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

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

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Editorial

The Burial of a Rotten Idea

Catbirds, no hard freezes and hurricanes: south has certainly come north this September, here along latitude 45°N 66-76°W. We may do well, in this year of drought, to remember the conditions that prevail opposite us, at 45°N 66-76°E, in Central Asia.

The resiliency of our native ecosystems has been the basis of a political certainty in landscape conservation — “something will always grow back.” It seems something always will — given the forbearance of asteroids, black holes or other cosmological disaster. Some plant ecologists conjecture we may be headed toward a planet of weeds; William Burroughs supposed the planet was being readied for habitation by an extra-terrestrial breed of insect.

In any case, a planet bent to the designs of one species — too many humans! cry us Chicken Littles who keep overlooking all the SPACE available to cram even more of us ungrateful bipeds into—might be expected to respond with some vigor, a planetary reflex of preservation. The ominous fact of global climate change is that human contributions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere show little sign of levelling off. Our best hope — as with human population increase — is that steep increase can be followed by steep decrease. But climatologists seem to suggest that it will be centuries before the full impact of human contribution to climate change is felt.

James Lovelock, a curious blend of rationalist, inventor (of machines as well as theories—e.g., the Gaia hypothesis that earth is a single organism organized around the principle of Life), says delphically that humans may have chosen an inopportune moment to experiment with the atmosphere. (He conjectures that the glacier might be just about exhausted as a planetary cooling mechanism; but as he says of his early skepticism about the dangers of chlorofluorocarbons, he's been wrong before!)

In a word, Hubris. Father Moose Morrison who used to wander the streets of this region as late as the 1970s before his death, preached a sermon in Montpelier on the Sunday following the big flood of 1973. The text of his sermon was Old Testament scripture and the theme was fear. Father Moose looked upon the flood and was afraid.

This summer, at an Insurrection Mass at Bread and Puppet, Peter Schumann fiddled a sermon on the arrogance of Monsanto's designs on the basic genetic arrangements of life. The mass concluded with *The Burial of a Rotten Idea*, the Idea that lies behind the schemes of bio-engineers: the Idea of human primacy on Earth.

There must be an antithesis to the Rotten Idea that we can apply to “conserving the landscape.” Why should we do otherwise? Conservation biology has given us a blueprint for facing challenges to conserving ecosystems, such as extirpations and plant invasions—ecological reserves.

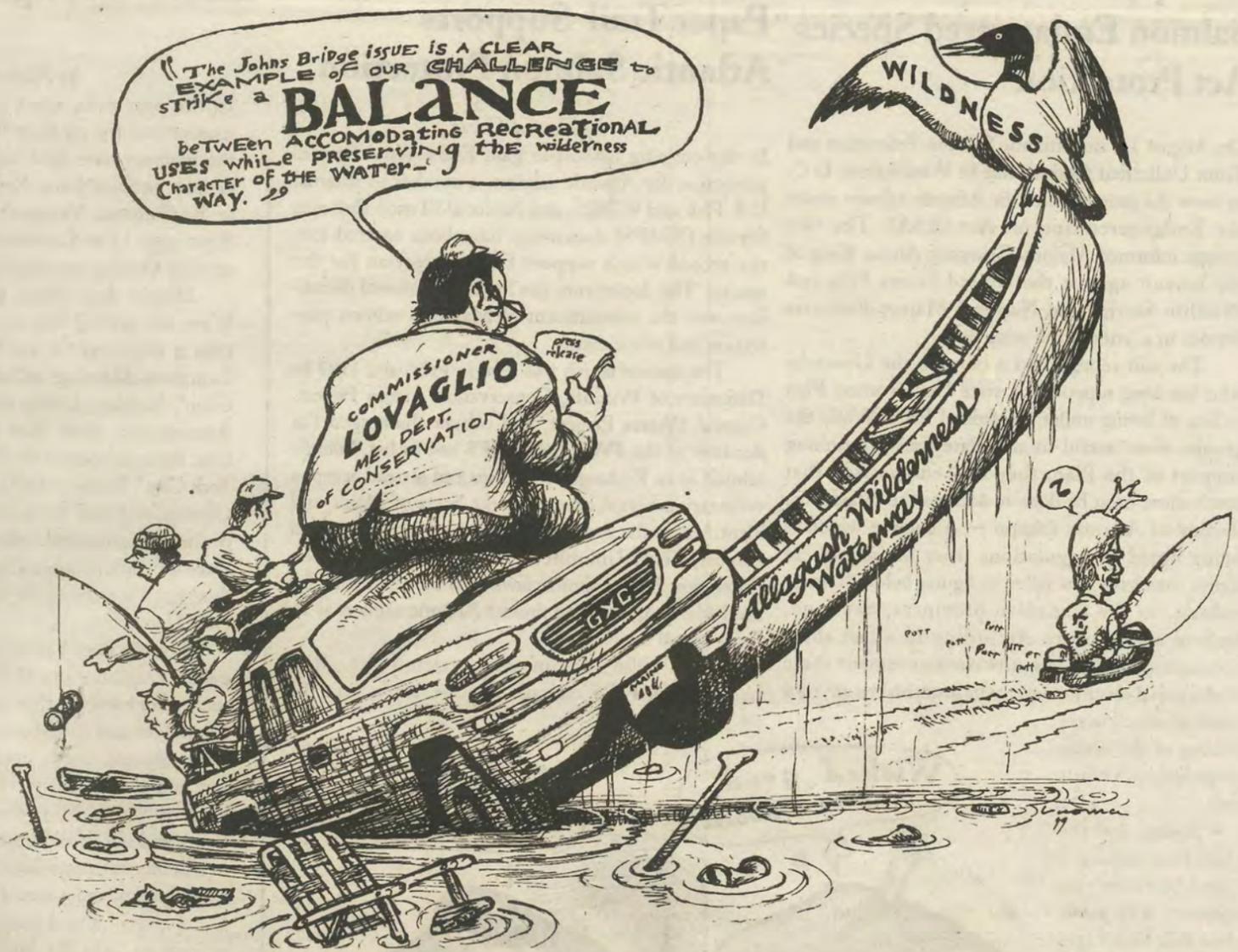
Something larger than the science of conservation biology inhabits the idea of Wilderness however. It is more than the preservation of native communities, it is something other than increased opportunities for recreation, it has nothing to do with “making wilderness advocates happy.” It even goes beyond the propitiation of the deities inhabiting hurricanes and droughts. James Lovelock theorizes a moment in Earth's history when the biogeochemical processes came together with an audible snap—the rocks, the atmosphere, the seas — into one living organism. When we bury the rotten idea of human dominance, we clear our ears for that still existing hum of a living green Earth. Here in northern New England we have the opportunity to place Wilderness at the heart of our land conservation efforts. So let's get with it!

