. Marketers should avoid implications of significant environmental benefit if the benefit is in fact negligible.

d. Comparative claims. Environmental marketing claims that include a comparative statement should be presented in a manner that makes the basis for the comparison sufficiently clear to avoid consumer deception. In addition, the advertiser should be able to substantiate the comparison.

Source: 16 CFR 260 or 61 Federal Register 53316 (Oct 11, 1996) Access:

<http://frwebgate1.access.gpo.gov/>

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Mouse continued from Page 13

GMNF. "We have a legal and ethical responsibility to ensure that our actions do not harm endangered species. It is a responsibility that takes precedence over all others."

Biologists applauded Forest Service officials for their quick and decisive action. "Suspension of all logging and road building is the prudent thing to do until the agency can complete a biological assessment

of the needs of the Indiana bat, and amend the Forest Plan to ensure that logging and other activities will not do it harm," said Stephen Trombulak, Middlebury College professor and chair of the biology and environmental studies departments.

The temporary halt to logging could last one to two years while the USFS completes a biological evaluation of the bat, consults with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and amends its Forest Plan. The

reduction in logging on the National Forest is not expected to cause economic hardship since the supply of wood on private land is abundant.

Contact Forest Watch (802-223-3216)

for a summary of legal and biological Indiana bat facts.

Beth LeClair, USFS (802-767-4261)

Stephen Trombulak, Middlebury College

(802-443-5439) ❄

Labeling continued from Page 14

product marketing just encouraged companies to repackage their existing cleaner resources and sell them at higher prices. Under regulation, this is known as cost-shifting and price-gouging and would be prohibited. Environmental groups promoting market mechanisms wasted no time issuing a public statement blasting the Public Citizen report. While they acknowledge that "markets fail to capture public benefits such as the cleaner air which non-polluting electric generating plants provide," the Natural Resources Defence Council, Sierra Club, Environmental Defense Fund and two other groups maintain that "with the opening of the green market, consumers now have the opportunity to ensure that their electricity dollars no longer support polluting fossil fuel plants."

Unfortunately, despite optimism by some over the green market, product disclosure is totally new and untested. Right now, we have company disclosure. All customers in an electric utility's territory all get the same overall mix, including renewables. Coming out of an electric outlet, electrons from wind power are the same as electrons from nuclear power. What consumers really need to know to make effective choices are whether their supplier is in fact making electrons from coal, nuclear or large-scale hydro to sell to the non-green market; and whether the company is surpassing or barely meeting Maine's mandated 30% renewable portfolio. Product disclosure will hide this

information from consumers.

Other Bumps In the Road

Private Green-e certification, a market-based mechanism found ineffective by Pubic Citizen, has taken off in California and Pennsylvania but is getting a slow start in New England. A Green-e product must be based on at least 50% renewable electricity. The rest can be as bad as (but no worse than) the overall electric system mix. More than one skeptic has questioned the Green-e approach. Imagine buying fresh produce certified as organic only to find out that it still allows toxic pesticides, although 50% less than before. According to a representative for Green Mountain Energy Resources, which markets several Green-e certified products, when the Green-e folks met with environmental groups in New England, the environmentalists suggested incorporating new types of criteria, such as siting considerations for wind power plants. Apparently, this set up a roadblock to the simplistic Green-e approach that gained an early foothold in California.

Another private certifier, Scientific Certification Systems (SCS), takes what it considers to be a more comprehensive approach, including a 'cradle to grave' analysis of impacts from a power plant. The irony of the SCS approach is that to be certified as 'low-impact', an energy product need only beat the regional system average for all the criteria analyzed.

The SCS name may be familiar to those following the forestry industry's attempts at credible certification of wood products. Knowing how bad forest practices are in this region, I understood immediately how low the SCS standard must be when I learned that it is based on the regional average. By carefully selecting which forest land to have certified, a company doesn't have to change its practices on the rest of its forest land. In fact, the worse the rest of the forest is, the easier it will be to beat the regional average, and the easier to be certified.

FPL Says CMP Plants No Longer Wanted

Because of recent changes in federal transmission access rules, FPL-Me, buyer of CMP's non-nuclear generating assets to the tune of \$846 million, now wants out of the deal. FPL-Me has asked a federal court to rule that the terms of the purchase contract no longer can be met. FPL claims that the new rules mean that it may not have preferential transmission access in the market. However, some analysts think that FPL initiated the court action with the hope of achieving a lower purchase price. Despite the FPL action, CMP and the Maine PUC are forging ahead toward the March 1, 2000 starting date for retail access. The restructuring law would allow CMP to divest its generation after that date if need be.

Pamela Prodan directs NARP's Renewable Energy Assistance Project. ❄

The Trees for the Forest

by Bernd Heinrich

Excerpted by permission of the author and publisher
The Trees In My Forest by Harper-Collins
New York, NY 1998. \$13.00.

We appreciate the opportunity to run this extensive excerpt from Bernd Heinrich's The Trees in My Forest. Bernd, who teaches biology at the University of Vermont, also has a piece of land in Weld, in western Maine, near where he grew up, where he summers and brings students as well. Most of The Trees in My Forest consists of short essays that start with simple and small observations of tree and other plant life, and end up reconfirming or rediscovering the sentience of these organisms. Not as dark as Loren Eiseley's similiar probing of Creation, Heinrich makes many observations that will renew your relationship to elms, perhaps, or white pines...

Here, Heinrich delves into the practical realities of logging. His perspective is all the more valuable given the depth of his connection to the trees in his forest.

*Thou canst not stir a flower
Without troubling of a star*

—Francis Thompson

When I bought my three hundred acres (more or less) twenty-two years ago I had no thought of 'managing' a forest. I wanted a retreat, a cabin site. The rest was a tax burden and therefore something to unload quickly. But I got to know the land, and I became attached to it. Parts that had once been pasture started to become forest. I decided not to sell. It is still all registered in my name, and because of a recent Maine law, I'm required to submit a 'forest management plan' to the state office in Augusta. I could not totally sidestep the issue of forest management, and it seemed appropriate not to do so in this book either, because my forest is part of a much larger forest the fate of which is one of the great issues of our times. Most of life on this planet depends on forests and worldwide they are receding at an alarming rate, being replaced with sterile tree plantations, corn fields, cow pastures, shopping malls, cities...

Forest management is a complex issue with many perspectives. Management options depend on the specific ecosystem involved, on long vs. short-term views of what the ecosystem should contain, on previous land use, on scale, on values, on species composition, on logging equipment, and on long vs. short term economic incentives. Looking from one perspective only is a sure recipe for mayhem. I shall try to bracket the different considerations somewhat by focusing on what works for me in my forest, and why I think it works in terms of my values and objectives.

What I had read and heard about 'forest management' had often only confused me. I needed to see with my own eyes. Some of my land had been pasture and some clearing. Now there was thick regrowth. I started by thinning this regrowth. My motivation was not to earn money, but merely to remove single-aged, short-lived trees (aspen and fir) that were mature and

falling in droves. In other areas young white pines predominated. These long-lived pioneering trees would dominate the site for centuries, and since one of my goals was species diversity I selectively harvested them to give other species a chance to grow up in the understory. In general I was very pleased with the resulting 'look' of the land. It was returning to a diverse forest. On my land selective harvesting encouraged species diversity. I therefore experimented further.

My next 'experiment' was with method. I sold stumpage (wood 'on the stump') to three different types of loggers. The first was a horse logger who claimed he would do a neat clean job. The second was a man with

a truck could haul the logs out! I was surprised that the most equipment-oriented method was not necessarily the most destructive, at least at this site.

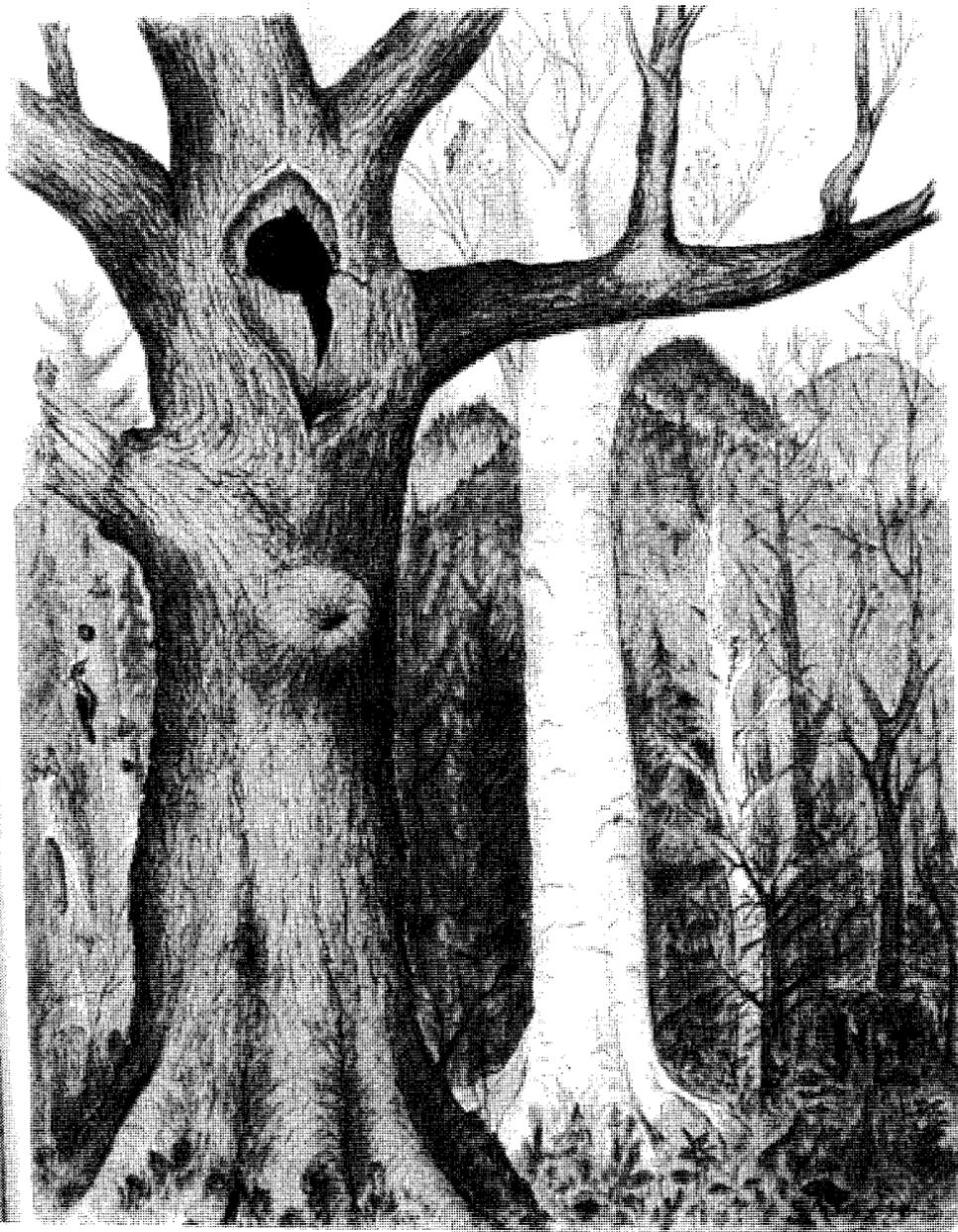
The obvious drawback of the mechanized method may be in the long term. The small operator can live well by cutting less wood or by working longer on a given woodlot. Hay for the horse is not a big overhead cost. In contrast, the big operator finished my job in a couple of weeks, then he immediately had to go on to the next operation in order to be able to make the huge monthly loan payments on his multimillion dollar equipment. He needed to cut huge amounts of timber quickly just to eke out a profit above and beyond paying for his equipment. I suspect also that in the long run the mechanized operation will take jobs away from local people. It does not encourage local people with local means to have local jobs. One huge machine replaces many loggers—people who have a stake in a future, while the machine has none.

The method by which the trees are cut is only one issue. Choosing trees to cut is another. I've specifically left some of the largest, still fast-growing trees, taking instead those that were damaged, dying, or densely crowded. Possibly the same formula would not apply to all forests, but selective cutting works for me. It works ecologically because the forest (which was not old growth to begin with) is now much more diverse. It works economically because I've more than doubly paid for the cost of the land plus taxes. It was all 'pure' profit to me. It provided work for innumerable people in addition to loggers, and it provided the wood we all need.

I now allow the forest to grow what it 'wants' to grow. Cedars do well in the low area by the brook. Red spruces thrive on the rocky ridge. Sugar maples, white ash trees, and white pines abound in and around the old pastures. Diversity and competition ensure that each spot will grow what is best there, and in the long run diversity is economically sound. It is a buffer against fluctuating markets and potentially devastating tree diseases and pests.

In providing a 'forest' management plan to the state (in order to get a tax break for using the land to grow wood) it seems to me that one plan is to do nothing—just leave it alone. This type of land use, rather than intensive harvesting, is perhaps also the most socially and ethically desirable and therefore ought to be encouraged through tax breaks. Management, of which the most intense is tree planting on tree plantations, should be discouraged rather than encouraged by taxing. The very idea of 'managing' a forest in the first place seems oxymoronic, because a forest is an ecosystem that is by definition self-managing. Calling the growing of wood on plantations 'forest management' is the same as defining the farming of corn in Iowa as 'prairie management.'

Here in Maine I see the start of a revolution in our use of the forest land, much as there once was an 'agricultural revolution' during which vast areas of the



An old (approximately 250 years old) red oak tree in the forest. Branches have broken off at various ages, creating animal den sites.

a skidder, a machine for dragging trees. And the third was a mechanized crew using the combination of a feller-buncher, grapple-skidder, and delimeter. I had expected the most damage with the latter, large-scale operation. However, I was wrong in my assessment. The feller-buncher with its long boom could reach far into the woods in many directions from a narrow path. It could individually grasp, saw off, then lift and pile trees without moving them from the spot.

A skidder may trample all around destroying many young trees and scarring others in the process of harvesting the selected mature trees. The grapple-skidder 'grapples' whole piles of logs and 'skids' them on a long narrow trail through and out of the woods to a 'landing' where they are hauled out. The horse logger could drag only one or two stems at a time, and then not very far. He needed to bulldoze a road in to where



earth's most productive lands were gobbled up for growing crops. Where will it stop? In America's mid-section, a few settlers tilled the soil and no harm was done, at first. Eventually, a prairie ecosystem spanning thousands of miles was put to the plow. Soon nothing was left but a pampered corn plant, endlessly cloned (where before there had been hardy native grasses, richness of species, and vast herds of buffalo). Much of the corn is used to feed cattle in distant rangeland where these domestic animals are degrading still other native habitat. Given the choice, I'd rather eat bison shot on the wide open prairie, and raised on buffalo grass among which the savannah sparrows nest, the meadowlarks sing, and the upland plovers cavort. Similarly, I'd rather use wood from forests than from a tree plantation.

Here in Maine I see the start of a revolution in our use of the forest land, much as there once was an 'agricultural revolution' during which vast areas of the earth's most productive lands were gobbled up for growing crops.

Plantations are generally seen as a step above clear-cutting, but the two are linked. In practice, it is not always clear which one is driving the other. Clear-cutting yields the maximum profits in the immediate short-term. The rank growth of commercially worthless raspberries, pin cherries, and striped maple after a clear-cut can still be tolerated as long as aerial herbicide spraying is an option; it permits replacing the clear-cut with plantations that yield more profit in the near short term.

The other economically viable short-term option for a commercial enterprise such as a paper mill is to sell the land (the paper mill closest to my forest, in Rumford, has changed ownership at least three times in the last twenty years), because the mill's forest land can, under current law, be considered a business expense and tax write-offs for six years. After the six-year tax write-off is no longer applicable, there is incentive to clear-cut and sell it to the next sucker as his tax write-off. Given this 'state of nature,' as in the fisheries industry, mutual destruction of all major competing resource users is assured in the long run if each pursues his best interests of the moment, unless limits are imposed to maintain sufficient biological capital needed to produce harvestable 'interest' for the long-term survival of all.

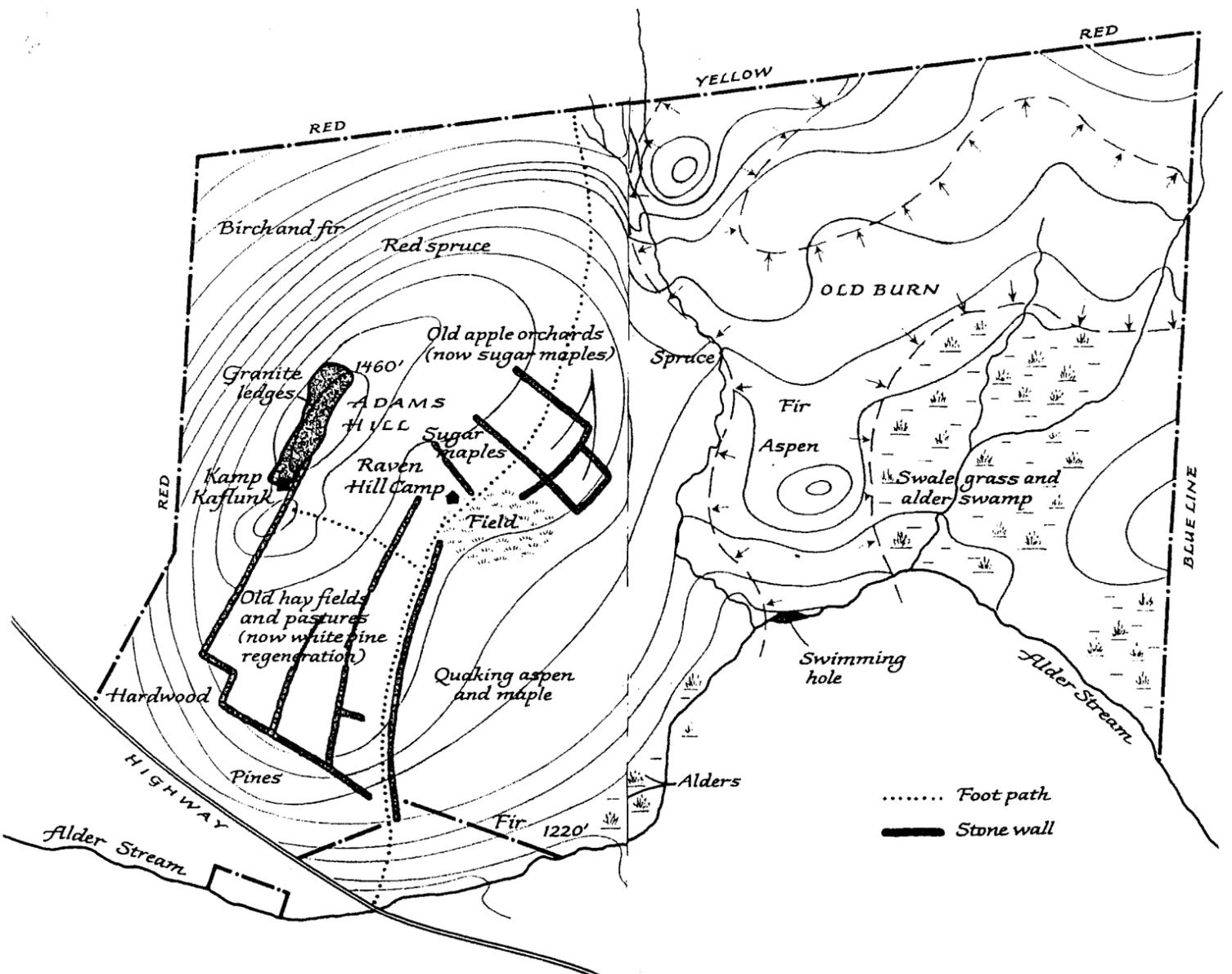
Since the dawn of agriculture farmers first claimed the most fertile land, leaving the rest as forest. Now industrial foresters, after extensive clear-cutters, want the rest (well, a little at a time), for tree plantations. So far there are not many tree plantations in Maine. But the scary part is that when you go on paper company tours they show them off, rather than hide them. Why? Because tree planting is touted as good for 'sustainable forestry.' Some people even claim it's more 'efficient' to grow wood that way, while ignoring all the stronger arguments against it. As for me, given

what I've seen in my forest, I'm not even convinced of the economic argument. But if I were convinced, the reasons against are compelling in their own right.

A plantation consists of even-aged trees of one species growing in rows. There is only one dense layer of leaves to catch the sun's energy. Below that layer, nothing grows. It is a dead zone. In contrast, in a forest there are many layers, including shade-tolerant species that grow below that canopy. Many species can grow in a forest, not just the one chosen for present economic use. (Currently fir and spruce are much favored, but timber prices are highly unpredictable. Prices for a given species are often low one year and skyrocket the next.) In a forest, where different species thrive because each has a slightly different optimum for light, acidity, drainage, temperature, and minerals, each spot of ground gets exploited by the one best suited for that niche, and through diversity, one's 'investment portfolio' is more secure in case a species chosen now

environment? (The individual plantation trees often have much thicker growth rings than forest trees, because in a forest the growth is spread among other large trees as well. It is these other trees that are tall and ready to bulk out quickly when other trees are removed. There is no need to begin again at the seedling stage, where annual wood accumulation is miniscule.

Unlike a tree plantation, my forest contains an integrated, highly interdependent mix of species that grows best at all the different climatic conditions and aspects of drainage and soil that are unique to my hill. The hill selects them. This forest contains tens of thousands of species of insects, thousands of fungi, dozens of birds. It contains viruses, bacteria, nematodes, tardigrades, and even a few amphibians and reptiles. Swallowtail butterfly larvae feed on its cherry leaves and the adults pollinate honeysuckle. There are water shrews in the mossy undercuts of the rivulets running into Alder Stream. There are wood frogs, yel-



A map of Bernd Heinrich's Land in Weld, Maine.

no longer brings top dollar fifty years from now.

Growth of the trees—of all together—is better as well. The forest is an ecosystem. And in an ecosystem there is mutual interdependence, where the waste that one produces, or the resources that one doesn't use, becomes food for the other. A forest with high biodiversity is much more resistant to attacks by insects and other pathogens than is a plantation that is a sitting 'target' for the right pathogen to come and wipe it out. Given all of these considerations, how can an ecosystem not produce more wood and potentially more valuable wood in the long term—than a uniform monolayer imposed on a nonuniform

low-spotted newts, yellow-bellied sapsuckers, and brown creepers. This forest is but a tiny part of the much more extensive great Northern Forest. Together this forest is a loosely amalgated 'superorganism' whose interdependent parts function as a seamless whole. It channels or can channel materials from the soil and the atmosphere and energy from the sun, into and through a vast assemblage of life from solitary vireo to salmon.

A tree plantation grows wood as a crop. Period. Crops such as beans, wheat, and corn are genetically altered plants that can no longer exist in ecosystems. We have

To me and others of this religion a wilderness made by God and/or by the mechanism of evolution is at least as, if not more holy than a cathedral made by man, and to harm it is a desecration.

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Trees for the Forest

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destroyed a major portion of the earth's ecosystems—prairies, wetlands and forests—to grow crops. So far trees have not been genetically altered much to make them pure crops. I shudder at the thought of more progress in this direction, because in the long term it would mean they could no longer survive in a natural forest. Progress in this direction ultimately, and perhaps inevitably, spells obliteration of even more forest to make more plantations.

Large-scale plantations can only be made after first clear-cutting. Helicopters are then often used to strafe the land with nozzle guns spouting 'herbicides.' These so-called herbicides kill raspberries that only grow in clear-cuts. Principally, however, they are designed to kill trees— young regenerating deciduous trees. Herbiciding for 'forestry' is a deforestation technique adapted for creating lebensraum for a given species. Often it is a genetically uniform, non-native conifer planted in rows. (Paper can be, and is, made from both conifers and hardwood trees. Consumers could choose but are generally not given a choice.) There has already been public outcry over the clear-cutting and the spraying, but as I'll show, tree plantations are much more insidious and ultimately more damaging than either.

Spraying to kill trees and raspberry bushes after a clear-cut merely looks unaesthetic for a short time, but tree plantations are deliberate ecocide. Yet, tree planting is often pictorially advertised on television and in national magazines by focusing on cupped caring hands around a seedling. But forests do not need this godlike interference. The biggest problem is not clear-cuts per se, but what's done with the land afterward. Planting tree plantations is permanent deforestation. Monocultures of western Sitka spruce do not belong in England, or Australian eucalyptus in South Africa, or red or Scots pine in Maine. All replace ecosystems, sometimes on a vast scale. The extensive planting of just one exotic species removes thousands of native species.

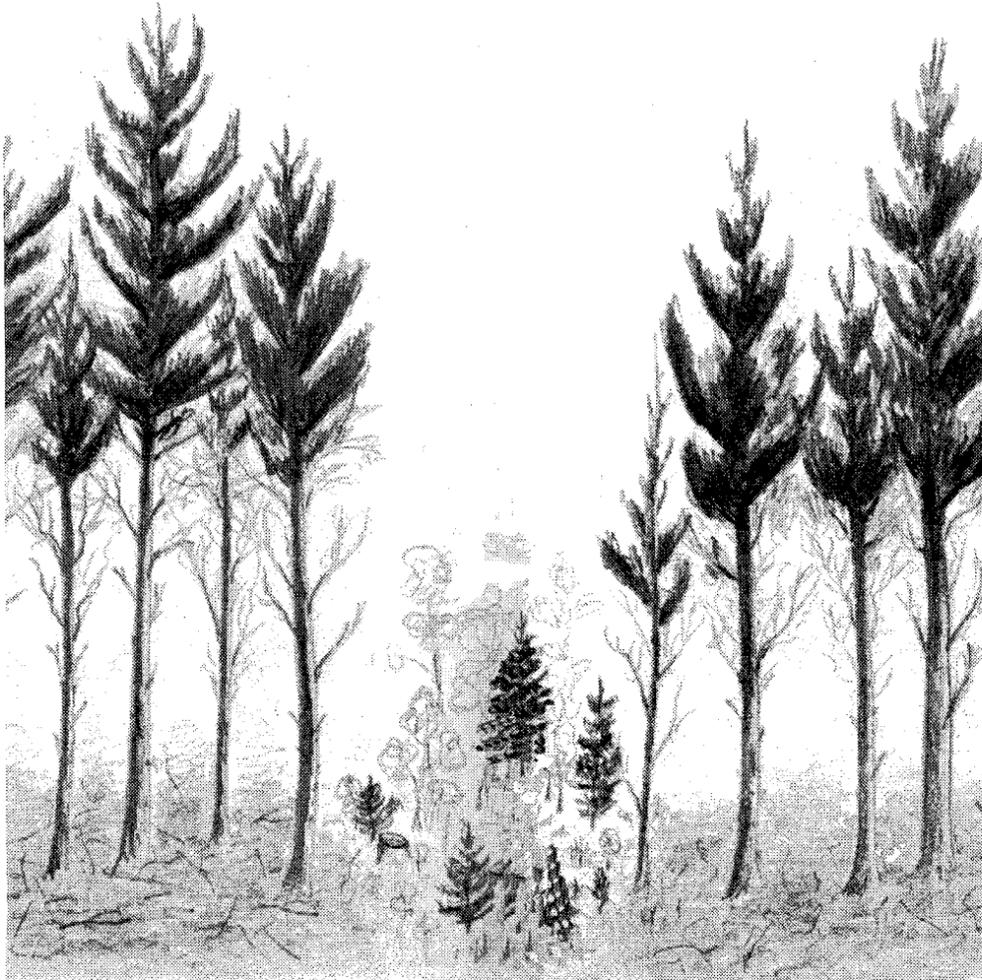
In a monoculture the trees must be managed like an agricultural crop. Competitors and predators are killed by herbicides and pesticides. After they reach maturity it makes sense to harvest them all at once, as one harvests a field of corn. Thus, the cycle is repeated for yet another series of decades. Meanwhile, the land is evermore irrevocably sterilized. The end result is ecosystem destruction that may be well-nigh irreversible.

As one example of a global trend that seems to confuse the trees with the forest, I turn to one supposedly forested country, Finland.

Finland, recognizing the importance of a continual wood supply, masquerades a gross vice as a virtue by actually advertising itself as a model country for 'sustainable forestry.' Like Maine, Finland is officially classified as about 87 percent 'forest.' As in Maine, the forest in Finland had in the past always been the economic and cultural backbone that supported and sustained the people for untold generations. As in Maine, pulp and paper industries moved in and took over. Now, for every (native) tree that is felled, two (exotic) trees are planted! As a direct result of 'tree planting' Finland now has virtually no forest; 98 percent of its tree growth is now in even-aged monocultures of exotic Scots pine and Norway spruce. As a direct consequence of this deforestation, half of Finland's species

of native forest plants and animals are endangered, and rapid inroads are being made even into the few remaining pockets of old growth wilderness where native species remain.

Why do we need forest? There are many compelling reasons, but they are not generally tabulated in quarterly balance sheets. Ecosystem 'services' include air and water purification, flood control, erosion control, nutrient recycling, and pollination services. Ecologically, forest is natural habitat and most species



Selective cutting in my pine grove has produced light gaps where a variety of trees are springing up, creating a forest from a previous monoculture.

on earth are adapted to it and require it. There have been and are many practical arguments for forest (wilderness)—practical in the material sense. Ultimately advocates for forests are motivated also by ethics rooted in our own psychological dependence on wilderness. Conservationists such as Aldo Leopold ("a thing is right—"), Connie Barlow ("because it is my religion"), E. O. Wilson (biophilia hypothesis), and John Muir; authors such as Thoreau ("in wilderness is the preservation of the world"); and politicians such as Teddy Roosevelt, who set up a new concept on earth (national parks), have all in their own way reaffirmed that like other animals we, too, need forest or other wilderness to live healthy adapted lives. Like other species, we evolved in wilderness and although we are now able to satisfy many of our physical needs outside of it (at least in the short term), psychologically we still need the vital diversity, complexity, grandeur, and beauty of wild places. We need

to feel connected to something tangible that can be seen, smelled, tasted, that is much greater than our own fleeting existence. Call it religion. There are untold millions who believe in this religion although they may not come out and say so, mostly because its tenets are so deeply ingrained as to be taken for granted. No organized faith is therefore necessary. To me and others of this religion a wilderness made by God and/or by the mechanism of evolution is at least as, if not more holy than a cathedral made by man, and to harm it is a desecration. I see enough glimpses of this wilderness in my forest to

feel inspired by a feeling of interconnectedness with the web of life. It gives me a dream. It is a realistic dream that is not destructive, and that all can take part in and enjoy the results. Preserving and fostering the fantastic life on earth grants infinitely more practical and intellectual rewards than the expensive but trivial knowledge of whether there are microbes on Mars.