A Notable Quote

Nancy Oden on the occasion of the destruction of a plot of transgenic corn at the University of Maine's Old Town Rogers Farm:

“Monsanto is the real eco-terrorist here for destroying the integrity of earth's life forms, and for forcing us to eat their genetically mutilated foods without our knowledge and consent. We are just guinea pigs so Monsanto can sell more Roundup.”

from the Maine Times article by Murray Carpenter “Midnight marauders machete Monsanto maize” Vol. 32 # 16 August 26-September 1



Groups Urge Yes Vote on Ballot Question #7— Land for Maine's Future

A coalition of groups supporting the Land for Maine's Future Program urges a Yes vote by Maine voters on election day in November.

The question will read: "Do you favor a \$50,000,000 bond issue to purchase public lands and easements statewide from willing sellers for conservation, water access, outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing, wildlife and fish habitat and farmland preservation, to be matched by \$25,000,000 in private and public contributions?"

"Citizens to Save Maine's Heritage" of POB 795, Brunswick, Maine 04011 (207-729-0927) is a coalition of groups including The Nature Conservancy and Natural Resources Council of Maine. They write: "The Land for Maine's Future Program was established in 1987 by a 2 to 1 margin as Maine voters chose to bond \$35 million to protect Maine lands for future generations. In

the last 12 years, the program has protected 47 sites spread over all 16 Maine counties. Among these Maine landmarks are Mount Kineo, Grand Lake Stream, Sebago Lake Beach, Kennebunk Plains, Scarborough Beach. The program is administered by the State Planning Office. In all, 67,000 acres of Maine's finest land has been protected for access to our coast, lakes rivers and streams, for farmland preservation, town parks, recreational trails and wildlife habitat. With funds exhausted, the program received a \$3 million appropriation in 1998. All funds are now committed."

Projects proposed to the State Planning Office are evaluated by a citizen board which, the Citizens to Save Maine's Heritage says, choose a variety of "trails opened to hikers and snowmobilers; new park lands . . . near growing population centers; remote eagle nesting islands and outstanding fish and wildlife habitats, along with wilderness areas, stream and river corridors, lake and ocean shores." All lands purchased under the program are open to the public and 98% of them are open to hunting and fishing while 87% of them provide water access.

ERRATA

VOLUME 7 #5 OF *THE NORTHERN FOREST FORUM* CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING OVERSIGHTS & ERRORS:

- The article by Reed Noss on page 22 was not properly credited as being from: Noss, Reed F. 1999. *A Citizen's guide to Ecosystem Management*. Boulder, CO.: Biodiversity Legal Foundation. 33 pp.
- The mushroom on pages 16-17 is indeed Destroying Angel which is not *Amanita muscaria* but *Amanita Virosa*.
- The photo to the right which appeared on page 10 was at Moosehead Lake, not Brassua.



Looking Down Moosehead Lake towards Kineo. Photo © Conrad Heeschen

Groups Sue for Atlantic Salmon Endangered Species Act Protection

On August 12, the Atlantic Salmon Federation and Trout Unlimited filed lawsuit in Washington, D.C. to force the protection of the Atlantic salmon under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The two groups informed Maine's Governor Angus King of the lawsuit against the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service in a letter of the same date.

The suit represented a blow to the Governor who has long supported a state Conservation Plan in lieu of listing under the federal ESA. While the groups were careful to articulate their continuing support of the Plan, they also emphasized that much more must be done to address the catastrophic decline of Atlantic salmon — a decline which is being noted in populations from Maine, where native runs have now fallen to figures below 10 individuals, to the Canadian provinces, Scotland, Ireland and Norway. According to a fact sheet accompanying the lawsuit's announcement these widespread declines are attributable to myriad cause of which over-fishing of the ocean population is but one.

Saying that the state Plan remains a "good blueprint" for recovery, ASF president Bill Taylor said that "State funding has been woefully inadequate and implementation has been slow." A successful suit and greater state effort might leverage more money for the restoration of salmon, the groups implied, pointing out that states of the Pacific Northwest which have "committed to saving their dwindling salmon stocks with strong pro-active measures" will be garnering \$100 million in federal aid for the effort next year.

The two groups are primarily concerned with the decline of Maine's native salmon. The genetic distinctiveness and local adaptations of such populations is key to their survival and recovery. They point out that stocking with Maritime fish has not worked in the past. Aquaculture salmon, which predominate in the supermarkets, pose a threat to recovery efforts through "genetic pollution" and disease transmission by escapees.

The big question however is whether it may not already be too late for Maine's Atlantic salmon. While a listing could have important publicity benefits that could, for instance, focus attention on Hydro-Quebec's plans to massively divert water from the Moisie River in eastern Quebec—perhaps the remaining pre-eminent Atlantic salmon run in North America—Maine's native populations have fallen to such pitiful numbers that the delay to listing caused by the state's ineffective Conservation Plan may prove to have been fatally costly.

(Website information for the seven rivers of the Maine Conservation Plan: www.wild-salmonrivers.org)

The Other Salmon Lawsuit . . . Paper Trail Supports Atlantic Salmon Protection

by David Carle

In the ongoing lawsuit to gain Endangered Species protection for Atlantic salmon, a number of internal U.S. Fish and Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) documents have been entered into the record which support ESA protection for the species. The documents also highlight internal dissension over the commitment of Maine to salmon protection and restoration.

The lawsuit which was filed in February, 1999 by Defenders of Wildlife, Conservation Action Project, Coastal Waters Project, and others challenged the decision of the FWS and NMFS not to list Atlantic salmon as an Endangered Species and instead accept a voluntary program offered by the State of Maine and identified as the State Salmon Conservation Plan. In August, Trout Unlimited and the Atlantic Salmon Federation filed a similar lawsuit which also calls for the Federal Agencies to protect Atlantic salmon as an Endangered Species.

One 1996 document, written by Ron Lambertson, FWS regional director, states that the



agencies needed to make a decision to either accept the State plan or list the species. "The worst of all worlds would be to accept an unfunded plan, avoid the listing and watch the Salmon slide into extinction." The Feds accepted the state plan which has yet to be funded and the numbers of returning adult Atlantic salmon are now at some of the lowest numbers ever.

Another document, written by a NMFS official, was critical of the State of Maine's failure to suspend recreational fishing for salmon and the unproven fry stocking program. The memo concludes, "The best decision for Atlantic salmon would be a listing under the ESA. The distinct population segment has suffered tremendous declines over the decades, and it needs every bit of protection that NMFS and FWS can provide."

The record also shows that there was internal dissension between the FWS and NMFS. Part of the decision to withdraw the proposal to list Atlantic salmon as threatened and instead accept the State Plan in lieu of listing, was that the salmon would be designated a NMFS candidate species for possible ESA protection at a later date. This was apparently not universally accepted.

According to one document, the FWS strongly opposed giving Atlantic salmon candidate status. The

East-West Highway Report

by Pamela Prodan

In the past year, since gearing up to create some momentum for an East-West highway, promoters of the highway have held meetings around the region as far east as Saint John, New Brunswick and as far west as Burlington, Vermont. They held a meeting on September 13 in Lancaster, New Hampshire and plan an early October meeting in Rockport, Maine.

Despite their efforts, highway promoters apparently are not getting very far in convincing policymakers that a highway is needed. At a segment at the Lancaster Meeting called "If we build it...will they come", Kathleen Laffey, the Federal Highway Division Administrator from New Hampshire said "If that was true, then portions of the Dakotas would look like New York City." Vermont DOT deputy Secretary K. Micque Glitman said that Vermont won't build a 4-lane because of the environmental concerns. New Hampshire DOT assistant commissioner Carol Murray said that Route 2 does not have the traffic figures to support a 4-lane in New Hampshire.

Nor are they having much success convincing the public. Organizations that have taken positions against such a highway include the Friends of the Boundary Mountains and the Maine Sporting Camp Association. Their concerns focus around the need for such a highway and the irreversible changes it would bring to the heart of Maine. Most environmental groups are taking a wait and see attitude, until more specifics emerge such as whether the proposal is a new 4-lane or an improved 2-lane and where it would go.

A decentralized grassroots effort has sprung up to prepare to fight the highway. People are networking and sharing information across the state and the whole northern forest region. A web site has also been created where people can get information, exchange ideas and express opinions and concerns about the highway at www.east-westhighway.com. Check out the amusing piece called "If the East-West highway is such a great idea, how come..." People are also having meetings with and writing letters to the Maine congressional delegation and state political leaders.

The Maine Legislature directed the Maine Department of Transportation and State Planning Office to issue reports on the highway. Some are already out and the final report keeps being postponed, but at last account is due out on September 30, 1999. To receive all these reports, contact the State Planning Office at 207-287-3261 and ask to be put on the mailing list to receive them all. The reports will also be placed on the State's web site www.state.me.us. No public hearings are planned, although it is reasonable to expect several bills on the East-West Highway in the next legislative session.

NMFS felt that the species deserved candidate status because

- It may warrant listing in the future
- There are no guarantees that the ongoing actions and commitments would continue
- The withdrawal notice acknowledges the possibility of future listing
- NMFS retained Oregon Coast coho as a candidate following withdrawal
- NMFS determines what species go on NMFS candidate species list, not FWS."

The FWS opposed candidate status because it believed it would "erode joint position that population does not warrant listing, i.e., species is no longer imperiled."

These documents imply that politics, not science guided the decision not to give ESA protection to Atlantic salmon. While all of this game-playing and denial was going on, the number of Atlantic salmon returning to New England continued to decline. Just about 1100 documented Atlantic salmon had returned to the rivers of Maine, with 153 to the Connecticut river, 190 to the Merrimack River, and just 5 to the Pawcatuck River in Rhode Island. More than 500,000 adult Atlantic salmon once returned to New England annually.

We expect a court hearing in late October.

Lawmakers Ban Wolf Reintroduction in New Hampshire

by Kristin DeBoer

Live Free or Die—a powerful statement. It is an unfailing conviction that freedom is the foundation of life. It is the motto that the State of New Hampshire lives by. Or so it seemed, until May. That is when the state legislature passed a law to prohibit the reintroduction of wolves into New Hampshire. The law violates the very idea of freedom. Wolves are the quintessential symbol of wilderness, and to be wild is the ultimate expression of living freely on this Earth. The law restricts public debate about wolf reintroduction before it has even really begun—stifling the democratic process, the basis of our free society.

This anti-wolf movement began early in 1999, when a few citizens in northern New Hampshire urged state representatives to sponsor an anti-wolf reintroduction bill. This action was a backlash to the progress wildlife advocates had made in securing a promise from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to begin developing a wolf recovery plan for Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York. Unfortunately, some people interpreted this plan to mean “scheme.” They fear that the government is plotting against them. They fear that conservationists are really trying to “lock up the forest.” They fear that wolves will prey on their children, livestock, and pets. They fear that “wolves would keep them prisoners in their own homes.” They fear that wolves will take away their freedom.

Members of the Eastern Timber Wolf Recovery Network, especially Defenders of Wildlife, National Wildlife Federation, The Wildlands Project, and RESTORE, led the charge to defeat this bill. Several key NH groups, such as NH Sierra Club, NH Audubon, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and NH Wolf Alliance also took a stand. Collectively, we sent action alerts to thousands of people, lobbied state politicians, provided testimony at public hearings, wrote letters to the editor, and generated media coverage on the issue. We argued that this law was premature, that no one was even proposing a specific wolf reintroduction program in New Hampshire. We demanded that the public be given the right to make an informed decision. We pleaded to give the wolf a fair trial. We sought to convince people that wolves are nothing to fear. We made the case that wolves were here first, that they have a right to their home, that they belong in the forest. Unfortunately, it was not enough to convince Governor Shaheen or the majority of politicians to oppose the bill.

What went wrong? Wolf opponents were able to frame the debate in terms of “natural” vs. “artificial” wolf recovery. They said that they would welcome wolves if they returned on their own four feet. But, they did not want to “interfere” with mother nature by reintroducing wolves by human means. Sounds like a compelling argument, until you look deeper.

First, this “natural, good—artificial, bad” argument is really a smokescreen for the fact that some wolf opponents simply hate wolves. Some of the same people who often use this tactic to sound reasonable, are also the ones who would “shoot, shovel, and shut-up” regardless of whether wolves came back on their own or were assisted. In fact, some wolf opponents were not shy about proclaiming how they would kill any wolf that trespassed on their property.