How can we maintain our forests? Perhaps there is a lesson in the example of the Sundarbans, the great mangrove swamp wildlife reserve that stretches between India and Bangladesh along the Bay of Bengal. The Sundarban is the largest tract of mangrove swamp in the world. It also has the largest population of tigers in the world. The two facts are interrelated, because the tigers are man-eaters and they exert a high tax on forest use. They exert 'ecodiscipline' as Sy Montgomery writes in her wonderful book *Spell of the Tiger*. Without its tigers the forest would long ago have been destroyed by people. The forest is retained only because the tigers, by hunting people who trespass on the reserve, effectively reduce the crush of human expansion. The tigers, not the government, are the keepers of this forest that nourishes many people.

To use the Sundarban Forest in India you must pay a tax—the perhaps one-in-a-thousand chance that you'll be eaten by a tiger. A suburban person in Boston using the forest (say by building a house, using a shopping bag, buying a book or a newspaper) is too far removed from the cost of maintaining a forest to pay directly, although he or she may be more than willing to pay that cost. That cost should not be a punishment or a threat. Neither should it be borne only by generous or enlightened people willing to pay. It must be borne equally by all, and in direct proportion to their individual use of the forest.

We obviously cannot put tigers in our forests so that woodcutters would demand high prices, which they would then pass on to us, the ultimate forest users. Tigers won't do here. But protecting a 'spotted owl' or some other creature, that, like the tiger, is also diagnostic of ecosystem health, might. It would guide harvesting. Supply-and-demand economics would then justly apply to all users.

In nature, the evolution of spectacular creations has resulted not from laws or decrees, but from the incessant application of consistent selective pressure acting on individuals. Similarly, in society we can create our own 'selective pressure' through economic incentives to promote and maintain our biological heritage and to encourage its survival. There is a famous Jewish proverb that if you save one life, you save mankind. Similarly, by saving one species of animal or one piece of forest, we save the world.

Given all of these considerations, how can an ecosystem not produce more wood and potentially more valuable wood in the long term—than a uniform monolayer imposed on a uniform environment?

The Trees in My Forest is currently available and on the shelves of many of the region's independent bookstores. We thank the author and publisher

for their kind permission, and would point out that, for \$13.00, this book is an economical and worthy entertainment for the long nights of winter. ❄️

The Abruzzo & the Adirondack

by Paul M. Bray

Italy's Abruzzo National Park is located in a mountainous region in the Southern Apennines, about two hours drive from Rome or Naples and equidistant from the Adriatic and Tyrrhenian seas. It is a 110,000-acre natural area with shepherds and pastures, and a thriving wildlife population that includes Marsican brown bears, chamois, red deer, Apennine wolves, and lynx. It also contains within its boundaries medieval villages and a surround of 6,000-foot mountains.

New York state's Adirondack Park encompasses six million acres and is the largest wilderness area east of the Mississippi River. Like the Abruzzo, but unlike American national parks, it also has permanent residents—about 130,000 people—living in numerous villages and hamlets scattered throughout the park. The Adirondack Park, like the Abruzzo, is a park of nature and of people.

A quarter-century ago, the battle lines were drawn between conservationists and voices who declared war on the Abruzzo Park Authority. Park adversaries wanted vacation villas scattered on the meadows and mountains of the park. The same story has been playing out over the last twenty-five years in our own Adirondacks. Huge second home developments such as the proposed 20,000-acre Tondalay project in Franklin County threatened to severely damage the environment and character of the Adirondack Park. In response, the Adirondack Park Agency and a plan for the private lands of the park were born in an atmosphere of conflict that has yet to be fully resolved.

The Abruzzo Park Authority owns less than 1 percent of the land within its borders. The rest is owned by the villages and privately. Slightly less than half of the land in the Adirondack Park is publicly owned.

When a 'blue line' was drawn on a map around some millions of acres of land under mixed ownership in the Adirondack region in 1892, a very different idea of a park from the public estate model of Yellowstone was initiated. The challenge was not only how to reconcile nature preservation with the demand for recreational use but also how to meet the economic needs of the park's resident population in an ecologically compatible manner.

In the 1960s, both the Abruzzo and Adirondack parks shared similar threats to their very existence. New highways brought the parks closer in time to major cities, and the parks became contested landscapes between conservationists and voices of 'progress' from residents within. Progress meant vacation villas within the Abruzzo Park, and, in the Adirondacks, large second home developments that threatened to damage the environment and character of the park.

Franco Tassi was hired as the Abruzzo's director at the end of the 1960s. Not only were years of park records missing when he first started, but the indigenous wolf population was endangered and the park's museum had become a storehouse for tools. In spite of phone threats ("Renounce the position," he was told, "or get a bullet in your forehead."), Tassi is uncompromising in



Mountains in Italy's Abruzzo National Park

his belief that the park must protect biodiversity; but he needed to develop a policy of 'ecodevelopment' to save the park area.

The revival of the park's wolf population from an endangered status—around thirteen to the present stable population of forty to fifty wolves—illustrates his approach. Anyone familiar with current controversies about wolf reintroduction to parks like Yellowstone knows the social resistance to the wolf. In the Abruzzo Park, which has shepherds residing with-

opposition changed to local support for the park's efforts to restore the wolf population to sustainable levels.

Tassi has a good eye for connecting the park's mission with the concerns of park residents for finding jobs and making money. He encourages local residents to become the first actors for the park, hosting guests in their homes instead of allowing the development of second homes built for city folks. As the image of the Abruzzo Park as a very special place rebounded, value was added to products of the park such as honey. Specialty park-product stores opened in the region. The successful local bank adopted the park logo, and new businesses, such as an artisan confectionery making park sweets, brought former residents back home from Rome and Milan to make their living within the park.

Along with ecodevelopment, a zoning system identifying the land uses and human activities that would be compatible with the existence of the park was established. The most fragile ecological area is designated for 'absolute conservation.' Development is reserved for the inhabited villages whose historic buildings have now been restored and revitalized.

The Adirondacks have also faced a rocky road since the late 1960s. At that time, a proposal from Laurance Rockefeller to consolidate the core of the Adirondack high peaks region to create a national park was rejected, and applications for state environmental permits were pending for proposals. Local government planning and zoning was almost nonexistent within the park, and the state's jurisdiction over development in the park was limited. The park's private land appeared to be up for grabs by developers.

Many of these threats have been addressed by the creation in 1973 of the Adirondack Park Agency, which administers a private land-use plan for the park. The park's first two visitor centers and key acquisitions of property by the state, including the

recent acquisition of 15,000 acres of spectacular back country, have occurred over the last twenty-five years.

Yet, as exemplified by a current controversy over a proposal put forward by the Defenders of Wildlife to re-introduce the wolf to Adirondack Park, the park remains a contested landscape. In response to the wolf proposal, some county legislators within the park who



Chamois, *Rupricarpa rupricarpa*.

in its borders, the predatory wolf was a lightning-rod issue. But to Tassi, the wolf was the bellwether for restoring natural conditions of the park.

The revival began with operation St. Francis, an attempt to restore the wolf's image. An educational program in the park village of Civitella Alfedena led the children of the village to adopt the once frightening wolf as a friend. The more business-minded village elders were attracted to the offer of development of a wolf museum in the village as a tourist attraction, and the wolf became a poster child for the transformation of the village from what local architect Camelo Bordone called "a place in a state of utter neglect where only poor shepherds used to live" into a successful example of ecological redevelopment based on ecotourism.

Since the development of the wolf museum, the number of annual visitors to the village has grown from 2,500 a year to over 100,000 per year. And local

These two parks, one in the Old World and the other in the New, turn out to be on the cutting edge of the same challenge of integrating the highest conservation objectives with social and economic needs.

continued on page 20

Texas Citizens Nuke Waste Dump

The Dance For Life: Victory in Sierra Blanca

by Richard Boren, Southwest Toxic Watch,
El Paso, TX

(this article was written for the *Diario de Juarez*,
Oct. 25, 1998)

The Forum has, regrettably, neglected the story of the Sierra Blanca nuclear waste dump, which was slated to receive and store spent fuel from reactors in Vermont and Maine. Although the recent blocking of the site does not end the story—nothing will—opponents in Texas nonetheless have achieved a great victory in the face of powerful interests.

October 22, 1998 was a day I'll never forget. On that day, the people triumphed over the powerful interests that had invaded our community. After listening to the unbelievable news that the Sierra Blanca nuclear waste dump had been defeated, we walked outside the hearing room to find the sun shining after five days of rain. In the parking lot the young matachines dancers from the Mexican community of Guadalupe, located in the Juarez Valley, were engaged in a victory dance. It was great to be alive.

Since the matachines arrived in Austin, they had been dancing. They danced in front of the state capitol, the governor's mansion, and in a vigil at the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC) complex on the night of October 21.

The Texas government officials and the police were confused by the presence of the matachines. They had prepared to deal with environmental activists by cordoning off the entire TNRCC complex and putting up barricades. But nothing in their training prepared them for 12 year-olds dressed in brightly colored costumes performing dances with gourd shakers and drums.

A b r u z z o continued from page 19

reject the whole idea of the park are advancing legislation to ban the reintroduction of wildlife into the park. Property-rights advocates and promoters of private development, and the siting of a new state prison within the park as a cure for the weak economy in parts of the region, continue in seemingly unrelenting attacks on the park idea.

At stake in both the Abruzzo and Adirondack parks are the preservation of very special natural areas and the finding of ways to manage the inhabitants' needs in an area where natural values have a priority.

The Abruzzo and Adirondack parks have now discovered each other. Recently, Tassi and Commissioner John Cahill of the New York State Department of Conservation signed an agreement to cooperate. Unlike other cooperative arrangements between parks, this one will involve more than park officials and staff. Planning is underway for exchanges between village mayors, young people who live within the respective parks, and local artists, among others.

The growing relationship between the Abruzzo and Adirondack Parks shows that Italy and America have a lot more in common than people realize.

The rest of us, however, knew what the matachines' presence meant. They symbolize why we were able to overcome the forces of death. The matachines represent spirituality, unity, courage, and a great love for Mother Earth. This is why we won. Not even the 50 million dollars spent to promote the dump could stop us. We practically had no money, but we had justice on our side.

Not even the 50 million dollars spent to promote the dump could stop us. We practically had no money, but we had justice on our side.

One might ask: why were matachines dancers from Mexico fighting a nuclear waste dump in Texas? The answer: when it comes to saving the water we drink, the land we live on, and the air we breathe—there is no border.

Last October 12, over three thousand Mexican students blocked five international bridges in Juarez and the Juarez Valley to protest the dump. It was like an earthquake that was felt all the way to Austin. After the final decision was announced, an official with the Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority admitted that the dump was primarily defeated due to the fact that it had become an international controversy.

We who live on the north bank of the Rio Grande are deeply grateful to our Mexican sisters and brothers for their support. We couldn't have won without them. The bond of friendship across borders that has come from this experience has been the best part of all.

Although we have won this battle, the war continues. Sierra Blanca is still home to the largest sludge dump on earth. Andrews, another West

Texas community that already has a toxic waste dump, is now being targeted as the nuclear dump site. Mexican border towns are being affected by toxic waste illegally dumped by U.S.-owned maquiladora industries. The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in southern New Mexico may become the dumping ground for nuclear waste from weapons production. We have an obligation to help any community in any country that is facing the toxic curse.

Finally, our victory has become a beacon of hope for many communities. People organized in peaceful, non-violent struggle are a powerful weapon. In the case of Sierra Blanca, we became even more powerful due to joining hands with our Mexican neighbors. It has been one of the most enriching experiences of my life. Viva Sierra Blanca!

TEST PITS

Look, I don't care how you interpret it. Every design to break the earth's skin deserves a couple good tests, the deeper the better. You can say you're checking for soil structure, bedrock or groundwater, or you can admit that you wish to consult the gods down there.

Steven Lewandowski



Wolf Restoration in the Abruzzo National Park has won the support of local residents.

Paul M. Bray is an Albany attorney who has been active in conservation and park issues. He is the recipient of the 1996 Rome Prize in Design from the American Academy in Rome, which has led to the development of twinning arrangements between parks in Italy and America.

Reprinted with permission from Sanctuary, the periodical of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, which takes frequent measure of land conservation efforts throughout the region. This article appeared in its September/October 1998 issue.

Sanctuary's address is South Great Road, Lincoln, MA, 01773. ❄️

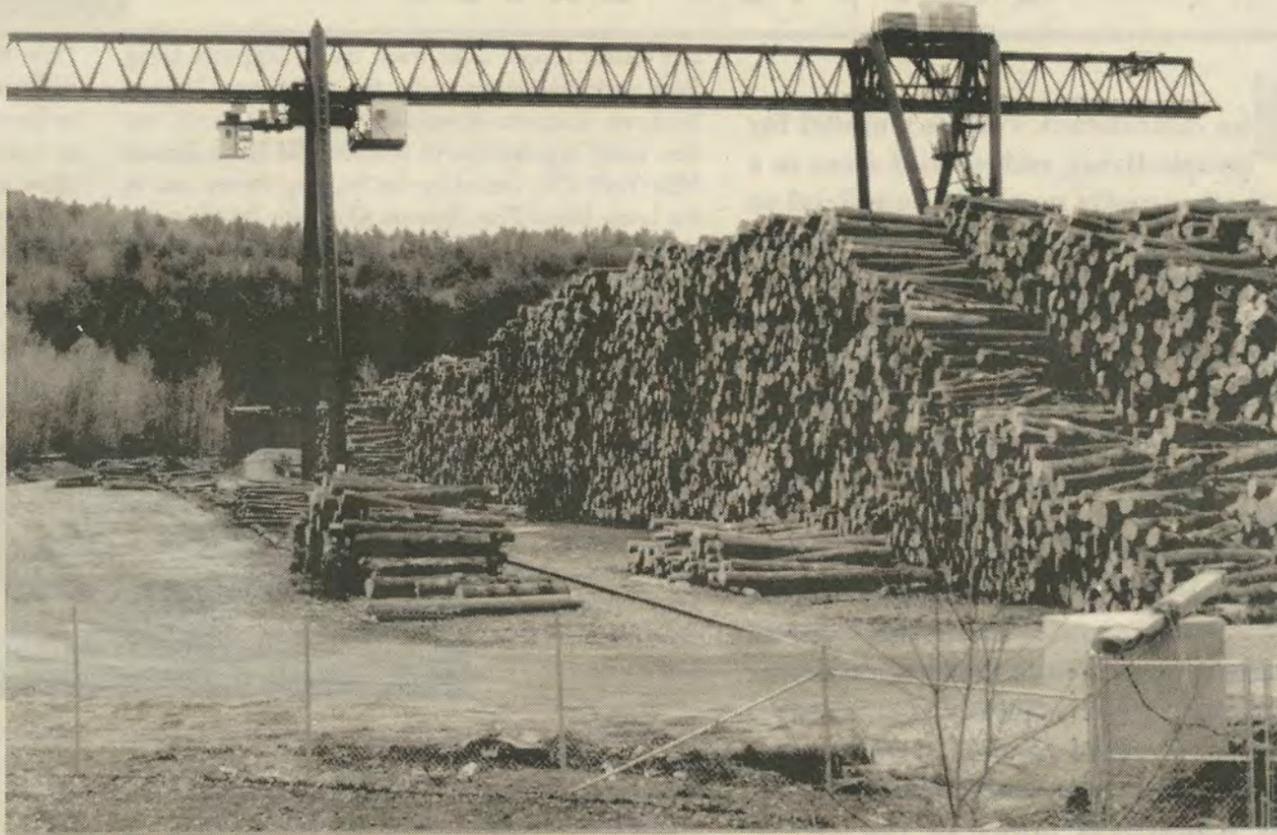
Group Raps Forest Service For Ignoring WMNF Management Plan

from *The Conservation Action Project*

Concord, NH - An environmental organization has sent a letter to the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service that details the failure of the agency to follow federal laws in the management of the White Mountain National Forest. According to the letter, WMNF personnel have repeatedly failed to complete required management activities including the monitoring of wildlife populations, enforcement of forest service rules, and ignoring federal laws. The letter calls for the agency to investigate the management of the WMNF.