Second, wolf biologists and scientists are just starting to study whether it is even feasible for wolves to migrate back from southeastern Canada to the northeastern United States on their own. What little they have found does not look promising. Ironically, the day after this anti-wolf reintroduction law passed, The New York Times published an article saying that a recent study found natural wolf migration unlikely. Wolves face many obstacles between here and Canada. The fact is that our “artificial” human structures, such as the St. Lawrence Seaway, highways, and guns, are what makes it difficult, if not impossible for wolves to return “naturally.” Indeed, wolves were exterminated in the first place, by those who saw it as their moral duty to interfere with and control nature. If we truly want wolves to return,

we must consider lending them a hand, through reintroduction.

But the larger challenge is that wolves can really provoke fear. That cannot be dismissed. Some people truly fear that the wolf is just another way for outsiders to control their way of life. Fear of losing one's freedom is a frightening thought for anyone. And these feelings will not just disappear in the face of the facts. Even if the truth is that the only reason advocates want wolves to return is because the species belongs in the forest just as much as we do. To help people really feel safe will take trust and respect, not just for the wolf, but for each other.

Fortunately, New Hampshire's anti-wolf law will not stop the wolf recovery planning process from proceeding throughout the Northeast. The US Fish and Wildlife Service still intends to begin developing a recovery plan this year. This will be the time for all state wildlife agencies, biologists, advocates, private landowners, and the public to give their input, and honestly explore how wolf recovery will affect their lives and the forest.

WOLF RECLASSIFICATION AND RECOVERY PLANNING TO BEGIN THIS FALL

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that the proposal to reclassify the protection status of wolves throughout the United States will be postponed until at least October. Officials indicated that this was a result of Minnesota failing to produce a state wolf management plan. Once the proposal is made, it will start a one-year process of public comment and hearings. Final action will not happen until late 2000 at the earliest. Because Minnesota did not develop a management plan, the USFWS may not propose delisting in Minnesota, but rather downlisting in Michigan and Wisconsin and no status change in Minnesota.

In September, 1998, the USFWS announced that it will begin developing a Northeast wolf recovery plan once the gray wolf reclassification proposal is published for public review. Representatives from the USFWS maintain that the recovery planning process will begin according to this schedule. In the Northeast, the USFWS is expected to propose a downlisting for the eastern timber wolf from endangered to threatened. RESTORE believes this action is unwarranted because there are no verified wolf populations in the region at this time. However, if the downlisting proposal does indeed initiate a recovery planning process that will be a positive step forward. We will be sure to let you know when this process begins so you can voice your sup-



Tee Bee, an Alpha female wolf Photo© Joni Soffron

The Canadian Connection: BACKGROUND ON THE JOB IMPORT LOG EXPORT ISSUES

When Quebec loggers take a big percentage of woods jobs it can have a major impact on northern Maine communities. Not only are potential jobs lost (with multiplier effects), but the surplus labor can also depress wages. When Canadian mills saw a large percentage of Maine sawlogs, this also takes away potential jobs and value added, as well as tax revenues. This too can hurt the northern Maine economy and sap vitality from northern towns.

The issue of imported woods labor is not new to Maine. In 1883, a letter writer to a Portland newspaper complained: "There is much comment on that species of protection that allows hundreds of horses to be brought here openly from New Brunswick, bonded at small cost, and allowed to work through the lumbering season and return home in the spring . . . Our lumber is of no benefit to us: it is cut and hauled and driven down the streams and go back home again. If the province teams were not allowed to come over here and work, our farmers could get employment for their teams . . ."

During WWII, labor shortages in the Maine woods were so great that companies imported thousands of Canadian workers from Quebec and even used German war prisoners to cut their wood. The use of Canadian labor to cut Maine wood was codified into U.S. law by the Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1952. The Act permits non-immigrant aliens to be employed in the harvesting of agricultural products as bonded labor. "Bonds," unlike labor on visas, are recruited for specific jobs—supposedly if no domestic workers can be found.

Under the Act, there are supposed to be protections to American workers. Employers can only hire if no domestic workers can be found. There should be no adverse effects to employment, wages, or working conditions.

In 1974, William Osborne, in *The Paper Plantation* contended that bonded Canadian labor used by paper companies to cut their lands was having an adverse effect. The companies used these workers to flood the market with artificially cheap wood, keeping purchase prices for their mills low. Osborne wrote that ". . . the plight of the independent Maine pulpwood producer boils down to one thing—the low price he gets for his wood. That price is held to little more than the cost of harvesting and transporting the wood. It is kept low by the paper companies that control the pulpwood market by cutting their own lands with bonded French Canadian labor."

Osborne argued that the bond program should be scrapped. If it were, he wrote, "the higher cost of company wood would drive demand for purchased wood and its price upward. Maine loggers working on independent operations would benefit."

In 1975, Maine loggers, associated with the Maine Woodsmen Association (MWA) went on strike to close paper mills and even to block some border crossings to Quebec. One of the MWA's major issues was the impact of Canadian labor on domestic wages and job security. MWA president, Wayne Birmingham, contended that the bonds had a number of advantages over Maine workers that led to negative impacts to Maine workers and communities:

- Their equipment was subsidized in Canada;
- They evaded property tax on their equipment in Maine;
- They evaded state income tax (declaring too many dependents, for example);
- They got unemployment from Maine for part-time, bonded work;
- They got Canadian subsidies for child support;
- They benefited from socialized medicine;
- Employers gave them preferential working conditions;
- They avoided paying duties on bonded equipment.
- Maine workers also complained that Quebec bonded contractors preferred hiring other Canadians.

While the MWA strike did not succeed, one impact was a hearing on "Canadian Labor in the Maine Woods," chaired by Senator William Hathaway. Industry representatives who testified at the hearing insisted that there was no problem, and even if there were, it was being fixed. Anyway, more studies were needed.

Bob Bartlett, president of Great Northern Paper Company contended that "Woodsmen are among the best paid people in Maine." He said woods crews on Great Northern were getting \$9.03 per hour, a figure that caused guffaws from loggers in the audience. At that time, paper mill workers averaged \$5.52 an hour. Bartlett suggested that Americans just didn't want to do the hard and difficult work with chainsaws and cable skidders. With increased mechanization, he argued, the more desirable jobs would be filled by Americans. He further contended Great Northern was going to train the future mechanized loggers.

Hathaway questioned Bartlett: "What's your prognosis? If your plans work out, when will the Canadian labor be cut down to practically zero?" Bartlett answered: "Well, I think we're doing—I know we are, and I'm sure that many others are doing as much as they possibly can at this time, and I can't give you a date. I don't know. But there are many things being done, in my opinion . . ."

George Carlisle, of Prentiss and Carlisle, contended that "The native State of Mainer who really wants to work and who is skilled has nothing to fear at all from any Canadians as far as his job is concerned." He further contended that Maine loggers avoid the work because of the distance and isolation—thus landowners need to hire Canadians.

Hathaway questioned Carlisle: "You mentioned the fact that Americans don't like to go into the woods. Yet, for some reason, a lot of Americans have gone all

the way to Alaska to work on the pipeline up there. So it seems to me that it may be just a question of money. It may be a question of living conditions, also . . . But don't you agree that if you just paid them enough you could get all the Americans you needed?"

Carlisle admitted, "I presume that to be true."

In 1998, Hilton Hafford and a dozen other loggers in the Allagash region staged a blockade of private logging roads leading to Quebec. Their complaints were almost the same as the MWA more than two decades earlier—Canadians had subsidized equipment, subsidized health care, and preferential treatment. Their presence means less jobs and lower wages. One logger told me that a going wage for loggers in northern Maine right now is closer to \$7 than the \$9 that Bartlett claimed over 20 years ago. Many loggers do not want to work for such low wages—especially considering that logging, due to weather, is really a part time profession. Deep snows and mud can restrict woods operations for weeks. Loggers are lucky if they can work 40 weeks a year. This translates to \$11,200 dollars (before taxes) annual income with no benefits for a job that is difficult, hazardous, and requires a wide range of knowledge and skills.

The Allagash protesters also objected to the export of raw sawlogs to Canadian mills. Although Maine is a net importer of wood (due to pulpwood and biomass), it is a net exporter of sawlogs. Nearly half of all the spruce-fir sawlogs cut in the state are exported, mostly to Quebec. The proportion of sawlogs exported from northern Maine is higher than the statewide averages.

A new issue has been worker-paid logger training programs. This protest is somewhat ironic. An obvious first question to ask companies who hire Canadians is—"If there really is a shortage of domestic labor, why don't you attract workers with higher wages, better working conditions, and training." Wages aren't much to talk about, and many loggers must pay for their own training. Some landowners will not hire loggers who lack certification from a Certified Logging Professional (CLP) course. The CLP program has led to reductions in workers' compensation rates, but the loggers complain they are not seeing any increased revenues from these savings. Someone else (contractors or companies) is pocketing the difference. Loggers have also protested having to cut dead trees without compensation for their time.

The loggers got some publicity, and meetings with Maine and federal departments of labor. One recommendation coming from these meeting is that the government needs to study the problem. A study has been commissioned. The loggers were told that the study would be completed by September. It is now September, and the study has not been completed.

Ironically, for three years in a row, the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry committee of the Maine legislature has refused to respond to a bill calling for the creation of an economic and labor roundtable study. The wording of the bill came verbatim from the Maine Council on Sustainable Forest Management. Industry representatives have claimed that a legislative study of imported labor and exported sawlogs is not needed because the Department of Labor is doing a study. The roundtable, however, would have a broad array of members and would address issues not dealt with by the narrow Department of Labor study.

The loggers are getting frustrated. They want something to be done, but think that the DOL, which is responsible for enforcing the law, is stalling. Troy Jackson, one of the protesting loggers, wrote me the following: "What government is doing is waiting us out. You have the DOL trying to cover their asses because they're responsible for letting this get where it is. They would just like it to go away. There are so many cases of their failure to act causing problems, and no one wants to take responsibility. They don't understand that we don't care about placing blame, if they will just fix their mistakes.

"As far as the politicians go, they hate to even deal with the issue. I guess they are in a tough spot. We have the public sympathy, but the landowners and contractors can do so much more for them. To me that has been the biggest lesson I have learned. I know how things work in the real world, but I really thought after we went to the border someone would have to listen. And if they heard the story, they would help.

"It really bothers me that all the things I learned growing up don't really apply. Things like, "always doing the right thing," and "respect being more important than money" don't matter to the people with the power to help us. I also understand why a lot of the people didn't publicly support us. I wouldn't change anything, but financially I was doing a whole lot better before, even though it was far from great."

—Mitch Lansky



Challenging the Paper Plantation

An Interview with Hilton Hafford, July 13, 1999, Allagash, Maine

Jamie Sayen (JS): What led up to the blockade and could you explain the situation with Canadian labor?

Hilton Hafford (HH): Last fall twelve of us closed three border crossings for one week. When this thing started, I had just come back from Vermont. Moved my skidder back here because I wanted to work here. I didn't want to go to Vermont to work. I wanted to work here because this is where I live and there were Canadians cutting here. The amount of wood the Canadian loggers we blocked would have cut in one week—just that one week—would have been six month's wages for us. Six months work for us twelve. It goes back to before there was even a bonded program, before the War. They advertise jobs and they're open to American workers. But the Canadian labor depress the wages so much that an American can't work for them. And it's not supposed to be that way. The law says that there can be no adverse effect on wages or working conditions.

JS: Why can the Canadians afford to work for it and you can't?

HH: Probably because of the 40 percent exchange rate. Probably because he's got free health insurance. Probably because of a benefit from the Canadian government. Really, I don't know why. The Canadians aren't happy with the price that's being paid to cut lumber here in Maine. But it's better than what they've got to do over there.

JS: Why did you decide to block the border instead of choosing other options?

HH: Because we don't want to move out. There was no other option. There was none.

JS: You tried contacting your politicians.

HH: Oh!

JS: Writing letters to the newspapers and calling the state forest service and that kind of stuff?

HH: We didn't even bother with that. We had called the Labor Department and dealt with them for ten years. Had meetings two

years prior to the blockade.

Now they're going to do a study. \$100,000 to do this study.

When they apply for bonded Canadian labor, it specifically states that there can be no adverse effect on the wages or working conditions of US employees. Where's the studies they done to find out whether issuing those certificates to bring in bonded labor was going to have an effect or not? Seems as though someone should have done a study then. If they didn't, who was negligent? The Labor Department is the only one. They authorize it, the Canadians coming in here and working, and the forest being cut the way it is, that's not the fault of the Canadians. It's the fault of the government for allowing it to happen.