The Conservation Action Project, a non-profit membership organization based in New Hampshire, wrote to Michael Dombeck, Chief of the Forest Service, about the failure of the WMNF to conduct and complete required monitoring reports, protect recreation facilities, and revise the forest management plan as required. According to the letter, the Forest Service has failed to adequately monitor the impacts of logging on wildlife, water quality, and recreation. The Forest Service is required to issue annual reports summarizing management activities but have repeatedly failed to.

"The Forest Service is mandated to conduct monitoring to measure the impacts of logging, road construction,



J.D. Irving Ltd. purchased on Dec. 14 the Dixfield, Maine Highland Lumber Co. for \$9.5 million; Highland is the Northeast's largest producer of white pine lumber.

Reports released by the Forest Service. According to CAP, the Forest Service

1986. Yet logging has continued at 80 percent of Forest Service goals to the

detriment of wildlife and recreation programs," said Carle. "The priority of the Forest Service is logging. Anything that might compromise or limit logging such as research as to why neotropical bird populations are declining, or completing a study measuring citizens dissatisfaction with clearcutting are apparently not fund-

requires the Forest Service to conduct the work and report the findings to the public. The letter calls on the Forest Service to amend the WMNF management plan by lowering the amount of timber logged by 45 percent, eliminate clearcutting, implement and complete all required monitoring activities, and halt further road construction. The letter also calls on the Forest Service to issue a 1997 Annual Monitoring report that meets the requirements listed in the WMNF management plan and federal law. The Conservation Action Project is campaigning to transfer the management of the WMNF to the National Park Service. Where a national forest allows logging, mining, and recreation development, a national park is managed for preservation and recreation. "This analysis of Forest Service management concludes that the so called multiple-use management model the agency relies on is a failure," said Carle. "The Forest Service has become a tool of special interests. A White Mountain National Park would promote pride, preservation, and economic stability to the region by protecting and safeguarding the area for future generations."

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The Conservation Action Project is a non-profit membership organization, dedicated to restoring, preserving, and protecting the natural heritage of New England through education, advocacy, and grassroots empowerment.

*The Conservation Action Project
PO Box 4203 Concord, NH 03302
978.448.9395*



Hanging Buck at Doe's Lodge, Big Wheeler Pond, Brunswick, Vermont. Site of recent Champion land sale.

Photo by Kathleen Fitzgerald.

and other management activities on the WMNF," said David Carle, Executive Director of the Conservation Action Project. "Our review of Forest Service management has found a pattern of broken promises and ignoring public concerns. Required studies, reports, and enforcement activities have not been done. This blatant disregard of the public and the law could be compromising the preservation of our very special White Mountains."

The letter includes a review of the 1993-97 WMNF Annual Monitoring

failed to issue the annual reports in 1988-1992. At least three reports—including the most recent—fail to provide required information, such as data about the health of rivers and streams, wildlife viability, and recreation use and its associated impacts in the back-country. The letter also identifies the failure of the Forest Service to downsize the logging program and other extractive activities in proportion to the decrease in funding for other programs such as wildlife and recreation.

"The WMNF has received less than 60 percent of its budget since

ed."

The letter lists a number of concerns identified by Forest Service personnel, yet the agency failed to follow through with action. For example the Forest Service failed to:

- conduct a study identifying factors limiting aquatic species survival;
- evaluate effects of recreation use on sensitive riparian ecosystems;
- complete a study assessing concerns raised by the public about the visual impacts of clearcut logging.

These issues are components of the WMNF management plan. This

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 in the eleven Northeast states.

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 restoration and protection. Each issue the "Adirondack Park Report" details the most pressing recent issues facing the Adirondack Park.

One major issue that has come up recently in the Adirondacks is the woeful management of the Forest Preserve by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Many issues have recently come to light about the state's mismanagement of the Forest Preserve. Many of the problems are systemic. No central, fundamental management vision exists. DEC field staff often follow their own ideological positions, not official policy. DEC leadership changes with each new administration. Bureaucracies are almost always visionless and react to situations, such as loss of resources or abuses, as opposed to developing a proactive program. Disparate interests compete for DEC action and attention. Many of these problems have become magnified under the Pataki Administration.

Governor George Pataki has made land protection in New York a priority. And he has acted boldly to line up funding for land protection and expand New York's annual Environmental Protection Fund. Over the next five years New York has \$300 million available for land protection and in 1998 had \$72 million available. The Governor has followed this commitment with actual purchases. In the Adirondacks the Governor has purchased three shoreline parcels on Lake George, the 2,400-acre conservation easement over the Masswepie Mire, the 15,000-

acre Little Tupper Lake tract, the 19,000-acre Long Pond conservation easement, the 12,000-acre Niagara Mohawk Raquette River deal. Governor Pataki has also acted aggressively to protect wild lands around New York City, including the Sterling Forest, and in the Long Island Pine Barrens. Governor Pataki is also actively negotiating to protect the 144,000 acres put up for sale by Champion International Corporation and for a conservation easement over 105,000 acres owned by Domtar Specialty Fine Papers.

But the Governor has sharply reduced the size of state government. He's a man who believes the axiom that less is more. He has indiscriminately chopped state agencies across the board, including the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), which has

responsibility for Forest Preserve management. Since 1995, the DEC has faced a hiring freeze and through attrition, transfers and retirements this has resulted in a Forest Preserve management staff just one-third the size of that four years ago. The majority of DEC foresters are working on private forestry issues, not wilderness management or on the vast array of Forest Preserve planning issues. All told, in the Adirondacks there are more than 25 fewer Forest Preserve specialists and planners, foresters, rangers, and conservation officers on the job today than a half-dozen years ago.

Less is less and there's no doubt about it. Lets look at DEC's management of the Forest Preserve. The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) has approved the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan (SLMP), often referred to among Adirondack wonks as the

Over the next five years New York has \$300 million available for land protection and in 1998 had \$72 million available. The Governor has followed this commitment with actual purchases.

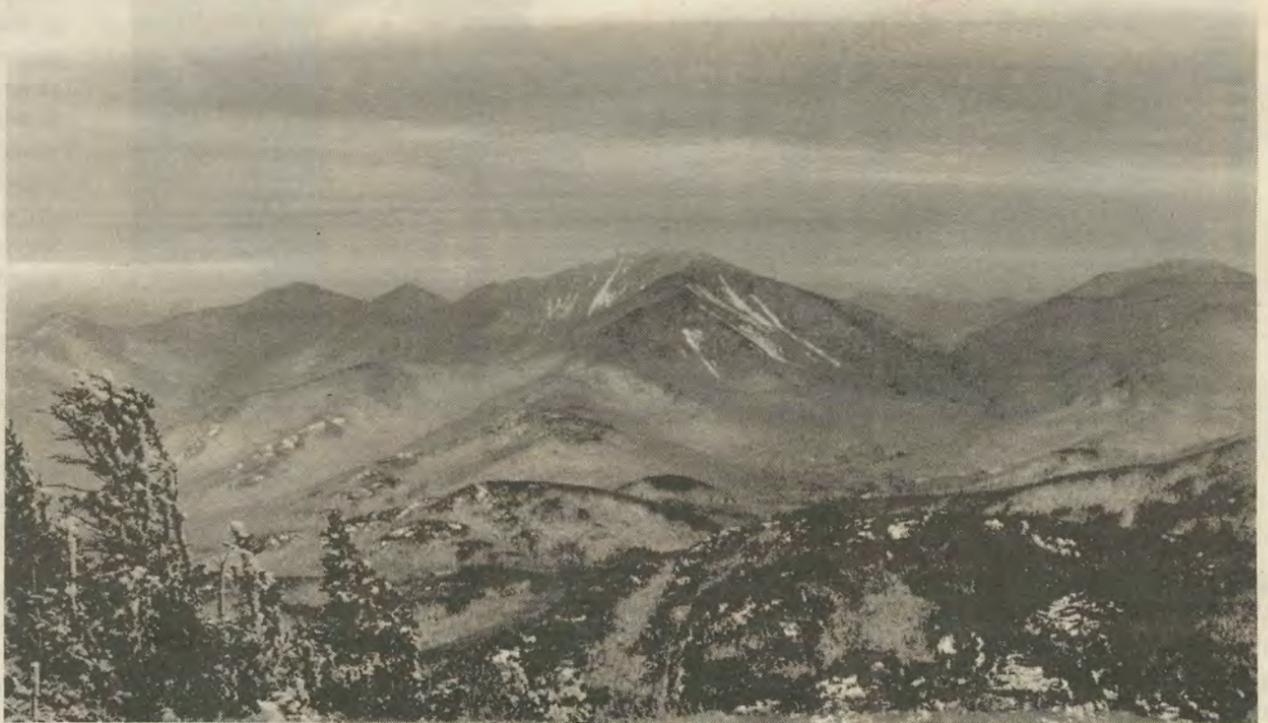
Primitive areas are essentially areas managed like wilderness, but are either less than 10,000 acres in size or have a non-conforming use, like an old railroad line, or a deeded right-of-way in the area. Wild Forest areas allow motorized use on roads, actively maintain roads, and have designated snowmobile trails. Canoe Areas prohibit motorized use except for DEC fish management (generally stocking programs). Intensive Use areas are official state-operated industrial campgrounds or state operated ski areas, like Whiteface and Gore.

In the Adirondack Park there are 69 Forest Preserve management areas: Wilderness (16); Wild Forest (25); Primitive (27); and Canoe Areas (1). Under the SLMP each area is supposed to have a Unit Management Plan (UMP) and all UMPs were to be completed by the mid-1980s. To date just 24 UMPs have been completed. Over 1.8 million acres in the Forest Preserve (out of 2.4

million) have no management plans! DEC Region 5 covers the eastern 2/3 of the Adirondacks and DEC Region 6 covers the western 1/3. A UMP status list follows of the most significant Forest Preserve areas.

a) Region 5 - completed

Siamese Pond Wilderness
Blue Mountain Lake Wild Forest
Hammond Pond Wild Forest
Black Mountain Wild Forest
Adirondack Railroad Corridor (Remsen to Lake Placid)
Gore Mountain Intensive Use Area
Whiteface Mountain Intensive Use Area



View of the Great Range from the summit of Giant Mountain. Photo courtesy of Bob Koch.

'slump.' This is the Forest Preserve management document. Under the APA Act the 2.4 million acre Forest Preserve is classified by units as Wilderness, Wild Forest, Primitive, Canoe Area, Intensive Use and several other small, specialty categories. Wilderness areas are those over 10,000 acres. They are supposed to have no roads, no buildings, and prohibit motorized use.

b) Region 5 - In Progress

High Peaks Wilderness Complex (includes others)
Jessup River Wild Forest
McKenzie Wilderness
Van Hoevenberg Area
Schroon Manor Intensive Use Area

Prospect Mountain Intensive Use Area
 Santanoni Area (sub-area of Vanderwacker Wild Forest)
 Hudson Gorge Primitive Area
 William C. Whitney Area
 Valcor Island Primitive Area
 Huerich/Split Rock Areas
 Lake George Wild Forest (East)
 Various campgrounds

c) Region 5 - Not Started

Lake Lila Primitive Area
 St. Regis Canoe Area
 Saranac Lake Wild Forest
 Hurricane Mountain Primitive Area
 Pharoah Wilderness
 Jay Wilderness
 Blue Ridge Wilderness
 Silver Lake Wild Forest
 Giant Wilderness
 Dix Wilderness
 Sentinel Wilderness
 Hoffman Notch Wilderness
 Debar Wild Forest
 Moose River Plains Wild Forest
 Wilcox Lake Wild Forest
 Lake George Wild Forest (West)
 Shaker Mountain Wild Forest
 Vanderwacker Wild Forest
 West Canada Lake Wilderness
 Various campgrounds

d) Region 6 - Completed

Independence River Wild Forest
 Five Ponds Wilderness
 Cranberry Lake Wild Forest
 Hon de ron dah Wilderness
 Pepperbox Wilderness
 Fulton Chain Wild Forest
 Black River Wild Forest
 Grasse River Wild Forest
 Aldrich Pond Wild Forest
 Cranberry Lake Campground
 Pigeon Lake Wilderness

e) Region 6 - In Progress

Horseshoe Lake Wild Forest
 Ferris Lake Wild Forest
 Three campgrounds, day use areas

f) Region 6 - Not Started

White Hill Wild Forest
 Watsons East Triangle Unclassified Tract
 Raquette-Boreal Unclassified/Wild Forest

struction, signage, canoe portages, gate construction, bridge rehabilitation/construction, firetower reconstruction, and interpretive kiosk work have been identified but not funded in the past four years.

In addition, the last Administration had committed to the creation of a Forest Preserve Use and Information Plan. The Pataki Administration has



Blasting a log jam on the Upper Hudson River.

Photographs this page courtesy of the Adirondack Park Museum, Blue Mountain, New York.

done nothing with this draft plan. This had been a broad-based, comprehensive effort to revise management, educational activities and promotion of the Forest Preserve to benefit residents and visitors alike. A plan to actually do simple things like integrate signage for Forest Preserve trailheads and parking areas to more complex things such as attempting to move

To whit: snowmobile trails. Many Adirondack local governments and tourism promotion leaders are riding expanded snowmobiling as their winter economic development strategy. Snowmobilers spend money! they say. Many towns have created a trail network through private lands or town owned lands. (Some, like the Town of Webb, have even used eminent domain to condemn rights-of-way to connect trails systems.) There are 800 miles of snowmobile trails in the Wild Forest and Intensive Use areas of the Forest Preserve. Many of these trails connect to the various town systems. Many towns have been working on a comprehensive system that links a number of towns together.