You asked why we went to the border to blockade last year—because we were fed up with it. When we went there to the border, we never expected anybody from the Labor Department to contact us. And we never expected Congressman John Baldacci's office to say "We've got to meet." We had a meeting in Fort Kent the first week. That was just a big show for Baldacci.

We went there to fix the problem of too many Canadians coming here.

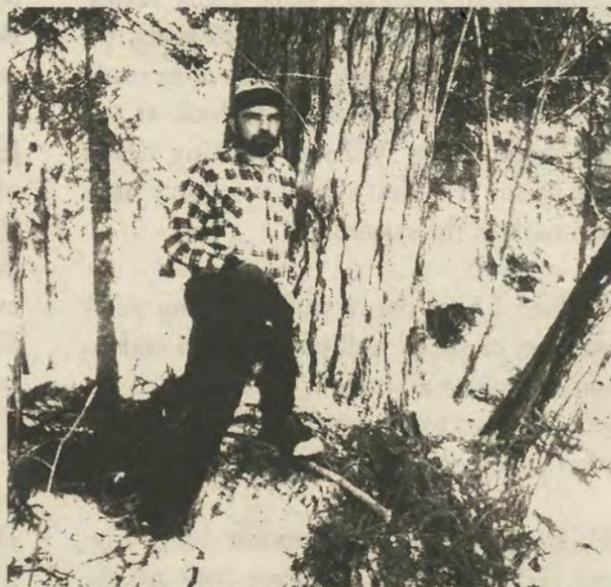
JS: Did you honestly think that a few guys in pick-up trucks could fix the problem?

HH: You know the thing about it—is how far are you willing to let politics go? You know, the Labor Department is doing a study. Now if the Labor Department doesn't want to fix that problem, how far are you willing to let that go? Do I have to listen to Canadians cutting wood in front of my house? Do I have to lock the door and move out?

They're moving us out. We're the last ones they're going to move out because they've already moved the rest of the people out. [A lot of people don't want to get involved in fighting the companies.] "If I make waves—what's the sense in making waves?"

JS: Even people who see the problem don't want to make waves. They've got families, mortgages, a job. They don't want to fight the government all the time. They just want to live their lives.

HH: That's all we want to do.



Hilton Hafford with a tall specimen near an old ferry crossing on the St. John River; he spared the tree although he might have made several dollars off it.

I was working for a Canadian company, and they had 37 skidders working. We decided we needed more money. Some of these guys said, "If we say anything the companies will fire us." Out of 37 skidders, they hired six skidders back. The guys that wouldn't speak out for themselves lost their jobs just as quick as the guys that did.

They say, "I've got a job and I'm working. If I say anything, I'll be in the same boat that these guys are in. I won't have no work." But what's going to happen when everybody quits speaking out? The guy that thinks that he's anything more than a number to any of these companies is crazy. What's going to happen when it comes his turn and there's nobody to help him? He's losing his job anyway. He just doesn't know it.

The biggest problem with the Labor Department now is that they are the problem, and they have been for a long time. They've got guys who have just started working there. One guy from the [Maine] Bureau of Labor Standards didn't know nothing about the bonded labor problem until last fall. The first he ever heard of it. The guy from the Federal Labor Department didn't know nothing about the bonded labor problem. He just started dealing with it when this thing came up. And they don't understand what the program was for or why it even came about. They said, "We make our decisions based on prevailing practices." I said, "It was prevailing practice to have slaves a long time ago."

It's our right to be here. It's times like this that you understand why people don't have much faith in government. You understand why extreme measures are taken sometimes. And you wonder how far they're going to let

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it go. If someone's been bitching about it since '75, you'd think by now they'd have it straightened out. Now here we are complaining about the exact same thing taking place that's been going on for 25 years. So they're doing another study. They done studies in '75. It's almost scary to look at the exact same thing. Why is nothing being done about it? That's why we don't have much faith in the system.

JS: When I hear that a study is going to be done, you might as well just pack up and go home. Because a study is a code word for "we don't plan to do anything, so we'll do a study to show that we did something."

HH: I can understand them not doing anything right off quick. Because they are the problem. If the Labor Department and the government wasn't the problem, wasn't allowing this by failing to act, they would have fixed it by now. If they failed to do the job they should have done, they should be held accountable for it. They destroyed our town, for one thing.

You know they say how much of an adverse effect can it be? Well how much do you have to be adversely affected before ten or twelve guys decide they're going to close the border between two countries?

JS: Particularly guys who aren't known as political agitators. They're just guys who want to do an honest day's work.

HH: We're all ready to go to work. In fact it's possible we're going to have a confrontation maybe tomorrow because we want to work. And we're going looking for jobs out in the woods. And the only way that we can do it is go as a group and force our way into a camp where they've got Canadians.

The way this industry is, the anger and the frustration that's involved here, has never surfaced yet. It's been, we're angry people, but are we really angry? The anger hasn't been vented yet. And it's probably going to be a bad situation when it does. But what do you do?

Do I have anything against the paper companies? I've got a lot against the paper companies. I can't work here. A contractor told me the other day that the headman for Seven Islands, John Cashwell, told him and other contractors to make every attempt in the world to hire American workers. I know two American who worked for Seven Islands for 13 years and Seven Islands fired them this year because they became involved with this dispute.

[We've started an organization called]

American Workers First. Our goal is to get enough members to put pressure on the government to enforce the laws. We seek membership all across the northern frontier. Because if we all stay divided, that's what the companies have done in every industry.

JS: Divide and conquer. That's the first law of power. They did that very well in the Referendum. They divided the environmental community. Then they divided the workers against the people who were trying to save the forests, as if the workers didn't want to save the forest.

This conversation with you today is reinforcing something I've learned from New Hampshire loggers. They like working in the woods, cutting trees, but not eliminating forests. The idea that people who are trying to save forests by stopping bad forestry and protecting reserves are the enemies of the guys working in the woods is bull. We're allies. We want the same thing.

HH: Exactly. We don't want to be involved in what we're involved in now [the blockade]. What we want to do is go to work. But we can't go to work unless things are changed because we need decent wages to do it. They're not going mechanical to do a better job in the woods. They're going mechanical to get the people out of it so things like this don't happen, people like me don't complain. They want every piece off here before someone says, "Hey, look what's happening." And if a guy is sitting on a machine, getting paid by the hour, running a piece of equipment, all he's interested in is his hourly rate, and he's not going to be looking out for long-term welfare. And if he is, there's a lot of guys that'll do that that are hungry. The point of bringing the machines in is just to eliminate the people in the woods who might bring a guy like you up here and say look what they done to it.

Years ago there was two types of softwood—spruce and fir. Then there were two other classifications of softwood—there was American wood and Canadian wood. The Canadians cut the best of it; the Americans cut the worst places. All that was for was to keep the Americans and Canadians at odds with one another. To keep them fighting amongst themselves and not seeing the real problem. Then came mechanical equipment; there were three types of softwood stands: the best were for the mechanical harvester; the stands that weren't too good were for the Canadians; and the poor stands were for the

Americans.

When a tree gets cut, the guy cutting it isn't where the money is. It's between there and the mill. The guy cutting it has to make a living for the leeches that are between there and the mill. Why do we have to make a living for [these contractors]? I had a contractor tell me, "I can't afford to pay you to cut this wood." I said, "Well if I had the contract, I could pay all of my expenses and I could cut that wood my self. But I can't make a living for me and you too."

[A representative of the contractors] told me that if the landowner wants more money for his stumpage, "I've got to take it off the logger." I said, "Well, if the landowner needs more money for stumpage, instead of you taking it off the logger, why don't you go find yourself a job and let the logger cut for the landowner and then everybody'll be happy."

JS: What's your feeling toward the individual Canadians who are coming across the border?

HH: They're just regular people, same as me.

JS: So you don't have any grievance with them?

HH: Not at all. In fact I was working with a Canadian camp that was all Americans, and I made a move up to where the Canadians were—all Canadians. All guys out of Quebec. I was the only American there. There was nobody else there that spoke English, except the scaler, and he was from Quebec.

JS: One of the things your critics are going to say is...

HH: We're bigots and racists.

JS: Exactly. And what I'm hearing from you is that you don't like them using the Canadians in a way to depress your wages so that you can't live.

HH: Exactly. That's it.

JS: And they're as much victims as you are.

HH: Oh, they are. The Canadians know it. If we had all kinds of wood here and the Canadians were coming in here and working for American wages, then there's no problem. But, if the Canadians come in and Americans work for Canadian wages, there's a problem.

The bonded labor program was never sup-

When a tree gets cut, the guy cutting it isn't where the money is. It's between there and the mill. The guy cutting it has to make a living for the leeches that

posed to be a program that if a guy didn't want to pay you he could get a bond so that he could get it done cheaper. Because that eliminated the bargaining power.

JS: The bonded program was if they couldn't get enough Americans to do the job, they could supplement it with Canadians, rather than use Canadians to depress wages, which is what it's turned out to be?

HH: And the bonded labor program was never meant for a Canadian to come in here as a business. For a Canadian to come in here and bring bonded Canadian labor in here.

JS: A Canadian contractor brings a crew in?

HH: Yes.

JS: So he's a business coming across the border?

HH: Yes. He's a business coming across the border. He's a Maine company.

JS: Is he registered in Maine?

HH: He's registered in Maine as a company with a post office box, and that's all he needs. I worked for a [Canadian contractor] last year after we had the dispute at the border. He had some pretty good wood to cut with a skidder, but we found out afterwards that the scale was no good, but there was nothing we could do about it.

JS: When you say the scale was no good, what do you mean?

HH: It was weight scale, and they hauled the wood and you didn't know how much wood you had when you left the road. They hauled the wood on weekends and at night and you couldn't keep track.

JS: Sort of like the butcher weighing a pound of meat with his finger on the scale?

HH: Yes, only they were holding it up. (Laughter) He told us he didn't want to hire us so we told him we're shutting the camp down until he hired us. So we shut the camp down, wouldn't let him work. So then he hired us. He told us, "Next year I'm going to have visas so I don't have to hire any Americans." He told two of the guys who were there that he

had been there working 15 years and had never had an American work for him. A Canadian, right out of Quebec. And if he had to have an American work for him, he'd quit. Pretty crazy, eh? How long has it been going on? My father is 84. When he was 15 years old, he walked to Pleasant Lake to get a job where there was all Canadians, and he didn't get hired.

At that time the Canadians were in here illegally. And they used to make raids in woods camps and take the Canadians out because they were here illegally. I heard an older guy tell a story about being in a woods camp and there was about 250 men at that job site. He said they heard they were going to raid the

camp for Canadians. He said the cook room was a big, big long room with four big tables. And every night those tables were full at supertime. So them guys come to see about the Canadians that were there illegally and there was seven guys setting at the table.

JS: The rest were hiding out in the woods?

HH: Yup. So what they did, is instead of fixing the problem of it being illegal, all they did is made it legal.

JS: That's exactly how they make forest policy. Instead of saying clearcuts are too big, or stocking is too low, they just set the legal standards at what they're currently doing, so what they're doing is legal. They set standards according to prevailing practices.