Town trails are wider than the state trails. There snowmobilers can often ride two abreast or pass one another at opposite directions at high speeds. Town trails are groomed with big, fancy new groomers. According

to the SLMP, snowmobile trails in the Forest Preserve are to "have the character of a foot trail" and be a maximum of eight feet wide. Because snowmobiling is big business for some towns, these towns often request and receive permits from the DEC to maintain snowmobile trails. The only problem is that recently 8-foot trails have grown to 20 feet wide and many trees have been cut, which is illegal under the Forest Preserve law in the state constitution. Due to a staff shortage, DEC is giving permits that are not properly reviewed. Once permits are issued they are not properly supervised. Resources are lost. The Forest Preserve is abused.

Motorized use advocates are now arguing that wilderness violates the civil rights of the disabled. How? These folks argue that all terrain vehicle 'ATVs' are the 'wheelchairs of the woods' and are necessary for providing access to disabled individuals to wilderness areas. Ambulatory folks are able to simply walk into a wilderness area and the disabled require special needs, which are remedied by the use of ATVs.

There are many at DEC who sympathize with this viewpoint. In 1995, these folks attempted to hijack DEC policy on this issue and throw open all roads and trails in the Forest Preserve to anybody on an ATV who for could get a doctor's note certifying they had a disability. This was in clear violation of state law.

DEC reversed this policy in 1997 and brought its policy into compliance with state law. In the interim many special permits were issued that provided all sorts of motorized access to the Forest Preserve. When these permits were revoked, advocates for the disabled who desire to use motor vehicles in the Forest Preserve alleged discrimination.

Earlier this year a group of disabled individuals sued the state for allegedly violating their civil rights as guaranteed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A coalition of New York environmental organizations has gained intervener status in this case. This suit is still in the discovery phase, but through this case more horror stories of DEC mismanagement of the Forest Preserve will surely come to light. ❄️

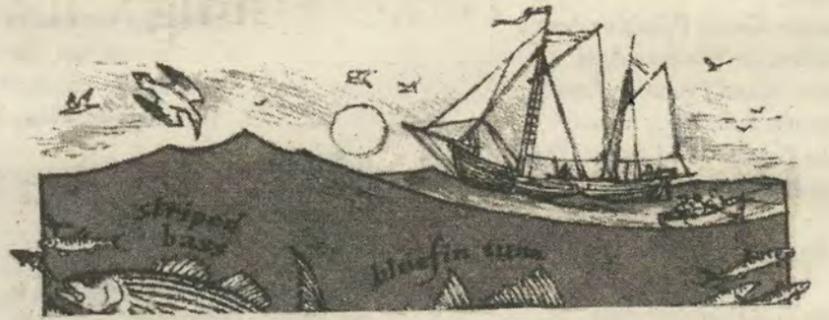


people out of the High Peaks to other less traveled areas. The plan also created a number of sectional maps so that communities could use the Forest Preserve in promotional activities.

Yes, less is less, much less. Another big problem is that technically no formal management action can be taken that does not conform with a UMP. Unfortunately, with so many UMPs unwritten, and many of the approved plans unrevised, new projects are often undertaken without authority by the DEC. This has created some particularly serious problems for the Forest Preserve.

UMP's designate trails, trailhead parking areas, schedule maintenance for roads, camp sites, lean-tos, establish wildlife and fish management programs, among many other things. They are the plans for the intensity and type of use for a resource. While only a handful, and none for the most significant and most highly used areas, of UMP's were generated in Governor Pataki's first term, an even worse problem is that capital projects that the skeletal UMP's mandate are falling by the wayside. Over \$5 million worth of parking areas, trail and road maintenance/rehabilitation, trail construction, canoe launches, lean-to con-

Coastal Waters Watch



Legal Challenge to Maine's Salmon Plan

by Ron Huber

On November 17th, four groups and 4 individuals filed a 'Notice of Violations of the Endangered Species Act' with the US Department of the Interior, Department of Commerce, US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service.

This sets the stage for a legal struggle over whether Maine's Atlantic Salmon will receive genuine protections leading to restoration, or be allowed to continue to decline under the specious 'voluntary' protections set forth in the state's 'Atlantic Salmon Conservation Plan' that was accepted by federal agencies with great fanfare last December.

The Usual Suspects

This latest struggle to protect and restore *Salmo salar* began on October 1, 1993, when RESTORE: the North Woods, Biodiversity Legal Foundation and New Hampshire activist Jeffrey Elliott filed a formal petition with the National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish & Wildlife Service requesting that the salmon be listed as endangered or threatened throughout its known range. The two agencies commenced a review, finding on March 17, 1995 that "sufficient information was available" to warrant protecting "seven river populations of Atlantic salmon in Maine" as a distinct population segment under the Act, though not to support listing across the Atlantic salmon's full historic range. On September 29, 1995 the agencies proposed listing the salmon of the seven rivers as threatened.

In response, the state of Maine then began to develop its Atlantic Salmon Conservation Plan, which was formally submitted to the federal agencies on March 5, 1997. On December 18, 1997, the federal agencies withdrew the proposed 'threatened' listing, on the grounds that the Maine state plan's conservation measures were adequate to keep the Atlantic salmon from becoming endangered, "in the foreseeable future."

In the Notice of Violations, attorneys from the law firm Meyer & Glitzenstein, representing Defenders of Wildlife, Biodiversity Legal Foundation, NARP's Coastal Waters Project, and the Conservation Action Project and individuals David Carle, Charles Fitzgerald, Douglas Watts, and Monica Castellanos, write that "the US Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service (collectively, 'the Services') have violated the ESA and the Administrative Procedures Act in failing to list a distinct population segment of Atlantic Salmon as endangered or threatened."

The Complaint raises four main points:

1. The Record Unequivocally Establishes that Atlantic Salmon are Biologically 'Endangered' or 'Threatened'.
2. The Services' Final Rule Is Based Upon Factors Not Authorized Under the ESA and Is Otherwise Not Supported by the Record.
3. The Maine Plan Alone is Insufficient to Prevent the Further Decline of Atlantic Salmon.
4. The Services Have Improperly Relied on Political Factors."

Facts of the Case

Let us review these four points in some detail.

1. ATLANTIC SALMON ARE BIOLOGICALLY 'ENDANGERED' OR 'THREATENED'.

Up to half a million Atlantic Salmon per year once migrated in and out of northeastern US rivers, from southern Connecticut's Housatonic River to the Saint Croix River on Maine's Canadian border. At the present, only a minuscule remnant number of wild salmon (508 at last count) return, and these to only a small number of Maine rivers. Important reasons for the decline include destruction of the salmon's forest habitat by logging operations, water diversion & pesticide application for the commercial blueberry and cranberry industry, peat mining, dams, catch & release fisheries, and disease spread by cloned salmon in aquaculture operations. None of these impacts are curtailed in any meaningful way by the 'Maine plan.'

2. THE SERVICES' FINAL RULE IS BASED UPON FACTORS NOT AUTHORIZED UNDER THE ESA AND IS OTHERWISE NOT SUPPORTED BY THE RECORD.

The Federal Endangered Species Act lists 5 factors to be considered when deciding to list a species:

1. actual or threatened habitat loss or degradation
2. Over-extraction for commercial, recreational, scientific or educational purposes;
3. disease or predation
4. inadequate existing laws and regulations
5. other natural or man-made factors affecting the specie's existence.

The National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish & Wildlife Service originally concluded that indeed, listing the Atlantic salmon as threatened or endangered was warranted under those five factors. Then came the 'Maine plan', following which the federal agencies abruptly reversed themselves and decided that the Atlantic salmon was "not likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future."

The Maine plan, however, skirts addressing the above five factors in any meaningful way. Instead, voluntary and as-yet undeveloped measures are brought to bear, measures that have done nothing to avert the downward slide of the Atlantic salmon.

As the Notice states: "In short, the record totally fails to support the Services' assertion that myriad threats to Atlantic salmon are being adequately addressed by existing regulatory mechanisms. Most of the measures relied upon by the Services, are not regulatory but are voluntary, and therefore, should not have been considered at all."

The Notice lists these measures as: "Soil and water conservation district technical support programs for farms to reduce non-point source pollution; "escape control measures including careful site selection, regular equipment maintenance and storm preparation procedures" to address threats from aquaculture; Champion International's 'self-imposed' timber management standards; and "a forestry industry effort to promote a wide range of values in forest management decisions."

The Notice also notes that while the Services claim that "numerous State and Federal laws now in

existence prevent significant adverse impacts to Atlantic salmon and other aquatic species," the federal agencies fail to cite any specific examples of them.

3. THE MAINE PLAN ALONE IS INSUFFICIENT TO PREVENT THE FURTHER DECLINE OF ATLANTIC SALMON.

The Maine Plan* relies on voluntary and even non-existent initiatives to protect Atlantic salmon from extinction. The Notice cites a "lack of enforceable and credible conservation standards, lack of measurable performance goals, lack of contingency planning, inadequate baseline data and lack of funding. In addition, the Maine Plan is too limited, leaving out as it does the Penobscot and Kennebec rivers both of which are 'important salmon rivers' according to the Notice.

A June 26 1997 memorandum by NMFS fishery biologist Marta Nammack to the director of NMFS office of protected resources makes this point:

"Is the Plan sufficient to preclude listing? If not, can it be improved enough to preclude a listing? No, the Plan is not sufficient to preclude a listing. And no, it cannot be improved enough to justify a 'do not list' determination. The bottom line is that we do not know if the measures that may be implemented in the Plan will provide sufficient protection for the proposed Atlantic Salmon [plan]. It will take at least two years to begin to see improvements."

4. THE SERVICES HAVE IMPROPERLY RELIED ON POLITICAL FACTORS.

The Notice notes that the Maine plan "does not even come close to meeting the legal and biological standards for a decision not to list the Atlantic Salmon. . . it seems obvious that the Services' true reason for withdrawing the decision to list has nothing to do with the ESA's five listing factors or the biological status of the species. Rather the Services' reversal was based entirely on unlawful political factors." The Notice cites, in particular, a Feb 13th letter from Angus King to Maine's congressional delegation, as evidence of political interference with a scientific decision.

Time to Talk Turkey

By January 17, 1999, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the US Fish & Wildlife Service will have to come to a decision: play politics with the salmon or undertake a genuine effort to bring this magnificent animal back from the edge of extinction. Maine's government has done next to nothing, or worse: dumping fill into the Narraguagus River, and giving Cherryfield Foods, Inc a permit to pump water from the Pleasant River to irrigate its berry fields.

In a recent press release, David Carle, director of the Conservation Action Project wrote: "The whole purpose of listing species as threatened or endangered is not simply to memorialize species that are on the path to extinction, but also to compel those changes needed to save these species from extinction. The Maine State Plan suggests possible future actions without enforcement provisions. This fails to meet

continued on page 25

Marine Wilderness Proposals Trumped By Industry Demand For Total Fishing Closure of Entire Gulf of Maine

by Ron Huber

While conservation groups and planning agencies around the Gulf of Maine continue agonizing over whether even the meekest, tiniest of multiple use marine semi-protected areas in our public sea-within-a-sea might be acceptable to commercial and sport fishing interests, the self same industrial interests are now publicly DEMANDING that the ENTIRE Gulf of Maine and George's Bank be completely closed to fishing for the foreseeable future.

"We're tellin' ya—we can't make it no more." Vito Calomo, executive director of fisheries for the city of Gloucester, Massachusetts told a meeting of state and federal fishing agency officials.

"I don't say its bad management, overfishing, pollution. I say it's a combination of everything. If we could solve it, if anybody could come up with a way to solve this problem, where we could survive, I'm telling ya I'd be the first one behind ya. But we been pounding our heads for years, and it don't seem like it's coming back... We don't know what to do anymore, so we're saying close it down." (Quoted by Paul Molyneux, Fishermen's Voice newspaper VOI 3 #12 December 1998.)

Federal and state fishery managers in the Gulf of Maine region, who have coolly dismissed as conservationist proposals for no-take marine reserves as 'simplistic', are 'stunned' by the fishing industry's "Ban GroundFishing" initiative, which first came into public view on November 16th at a meeting of the public-private agency known as the New England Fisheries Management Council.

But the federal government and state should not have been caught off guard. Their own scientists have been predicting dire consequences if industrial fishing was not reduced in intensity and ubiquity, for more than a decade. The researchers' warnings, however, and their recommendations for reduced fishing effort, were invariably set aside by decision-makers besieged

by a well-organized industry lobby that again and again wrung additional tonnages to the total allowable catch of each exploitable species.

The natural capital of the Gulf can only be stretched so far, however. No less than the BMW & birkenstock crowd, the fishing industry is itself a community of 'trust-funders'. Lobster trappers, scallop draggers, seaweed cutters, urchin divers, shrimp trawlers and the others, are living off the 'Public Trust' of the catchable/sellable wild residents of this 60,000-plus square mile undersea wildland lying beneath the waves east of Northern New England.

It makes no difference that the 'rich uncle' who

12 December 1998.

While the demand for a shutdown is not unanimous (the subsidized corporate trawler fleet opposes it) a sufficiently overwhelming majority of the the small boat fishers that numerically and geographically dominate the Gulf of Maine industry do.

If they and their communities are able to hold firm and shepherd their Gulf-wide closure plan through, in the face of governmental and corporate efforts to the contrary, then the wild residents of this 60,000-plus square mile undersea wildland will have an opportunity to restore themselves, on a scale that will demonstrate to the industry the value of keeping large parts of the Gulf permanently fallow.

Designating forever wild areas offshore, where the natural kingdom of living bottom life that cod and other wild fishes best live within is allowed to regrow itself will create ocean cornucopias that will replenish the rest of the Gulf of Maine. Then one day, that Rich Uncle Neptune may recover from the beating we gave his oceanic wallet, and once more supply the communities of the Gulf coast with the natural dole they once before lived so well on.

Anything is possible, given time. During the last ice age, glaciers scraped Northern New England as bare of trees as today's commercial fishers have scraped clean the Gulf of Maine of fish.

The forests came back. Let's give Nature a

chance to do the same below the tide line.

NOTE 1. On December 10th the New England Fisheries Management Council will consider the Gulf of Maine closure at the Sheraton Colonial Hilton in Wakefield Massachusetts. For more information, contact the Council at (781) 231-0422

NOTE 2. Fishermen's Voice, published monthly by One Wing Publishing [POB 253 Gouldsboro ME 04607 Tel (207)963-7195 FAX (207) 963-7159] is arguably the best chronicler of the trials and tribulations of Maine's commercial fishing industry. Distributed free at numerous locations along the Maine coast, Mail subscriptions are \$15 dollars/year. A worthy investment if you're interested in "News & Comment for and by the Fishermen of Maine" as noted on the Voice's masthead. ❄



The Menhaden Fishery. Image courtesy of Maine Dept. of Natural Resources.

set up their trust fund is Uncle Sam. The trustfunder's Prime Directive still applied: conserve the principal, only spend the interest. Even when whispers of sure fire investment opportunities arise, a conservative trustfunder will resist rolling the dice with the main stack. Now, unfortunately, the living wild capital of the Gulf has been largely spent. The seafloor of the Gulf of Maine looks carpet-bombed. Constant dragging of groundfish trawls and scallop dredges has scraped and torn away most of the living bottom that the cod and other fishes relied on for food and shelter.

"Fishermen have told me the edges of Stellwagen Bank, where the fish would be, have been rounded off," said Emory Anderson, with the National Ocean Service's Northeast Fisheries Science Center. Anderson told a fishing industry reporter. "They've been plowed so hard it has destroyed the geography." Paul Molyneux, Fishermen's Voice newspaper VOI 3

Salmon continued from page 24

the legal and ethical standard to provide significant changes in the conditions or practices that are threatening the long term viability of Atlantic salmon."

Earlier this year, a federal court ruled that a similar salmon protection plan put forward by the state of Oregon, was 'arbitrary and capricious'. The court found that "voluntary or future conservation efforts by a state should be given no weight in the listing decision."

Yet that is precisely what the federal

decision to accept the Maine state plan was based on. Whether the National Marine Fisheries Service and the US Fish & Wildlife Service heed the Oregon precedent and avoid a costly legal battle, one that it cannot win, remains to be seen.

*See the Maine salmon plan at the following web site:

www.state.me.us/governor/a-plus.htm

❄

CLARIFICATION

Hello:

At suggestion of Ron Huber I am writing to ask that a correction be printed in the upcoming issue of the Forum. Page 13 of the last issue (about Gulf of Maine) said (item ten on list) that the Port Joli Basin Conservation Society had nominated Port Joli for a marine protected area. In fact, our group has not nominated any Marine Protected Area.

Dirk van Loon, director
RR 1 Port Joli, Nova Scotia
902-354-3321

An Evolutionary Forest Statute

[Last issue of the Forum we presented a Wisconsin citizen group's plan for restoring a watershed. The Friends of the Brule were able to engage with Wisconsin's master forest planning process by virtue of a new planning statute. The act reflects a degree of enlightenment that would serve our own states well. The Friends say the statute reflects broad consensus and was passed by both houses of the Wisconsin legislature on unanimous voice votes.—ed. note]

1995 Wisconsin Act 257

(amended language in [])

"The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows :

Section 1. 23.09 (2) (d) 1. of the statutes is amended to read: For state forests [for the purpose of growing timber, demonstrating forestry methods, protecting watersheds or providing public recreation]

Section 2. 28.04 of the statutes is repealed and recreated to read:

28.04 Management of state forests.

1) Definitions. In this section:

(a) 'Biological diversity' means the variety and abundance of species, their genetic composition, and the communities, ecosystems and landscapes in which they occur. 'Biological diversity' also refers to the variety of ecological structures, functions and processes at any of these levels.

(b) 'Community' means an assemblage of species living together in a particular area, time and habitat.

(c) 'Ecological capability' means the potential of an area to support or develop one or more communities

through management, with the potential being dependent on the area's abiotic attributes, its flora and fauna, its ecological processes and disturbances within and upon the area.

(d) 'Native' means indigenous to the area or region.

(e) 'Sustainable forestry' means the practice of managing dynamic forest ecosystems to provide ecological, economic, social and cultural benefits for present and future generations.

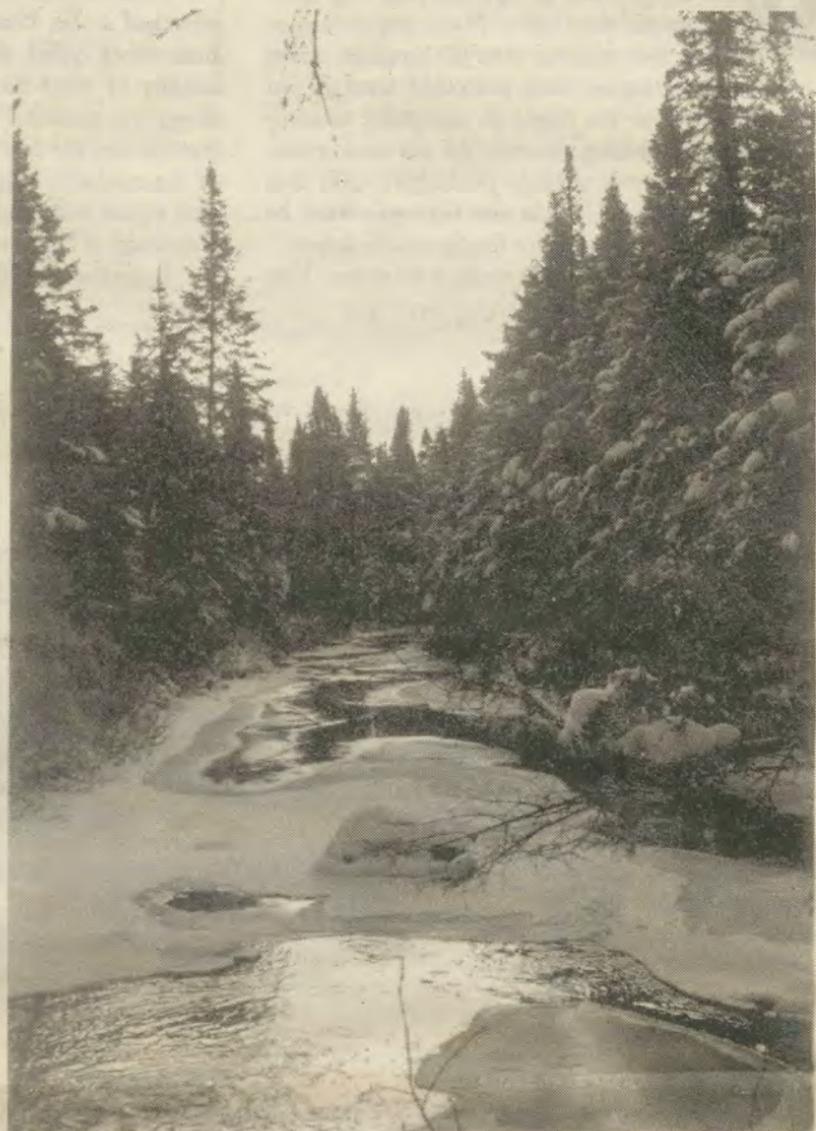
(2) PURPOSES AND BENEFITS OF STATE FORESTS.

(a) The department shall manage the state forests to benefit the present and future generations of residents of this state, recognizing that the state forests contribute to local and statewide economies and to a healthy natural environment. The department shall assure the practice of sustainable forestry and use it to assure that state forests can provide a full range of benefits for present and future generations. The department shall also assure that the management of state forests is consistent with the ecological capability of the state forest land and with the long-term maintenance of sustainable forest communities and eco-systems. These benefits include soil protection, public hunting, protection of water quality, production of recurring forest products, outdoor recreation, native biological diversity, aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, and aesthetics. The range of benefits provided by the department in each state forest shall reflect its unique character and position in the regional landscape. ❄

Groups Seek 'Class A' Designation for Nulhegan Watershed

Vermont Audubon, Sierra Club and Vermont Natural Resources Council are seeking state designation of the Nulhegan River Watershed as 'Class A' waters and an

that establishing riparian buffers and 'conscientious stream crossings' and 'sustainable forestry techniques' will provide an opportunity to break out of historical boom-bust patterns of forestry while protecting and enhancing



Nulhegan River, Black Branch.

Photo courtesy of Kathleen Fitzgerald

'Outstanding Resource Water.' Their petition is before the state Water Resources Board which will be conducting hearings and fact gathering. The combined effect of the designations would afford protections for the entire watershed.

A fact sheet being distributed by the petitioning groups states: "The Nulhegan's lakes, ponds and wetlands are extensive and include natural communities of statewide significance. Many of the species that are found in the Nulhegan are characteristic of communities hundreds of miles to the north. The rare black spruce swamp and white cedar swamp, as well as the bog and marsh communities contain rare plants and provide habitat for white-tailed deer (the largest deer wintering area in the state), a growing number of moose, and other species such as the endangered common loon, osprey, spruce grouse, rare black-backed woodpecker and northern harrier. The Nulhegan River is used as a reference stream by the Agency of Natural Resources as a standard to measure the health of polluted streams in the state." The fact sheet notes the recreational value of the land, a prime economic asset to nearby towns such as Brighton (Island Pond).

As we go to press, the disposition of the Champion lands, which comprise most of the Nulhegan watershed, is still under wraps. The fact sheet predicts

the water resource.

Stewart Holbrook and Robert Pike chronicled lumbering and river drives in the 'Hegan Woods from the 1890s to 1920s. A logging railroad from nearby North Stratford tapped Nulhegan hardwood for a sugar barrel manufactory until the advent of paper sacking early this century. The St. Regis Paper Company which succeeded the Connecticut River Lumber Company was itself subsumed by Champion International in the 1980s. The Nulhegan basin has also witnessed quarrying of a rare pink granite. Arrival of the Portland-Montreal rail line in 1848 resulted in recurring episodes of fire in the 1800s, including one extensive fire that burned French Mountain.

Previous to Europeans, the Nulhegan was an important travel route to Abnaki people who gave the river its name, which means 'Fish-Trap.' Nearby Brunswick Springs, now held by Abnaki as a spiritual ceremony ground, once was a major rendez-vous point, valued for its healing mineral waters. Young Vermonters used to be taught that Rogers Rangers retreated from their murderous assault on St. Francis in Quebec, down the Nulhegan River, at the mouth of which they allegedly skirmished with pursuers.

The Nulhegan is rich in both natural heritage and human history. May its future history be so as well.—A.W.

❄



NH Sierra Club Sues State Over Illegal Sludge Spreading

(Press Release of the NH Sierra Club)

Concord, NH . . . The NH Sierra Club filed legal proceedings on November 10 against the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and the State of New Hampshire for violating state hazardous waste laws. The action was taken after NHDES permitted the illegal landspreading and disposal of toxic municipal sewage sludge and industrial paper mill sludge on private lands.

According to papers filed in Merrimack Superior Court, the Sierra Club charges that the NHDES violated state law by using arbitrary and unscientific methods to calculate and interpret laboratory tests on the sludge. Initial test results revealed significant levels of toxic chemicals requiring the NHDES to classify the sludge as 'hazardous waste'. With the stroke of a pen, NHDES has been altering official laboratory reports—in order to artificially lower the contaminant levels in sludge—to allow for the illegal spreading of hazardous waste on private lands. State law prohibits hazardous waste to be indiscriminately spread on agricultural fields or used as fill.

"The Sierra Club seeks an injunction to stop the State from spreading toxic sludge on New Hampshire lands," said Attorney Finis Williams of Concord, NH, who is representing the NH Sierra Club. "We will also seek to have the affected lands cleaned up, as well as a permanent injunction established requiring the State of New Hampshire to comply with all state and federal hazardous waste laws as they relate to the disposal of municipal and industrial sludge."

Contacts: David Ellenberger, NH Sierra Club:

603-224-8222

Caroline Snyder, Citizens for a Future NH:

603-284-6998

Doug Bogen, Clean Water Action:
603-430-9565 ❄️

LETTERS

TO THE

EDITOR



Zero Cut On Public Forests

Dear Editor:

I have read all the articles relating to zero-cut, conservation, and sustainable forestry in this issue; some of the key ones twice to be as familiar as possible with them. I thought the article by Mick Petrie was excellent for thorough analysis of the situation. I also learned plenty from it. For example, that even when the Forest Service tries reform, it is undercut by Congress paid off by corporations. Also Jim Northup's terrific telling it like it is.

You ask for reader comment on the above. Since

Vermont has so little public forest to begin with, I feel that zero-cut and zero road-building are a must for at least State and National Forests. For private lands, I think sustainable forestry must be mandated, along with logging that does not pollute streams, or weaken slopes.

I say this because no private land can have done to it whatever the owner chooses. The land is the basis for the lives of everybody, human and animal. I wish we could plan for the seventh generation as our native Americans. We can barely think beyond 50 years.

It's hard to understand private owners objecting to a permit to clearcut 40 acres, meaning that 39 acres could be so cut without a permit—still way too much for healthy silviculture. Isn't the so-called privacy of public land the major stumbling block here? The history of this country shows that stewardship of land has rarely been a factor in its use and misuse. Ever since Europeans landed on these shores treatment of the land has been to over-use and move on. Yet private landowners believe they should be trusted.

When industrial owners misuse the land, I believe they have committed a crime against the land and in so doing against all the people depending on it. Punishment for such crimes could be their land reverting to public use. To damage, sell, and run off seems really unconscionable to me. Why should they be reimbursed for destruction that will take money, time and care to restore?

For the Forests,

Lea Wood
Underhill, VT

VT Sierra Club Calls for Improvements to State Clean Water Regulations

by Adam Necrason, Esq.

The Vermont Chapter of the Sierra Club is calling on the Water Resources Board to strengthen the State's Clean Water Act regulations.

After almost two years of facilitated discussions amongst stakeholders and months of hearings by the Water Resources Board, Vermont's communities, rivers, and streams are one step closer to comprehensive changes to the Water Quality Standards. The Water Quality Standards are the regulations that implement the federal Clean Water Act in Vermont.

This past November, Sierra Club members joined other clean watershed activists to voice their views on the Board's proposed changes to the Standards. In public hearings and written comments, concerned citizens grounded their calls for improvements to the Standards in their right to fish, their love of recreation, their dependence on water-based tourism dollars, and, perhaps most importantly, sound science.

The Sierra Club strongly supported several areas of the Board's proposed changes to the Standards. The Board's

proposal to clarify the hydrology standards that guide how much water electric dams and other sources of withdrawal must leave in the stream is good.

Conservationists also supported changes that would increase the recognition of the biological integrity in our rivers and streams. These changes would allow waters to be better evaluated based on the health of the biological community.

Basin planning would also get a boost under the proposed changes. The results of basin planning would have enhanced legal significance. The pressure on the Agency to get more planning going would also become more intense.

In several areas, activists pointed out major inadequacies in the proposed changes. The proposed Standards completely failed to recognize existing state and federal rare, threatened and endangered species law and policy.

Despite the fact that temperature variations and excessive, unnatural sediment deposition and accumulation have been identified by the Agency of Natural Resources as major threats to Vermont's rivers and stream, the proposed Standards failed create a real

and meaningful riparian area general criteria.

Finally, the Sierra Club is calling on the Board to adopt a restoration policy. As a matter of policy, Vermont's water quality should be continually upgraded. Permit applications for projects with impacts in our surface waters should be required to consider the reasonable alternative which could result in a higher level of water quality.

Looking ahead, the Board is now considering how to respond to the public's comments on their proposed changes. After the Board makes these decisions, they will submit their decisions to a Legislative Committee for approval. Sierra Club activists and their legislative advocate will continue to be involved during these steps of the process.

In the end, when the Board finally does implement changes to the Standards, Vermonters should have a better say in how their waters are polluted, protected, and cleaned up.

For more information on this issue, contact the Vermont Chapter of the Sierra Club. ❄️

Champion Land Sale cont. from page 3

being sought from a number of private and public sources.

Will the New Hampshire and Vermont lands receive the ecological protection they require, or will the proponents of 'working forest' again prevail? Will easements alter the meaning of 'working forest' to

the point that these lands again grow and supply quality sawtimber?

The Champion lands sale represented an opportunity for the conservation community and the states to forge a bold, creative new strategy for conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem integrity. The large size of the parcels sold by Champion makes them especially important as cores for ecological reserves. As the unresolved details of this land sale are sorted out in the coming weeks and months, let

us hope that our conservation leaders and our elected officials will demonstrate that they understand just how essential it is that we move beyond the inadequate strategies of the past that limit conservation efforts to easements that sanction clearcuts, herbicide spraying and fiber forestry. Let us hope that they demonstrate that they understand that protection of our life support system is not some special interest like snowmobiling. ❄️

Gadzik to Big Landowners and Their Foresters: You've Been Doing It All Wrong

In late September, Maine Forest Service opened up its fifty-year Timber Supply Outlook for Maine, in 39 pages. The study uses a USFS model to simulate what happens to the forest assuming initial conditions, questionable past measurements, and a miraculous creation of growth, mortality, and cutting data which were evaded in the several USFS surveys. Somehow, they have disarmed the warning in each of these that its results must not be compared to those of the previous study. It is noted that what are called unpublished landowner data on growth rates supplied this essential element.

All such simulations, if they are to be more than mere animations of an idea, contain assumptions that are critical. The worst of them are substitutes for thinking it through, but they do make it appear someone is busy. If you and I are skeptical of such procedures, Gadzik and Co., and the landowners accept the study's findings as revealing their liquidating the forest. Not that it will change the landowners' course, too late for that. It probably has substance; two sources tell me that the landowners tried to have Gadzik fired before the report issued. That they didn't make it tells us their grip on Maine is not what it was.

The report states flatly that at a steady cut of 560 million cu.ft. annually, about seven million cords, forest volume will decline at an accelerating rate over the next hundred years. (Their Fig. 9). No one in Maine will dare think of cutting less wood, and of reducing the number and size of the paper mills—but this is happening every week. Unthinkable!! Great Northern Paper-making is fading, Great Northern's 11 paper machines lapsing into scrap, and the people who ran them will blame anything except overcutting their 2 million acres of the former North woods.

The prices per acre in three recent timberland sales quantify the forest condition:

- Scott Paper's cut-over land was sold by SAPPI for \$199 per acre, 905,000 acres on both sides of Moosehead Lake.
- The late Great Northern, in the guise of Bowater, sold 1 million acres of its more than 2 million

to J. D. Irving of Canada, making the New Brunswick conglomerate Maine's largest private landowner. The million acres of denuded forest and a sawmill went for \$220 million. A Bowater flack said this price was higher than that announced by SAPPI.

over land in scale, four NH parcels are advertised by LandVest at \$433/A to \$650. When I quoted the Maine prices to a Maine editor, he responded, "That's dirt cheap." And that is what they are getting. They are buying Gadziks, clear-cut land the size of a football field, roads and stumps, for \$200.

tions. Even the Improved Yield modeling predicts increasing growth for fifty years, followed by a deficit.

Fig. 9 shows that total inventory, all species, will not improve. This is not the language that MFS has ever used before. Always intensive management has been the password, letting us both eat and save our cake, the science-based silviculture that Jonathan Carter dreams of.

This time, somebody had his eyes open. The recommendations are

- 1) Increasing forest growth through improved partial cutting techniques. The operative word is partial.
- 2) Increasing the number of acres under high-yield silvicultural practices to a cumulative total of 9% of Maine forest land by 2015. Only 9%, and some fifteen years over the horizon, if the new landowners spend the money. But this hoped-for area is only about 1.5 million acres—even if it grew a cord per acre yearly, it's a small part of our present cut.

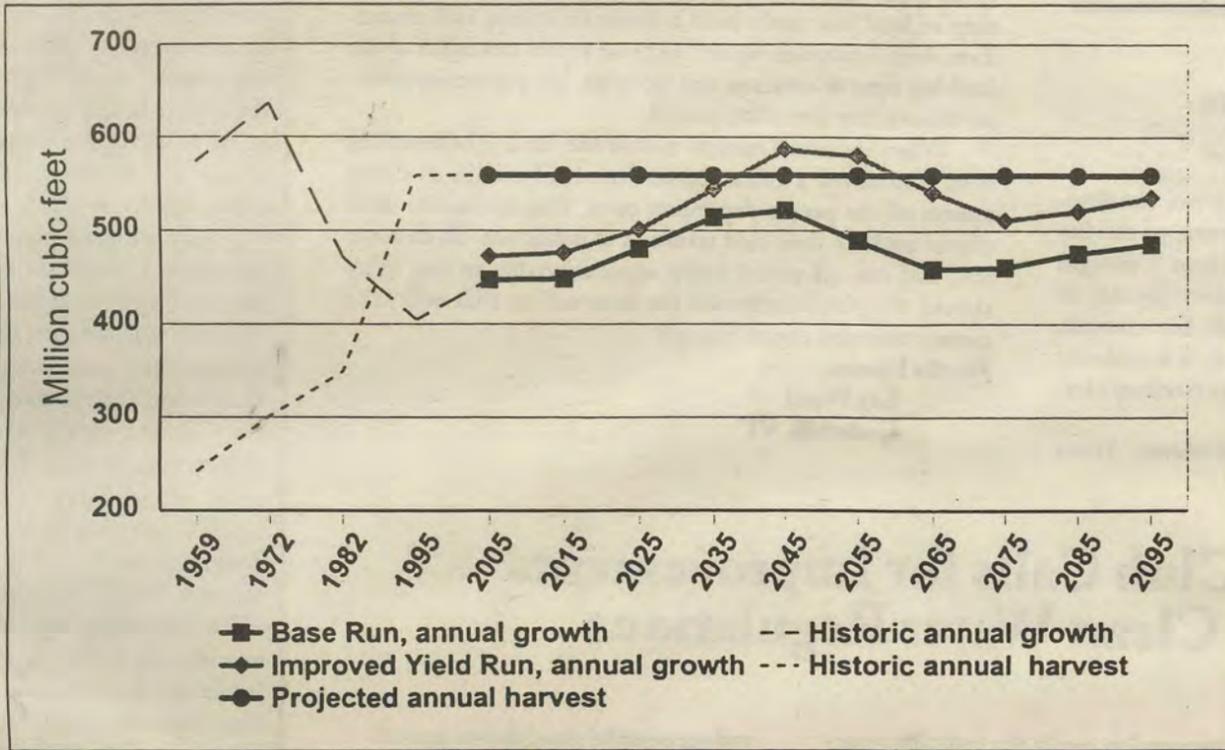
The first recommendation is by far the more effective in increasing growth. In fact, it is the way we used to cut wood when I started in 1948. By 1960, the paper companies, the university, and their forestry graduates belittled partial cuts as 'high-grading' to justify their getting it all, at one pass. Which they did and brought the forest to its sorry state.

A press report focused on the study as calling only for more intensive (and expensive) management including herbicide use, thinning, and use of

single-species plantations following clear-cutting. I think this neglected Gadzik's point. Sadly, it misses the opportunity to mandate cutting that retains the Temperate Rain Forest character for recreationists while maintaining woods

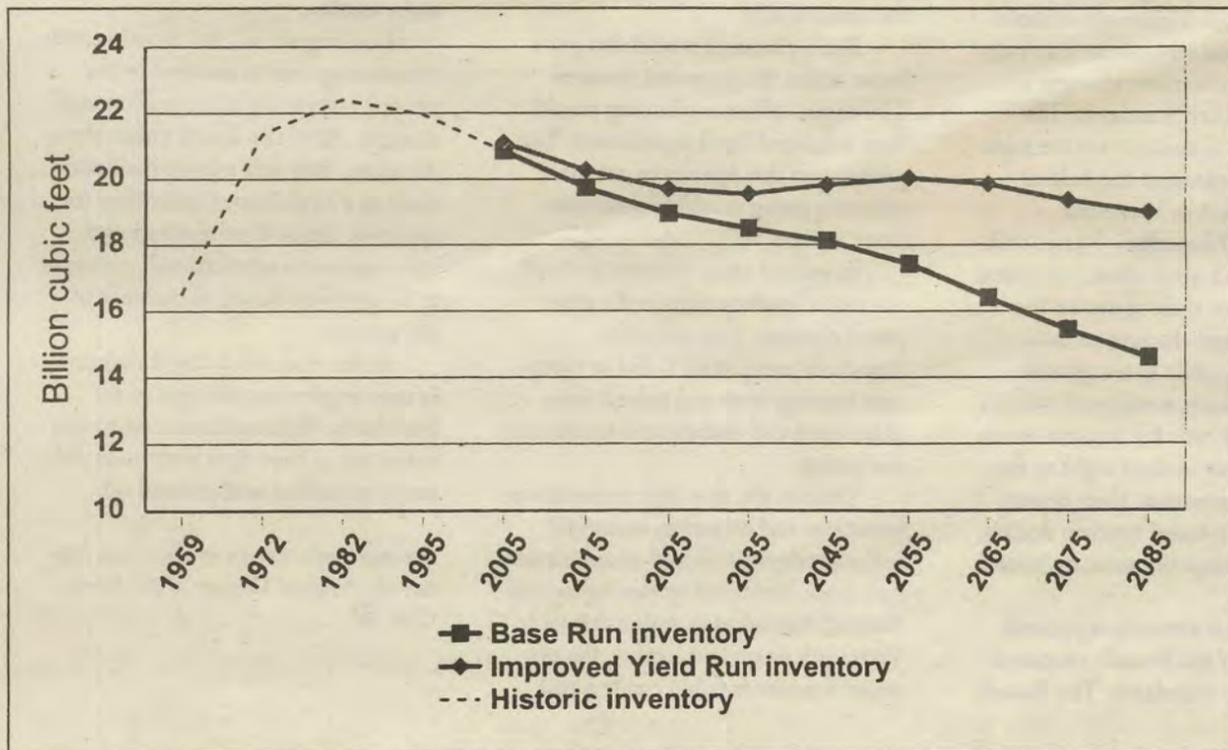
jobs for skilled woods workers; in short, it requires Low-Impact silviculture, which we used to do.

Bill Butler
31 October 1998 ❄️



•Within two weeks, Bowater sold an additional 656,000 acres, with a lot of famous shorefrontage, for \$236 per acre.
•This morning (November 13th) Georgia-Pacific on the New Brunswick border, announces it is "evaluating options" for its 446,000 acres in Maine. This

Back in June, Gadzik was still buoyant in predicting that the SAPPI land had been managed well under Scott, with heavy investment in replanting, meaning higher yields and, potentially, higher value, as the Bangor Daily News reported; they quote Gadzik—"We may very well see some of the highest rates for forest land



also is cut-over, unproductive land.

Driven by their peculiar version of corporate greed, which first requires forest liquidation, the paper industry has been a textbook example of monkey-see, monkey-do. The vultures who stripped Maine have gone to roost elsewhere—I hope they take their foresters with them.

To put the prices paid for this cut-

because they've invested so highly in it."

By September, this studied optimism is reversed; the Timber Supply Outlook reports an unsustainable imbalance between growth and cut. (Foresters have such delicate sensitivities that they say 'harvest.') Their data, the curves in Fig. 8, show that the cut is greater than the annual growth under current management assump-

A Critique of Timber Supply Outlook for Maine: 1995-2045

by Mitch Lansky

The Maine Forest Service's projection of timber supply (Timber Supply Outlook for Maine: 1995-2045), based on the USFS 1995 inventory, unfortunately, tells us nothing new. We already knew that cut was more than growth, and without the use of a sophisticated computer could guess that if this trend continued, total inventory would continue to decline. The study's major exercise, of projecting timber supply a century ahead, is based on some unlikely, if not absurd assumptions:

- cut, which has been steadily rising since 1959, will be stable for the next century;
- technology will not change;
- climate will not change;
- market preferences will not change;
- there will be no serious biological threats of insect or disease outbreaks (save, in one run, the spruce budworm);
- the economy will be stable (no war, no recession, no depression for a century!).

If all these variables become constants, then, assuming the data are valid (which many would dispute), and the model is reliable for a century (which even more people would dispute), the result of this exercise might be useful.

The Maine Forest Service made it clear that cut to growth ratios are not adequate to determine future timber supply—we also must know something about the age-class structure of the forest. Despite the importance the modelers attached to the age-class structure, they neglected to reveal to us what the future age-class structure might look like if current levels of harvest continue. This, and a lack of information concerning species and quality, make the exercise even less useful for those who want to know what size trees, of what species and quality will be growing where at a given time in the future.

Although the study is supposed to supply infor-

forest stands, we are capable of fully sustaining the current harvest level. Activities to improve forest productivity need to be broadly implemented over the next two decades."

While this recommendation was for both uneven and even-aged systems, what industry and the public heard strongest were the recommendations for increased 'intensive management' (clearcuts, herbicides, thinings, and plantations)—practices that are pursued on



recommendations of the state, double its acreage of intensive practices.

These practices, leading to shortened rotations, are very controversial. Not only are they disliked by many for aesthetic and health reasons (exposure to chemical pesticides), but they are highly questionable biologically. The shorter the rotations, the more problems with maintaining soil nutrients and organic matter and the less habitat for species requiring late-successional forest structures.

The modeling exercise would have been far more useful if the modelers had taken the forest as it is today and tried to apply practices that are consistent with accepted silvicultural recommendations. If possible these recommendations could be combined with what we understand is needed for maintaining the full array of habitats to support viable populations of the full array of species). This would include cutting less than growth, leaving recommended stocking, and managing for increased quality and value over the long term. The modelers would focus cutting on highest risk, poorest-quality, and slowest growing trees, leaving the best growing stock to put on volume for the future. The ques-

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forest ecology network

Working to protect the native forest environment of Maine.

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FEN's Web site is a place for learning and taking action on forest issues in Maine. Check out all the latest news on land sales, forest practices, the logger's blockade, wilderness protection, and other Northern Forest issues. FEN's newspaper, The Maine Woods, has articles on everything from alternative fibers to recycling to low-impact forestry. Our resource and link page contains bibliographies on the ecological effects of clearcutting and herbicide spraying, plus links to groups and agencies working on forest issues in Maine and around the world.

Join the FEN Email Action Alert Network by sending an email to fen@powerlink.net

<mailto:fen@powerlink.net>

mation, rather than recommend policy, there was a strong policy recommendation in the conclusion of the introduction: "With investments in intensive silviculture and improved management of Maine's natural

any scale by only a half dozen or so landowners out of the thousands of landowners in the state. Indeed, soon after the timber supply study was released, Champion International announced that it would, following the

tion should not be how long can we continue unsustainable practices, but how much wood would be available now and in the future if the forest were managed as if the future mattered. ❄

The World According to NARP

The Northern Appalachian Restoration Project (NARP) consists of community-based, grassroots projects in Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire. These projects are led by people living and working within the Northern Forest Community (including the Gulf of Maine) as change agents for a more balanced and sustainable society here in the Northeast.

NARP activists organize, educate, and unite unrepresented and low-income citizens in Northern Forest communities so that they can articulate environmental problems and participate in public policy decisions that affect their communities and the environment. NARP's voice is quiet but strong, as witnessed in the 1997 Vermont Pesticide Hearings, where tireless effort on the part of NARP activists helped bring about industry regulations that will help, not harm, the environment and the people living within it.

The projects, ranging from coastal protection, energy alternatives, and silviculture in Maine, to sustainable forestry in Vermont and pesticide issues in New Hampshire, are staffed by dedicated people who were already striving to promote change within their communities before coming on board with NARP. The project leaders, whom you will read about below, care enough about their communities and bioregions to work ceaselessly to protect them from the detrimental effects associated with big industry. In the process, they educate the people who share their watersheds, forests, and power sources. Most importantly, they are coming up with solutions to problems that at times seem insurmountable.

NARP activists analyze existing barriers to healthy economies and

ecosystems -
- political,
social, and/or economic -- and come up
with strategies to overcome them.

Moving beyond soundbites, NARP activists are seeking out solutions that may not make headlines, but are ultimately more rewarding. And slowly but surely, change is happening. Change that is protecting wildlands and leading to a society where people can live ecologically sound, socially responsible, and economically viable lives.

The issues that we face today are complex ones. The public is fed conflicting messages by industry, government, and environmental organizations. That's where **The Northern Forest Forum** comes in. **The Forum** provides both news and analysis from a perspective not commonly seen in other publications. Articles cover policy, forest biology, taxation, labor, the impact of the global economy on local economies, and new approaches to forestry, energy, and fisheries. **The Forum** not only allows more than one point of view, but encourages it! The Forum is also a valuable tool for organizing and facilitating the sharing of activist issues, experiences, and strategies across the region. Many of the by-lines you see in **The Forum** belong to the people below, our project leaders, who work to communicate their efforts to a wider audience.

grass roots 1) the very foundation or source 2) the basic level of society or of an organization esp. as viewed from higher or more centralized positions of power.

Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary

Wildlands

The strand that connects all of NARP's projects is the implementation of preserving large, uninterrupted tracts of land, including large buffer zones and connecting corridors, in hopes of bringing recovery to the natural landscape. The ecological richness and biodiversity of the Northeastern United States is a valuable one, and one worth preserving, or in the wake of industrial practices, restoring.

NARP believes that in order for Northern Forest Communities to survive, native ecosystem types must be restored and maintained. But even that is not enough. "Intact, connected, and extensive habitat will be lobotomized wildlands unless species are able to recolonized and thrive. Acid rain, water pollution, and global climate change belong on the environmental agenda every bit as much as habitat protection," says NARP Executive Director Andrew Whittaker. Add the use of herbicides, inappropriate energy, and clearcutting to this list, and you can where we're coming from.

But are humans a part of wildlands? Will jobs be lost because it is more important to save the wolf?

Wildlands can add to the surrounding communities by providing economic benefits through tourism, and through combining surrounding portions of protected wilderness with sustainable forestry and value-added wood products, jobs can be added not lost. Also, what would be the benefits of wilderness, just wilderness, to the Northern Forest inhabitants who would have a place to seek solace, peace, and recreation?

The following projects have more than just "saving the environment" on their agendas. These branches of NARP are working to preserve the ecological integrity of their communities while protecting the citizens who live and work within them.

Over the next year, NARP will be focusing efforts on wildlands preservation in the Northern Forest by:

- Promoting awareness and appreciation of the special quality of these lands;
- Cultivating and disseminating insights of conservation biologists in the region;
- Raising public appreciation for the historic opportunity facing us today.



Hear the call of wildness!

New Hampshire Herbicide Project (NHHP)

In Coos County, New Hampshire, it's the same old story. In order to live and feed their families, workers need jobs. And in order to keep those jobs, people need to keep their mouths shut, even when they see something detrimental is happening. Herbicide spraying in Coos County is something the citizens of these communities have no control over.

Over the past five years, companies like the Mead Corporation and Champion International have engaged in aerial spraying in the headwaters areas of the Connecticut and Androscoggin Rivers. Herbicides, which are used in industrial forestry to kill plants that compete with the most economically desirable trees species - spruce and fir -- are known to seriously damage forest ecosystems.

Much of Daisy's time is spent challenging the process

through which the sprays occur. But she is battling with a large, industrial opponent, and progress is slow. Currently, the Pesticide Control Division has sole responsibility for protecting human health, soil and water quality. Public input has been almost entirely eliminated from the regulatory process.

Because of our in-depth knowledge of the herbicide regulatory process, and the chemicals involved in the spraying, NHHP has been able to provide technical advice and advocacy when it comes to fighting a specific herbicide application. Included in this process are citizens trying to halt aerial, right-of-way, and aquatic herbicide programs.

In the coming year, NHHP will continue to:

- Work with academic ecologists to monitor herbicide spraying impacts on NH ecosystems.
- Publish peer-reviewed scientific literature review articles on current knowledge about herbicides used in forestry.
- Community education & Organizing: outreach to northern NH communities affected by aerial herbicide spraying.



Daisy Goodman with her daughters Molly and Autumn.

Renewable Energy Assistance Project (REAP)

Long before she worked for NARP, Pam Prodan was making waves in Maine as an activist who had a reputation for getting involved and getting results. Although the focus of her latest work has been electric utility restructuring, she is still involved with other key environmental issues facing her community.

As someone who lives on a diversified organic farm and works in her woodlot, Pam understands firsthand the link between natural resources and people, as well as the complexity of issues when it comes to energy and the environment. Pam and NARP were frustrated at fighting huge energy projects that would have harmful impacts and little benefit for local communities. "We felt that there was a gap in policy makers' understanding. And the consuming public needed to know that there is no endless supply of renewable energy in the Northern Forest, if we are to have wildlands, too." REAP is a distinctive voice advocating for wildlands protection in the context of energy issues. It is a big task, but REAP is challenging the old paradigm of large, centralized energy plants and unlimited energy consumption. Currently, REAP is pressing for more complete information disclosure so consumers will know the truth about the fuel mix of their electricity provider and make better decisions. REAP has also



Ron Huber out on the job.

fish piers as often in our Rockland, Maine office," he says. Whatever the locale, Ron and the other members of CWP spend much of their time talking with fisherfolk and other coastal residents, carrying out pollution and habitat damage patrols

Coastal Waters Project (CWP)

Ron Huber is not afraid to get his hands dirty. In fact, he spends a great deal of his time with the Coastal Waters Project getting his feet wet, too. "You can find us down on the mudflats, out on the water, or on the

worked to establish a consumer's right to "net meter." This allows small consumers who own renewable energy systems to use the utility grid as a giant battery and run their electric meters backwards when they are producing excess renewable energy.

Pam is also busy working with grassroots activists from around the Northeast region, focusing on topics such as global warming, clean air, energy cooperatives, transportation, indigenous rights, wildlands protection and renewable energy. Pam gives technical assistance and advice to other activists who are concerned about energy policy and wildlands protection, and tries to involve more local community members in agency proceedings. "People need to have input and education on what is going on around them and affecting their lives," she says.



Pamela Prodan, on right, gives some words of encouragement to forest activist Jo Josephson.

around Penobscot Bay, and keeping an eye out for invading exotic species (one of the unforeseen results of expanding global trade). "State and federal agencies simply don't have the money or the personnel to be effective stewards of our coastal environment. That's where we come in."

An recent example of Ron's work is the formation of the Friends of Stockton Harbor (FISH), a local citizens' association spanning many different demographic groups that still share a common interest in protecting and restoring their small, but formerly very productive, part of Penobscot Bay. "There is nothing as powerful as a small community defending its home," he says.

Another critical element of CWP's work is expanding awareness of the need to designate non-extractive marine wilderness areas within the Gulf of Maine. "The science is clear -- no sustainable fisheries without permanently protected areas. These are places where scientists can learn what an undisturbed marine ecosystem looks like, and which act as nurseries to replenish those areas where commercial and recreational fishers have taken too great a toll."

Currently, CWP is working to establish a 2,000 square mile marine wilderness straddling the "Hague Line", the offshore Atlantic border between the U.S. and Canada. This broad band of ocean encompasses virtually every type of Gulf of Maine habitat, from shallows to submerged seamounts and abyssal deeps. Dubbed the Hague Line International Peace Park by supporters, this area represents one of the best possibilities for marine wilderness in the Gulf of Maine.

Maine Low Impact Forestry Project (MLIF)

Mitch Lansky was so upset about the clearcutting and devastating forest practices he saw going on around him, that he wrote a book. *Beyond the Beauty Strip* is a stinging critique of Maine industrial forestry, but now Mitch has gone one step further -- he is coming up with solutions to the problems that he sees affecting both the forests of Maine and the people who are trying to make a living in this forested state.

His answer? Low impact forestry (LIF) is a practice that emphasizes the ecological integrity of the forest stand which remains after a logging operation. LIF focuses on practices that are well known to forest managers and is an economically viable (over the long term) and environmentally beneficial alternative to clearcutting and highgrading.

Mitch works with loggers, land owners, and foresters to promote forest health and diversity, to prevent job loss by providing loggers with alternatives to industrial forestry, and to address forest policy, which has traditionally ignored the workers and communities that these policies most directly affect.

LIF stands for long-term forest stewardship by promoting a locally-controlled, value-added wood products industry as an alternative to current reliance on exports and pulpwood. The goals of LIF are to provide education about excellent forestry in managed private and public lands, to connect land-owners with LIF-trained loggers and foresters, and to gain "mainstream acceptance" of ecologically sound forestry principles.

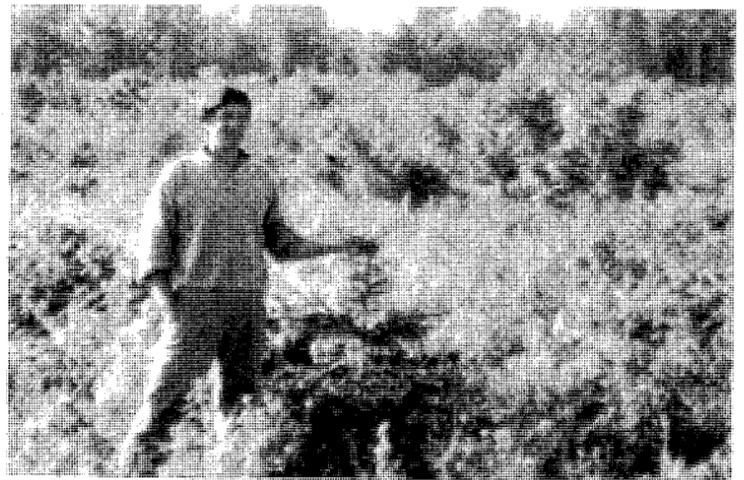
Mitch sees all sides of the picture, and works with community members as well as with industry and government. "It's one thing to say what's wrong, but I see the challenge as coming up with clear and working solutions to the problems of unsustainable forestry," he says. He attends the dozens of meetings that involve the future of Maine's forests, listens, and tries to determine what the barriers are that

stand in the way of healthy and sustainable forest communities. "That's how the change is going to start happening," he adds.

The MLIF project is a good example of what NARP stands for. Far from being a traditional environmental group, NARP and its individual projects like MLIF work

to hear all sides of the story, including the voices of the communities who are most affected by the whims of industry and government. "My approach has been to deal with

issues, not attack individuals. I listen, I learn, and I try and help solve the problems. I've been pleased and surprised that Low Impact Forestry has not led to polarization. It seems to present a common ground where landowners, loggers, and environmentalists can all find benefits from ensuring that after the cutting is done, there is still a functioning forest."



Mitch Lansky and friend.

continued on back cover

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Bill Butler, NARP's voice from the forest.

Silviculture

Another key member in the on-going struggle to change the way Maine's forests are being logged is Bill Butler, a self-proclaimed "stubborn fellow." Having spent over half a century working in Maine's woods, Bill is uniquely qualified to critique the Maine timber industry. "Some of the techniques I've been pushing since I was first in the forest are now being accepted by the paper companies," he says. "But we still keep telling them what they're doing wrong."

Bill's "Letter from Maine" which appears regularly in *The Northern Forest Forum*, goes right to the heart of the matter. He is a voice of reason in an industry that often seems to be making no sense. "Paper companies have butchered Maine's forests for short-term profits, and that offends me," he says. "They continue to neglect the principles of sustain-

ability." Even when an industrial paper company proclaims to be using sustainable procedures for wood harvesting, it is often just propaganda to make them look good within the communities most affected by their practices.

Currently Bill is working with Friends of the Maine Woods and other community-based groups to draw attention to the fact that Northern Maine is suffering from serious economic problems due to what he calls this part of the state being a "province of Canada." Bill points out the cause of the problem: (1) the logs cut in Maine are shipped to Canada, and (2) Canadians come over the border to cut them. Bill, who has worked in all aspects of forestry was once replaced by a Canadian worker, simply because he refused to keep his mouth shut.

Now that he's working with NARP, let's hope he continues to keep talking.

Vermont Forestry Reform Project (VFRG)

Barbara Alexander works to bring people together -- people like loggers, foresters, and land-owners who respect the land on which they work, and who wish to implement change for a healthier forest in the future. Whether she is out in the forest with loggers to demonstrate low-impact harvesting practices, conducting a meeting of concerned loggers, or testifying at a hearing on the use of herbicides, Barbara is working to bring a balance to forest dependent communities.

Through the Vermont Loggers' Guild (VLG) stereotypes are being broken down as low-impact loggers are being elevated to the roles of teacher and mentor. VLG believes that the best teacher is a good example, so they are scheduling opportunities for landowners and others in our forest communities to go out in the woods with Guild members to observe low-impact wood harvesting and to discuss how different harvesting methods affect the various natural processes within the forest ecosystem.

"Our work focuses on bringing people together through living room meetings, field activities, and educational forums and is driven by both the concern and the inherent wisdom articulated by citizens who work in our forests and live within our communities. In the Guild, there exists an honest respect for one another's ideas and expertise and a real willingness to learn together and to share what we know with one another. We've become like a big functional family -- one where the siblings actually get along!"

Barbara is also working to establish a Low-Impact Forestry and Ecosystem Network (LIFE) where wood harvesters, resource managers, landowners, and manufacturers and users of wood products can benefit from professional support and on-going forest and forestry-based educational experiences. By exploring and establishing positive economic opportunities which reflect the eco-

logical realities and limitations of the forest ecosystem, solutions are being developed instead of criticism being hurled.

For the past year, Barbara has been working with railroad companies, state agencies, federal and state legislators, scientists, developers of alternative technologies, and of course, citizens, to develop a positive strategy for implementing a pilot project which will eliminate the use of herbicides along railroad rights-of-way. This work carries on from the VFRP's success in halting aerial spraying of forests, a blueprint for the work now being done by NARP's New Hampshire Herbicide Project.



Barbara Alexander teaching Low Impact Forestry 101.

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