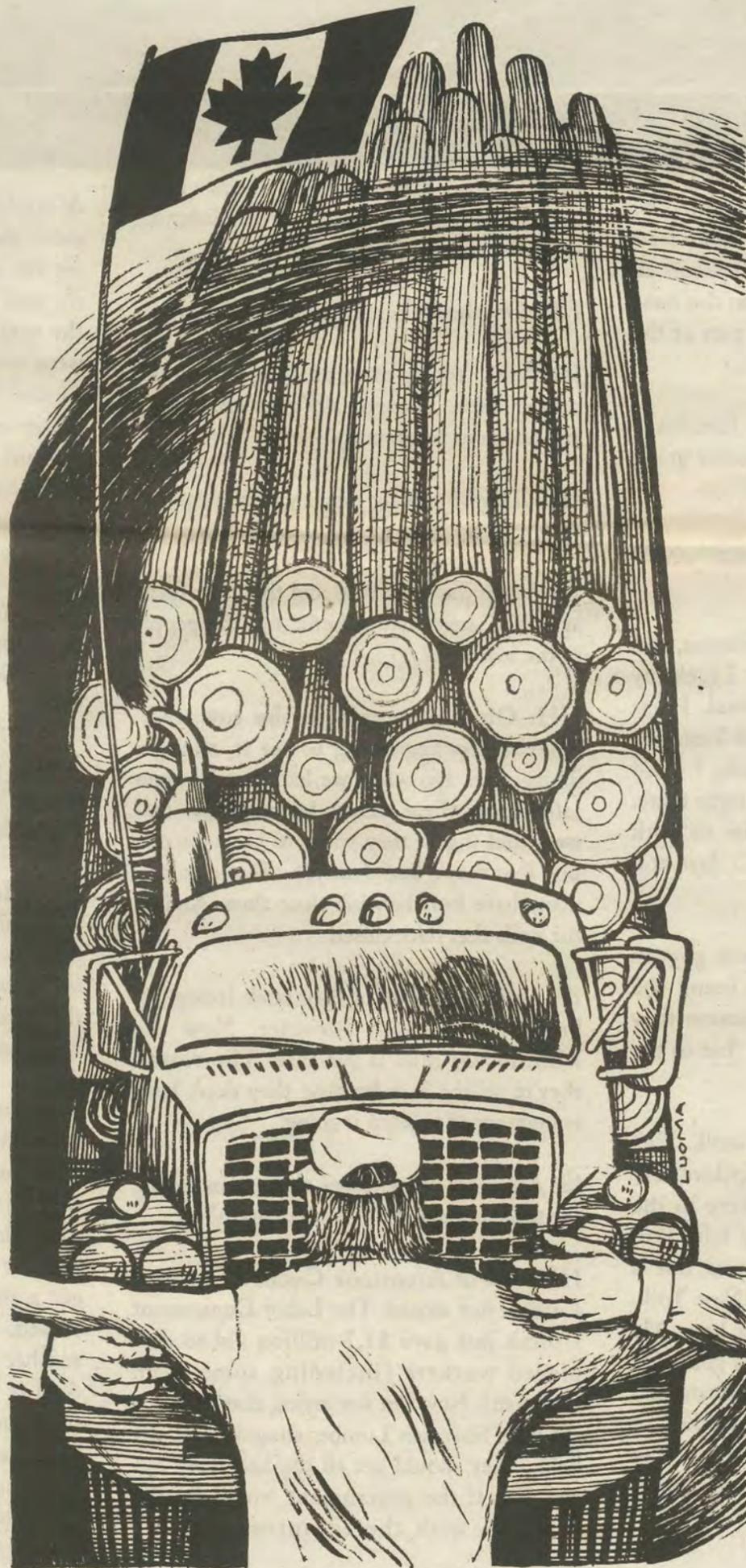
HH: (A logging truck goes by.) Loads and loads of spruce and fir going by to Estcourt? in Quebec.

JS: When I see a load of exported logs, I see a certain number of jobs riding out on that truck. Keep the logs here so some are doing the logging and even more are doing the value-added. If you focus on developing value-added jobs within a community, most of the jobs would be in the value-added sector so there would be less need for loggers because you could support more jobs while cutting much less wood. Instead of raw log exports to Canada, cut the wood, bring it here, and then the people who are living here process it.

HH: That's part of our argument too. They say, "We need these Canadian loggers because there's not enough Americans to do the work." Why do we have to supply all these mills in Canada? Who cares if there's 20 mills along the border in Canada? Why not cut less wood and have longer term? And let some of those mills close. Because as soon as our wood is all cut, we're closing.

Well here's a school that closed right across the road over here. Here's a town right in the heart of the lumber industry. We're right to the end of the earth. Right in the middle of the best of the lumber and there's no mill here.

JS: The population of Allagash 20-30 years ago was 800 and



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now it's about 260 and most of the people are over 65, and there were 13 school kids when the school closed two years ago. What's the explanation?

HH: Leave here and go 51 miles north to St. Pamphile. There's a town of 5,000-6,000 people in it, growing every day. It's booming, and it's all from lumber coming out of Maine. They are working in the mills processing Maine lumber. Go 30 miles the other way, there's another community with probably 3,000-4,000 people. And it's a mill town. If you go just southwest of St. Pamphile, there's Daquaam Lumber in the town of Daquaam. It's a mill town all being fed by lumber from here. St. Orly the same way. Two mills in St. Orly, 2,000-2,500 people all work around that mill. It's all from the lumber coming out of the northern part of the state.

Now, where are our politicians? Free trade for us here is a load of round lumber going out and a load of air coming back.

JS: Or a truckload of Canadian loggers coming back.

HH: I worked in Brattleboro, Vermont, and Cambridge, New York last year. I took my skidder down there and cut wood. I was working for Eagle Lumber out of Vermont. When I'd leave here in the morning I could hear Canadian skidders working right there. But I couldn't compete with them to work there. I'd go down and stay 14-15 days at a time.

When I got down there, there was guys in Vermont, all I was doing was being the Canadians that drove me out because they could work cheaper. I was doing that to the Vermont guys.

A friend of mine was here last week. He's working in Antrim, New Hampshire. He had a skidder and he worked here in the woods. He's gone. Last year he left. Two other guys that worked here last year, one is in Vermont and the other is in New York. They left. They couldn't make it here. My cousin lives up the road here. He's gone. He went to Connecticut. The list goes on and on. There's five or six guys during the last year that left for the exact same reason that we're probably going to leave. Some people are going to leave.



Looking East over the St. John River T14 R 13 WELS 36 Miles South of Allagash/St. John. Photo © Conrad Heeschen May 1996.

JS: Where are the selectmen and town manager of the towns up here? Are they listening to you or to the companies?

HH: Oh, they're listening to the companies.

JS: Why? You're their neighbors. You are paying taxes. Theoretically they are serving you and your community.

HH: They're serving their own interests and their own pockets.

JS: So it's the selectmen and the town manager who aren't sympathetic, but the people in the town are?

HH: Oh, the people in the town are. They're just beginning to see it, though. Three years ago when we had that Clearcut referendum there were a lot of people that were told that if they voted to ban clearcutting that they'd lose their jobs. But look how many have lost their job since then. And all the mills that have closed.

IP is selling off a lot of their land. Irving just bought land from Bowater. Now the Millinocket mill is for sale. The reason they're selling it is because they don't have enough wood to keep it going.

JS: Are there other towns along here having the same population loss as Allagash?

HH: All of Aroostook County. Sherman Lumber just closed. The Labor Department I think just gave \$1.7 million aid to displaced workers [including some from Sherman]. Now I'm not saying that the people from Sherman Lumber shouldn't get any help. They should get all the help they can get. But if the government would fix the problem, with the advantage that the

Canadian mills have, and with all the lumber going out to Canada, Sherman Lumber Company wouldn't be closing. So the \$1.7 million, whatever part is going to aid people from Sherman Lumber, is another bailout for the Canadian government. Another subsidy for the Canadians. Only this time it's not being paid by the Canadian government, it's being paid by the American government.

So now the people at Sherman Lumber who paid taxes in to our government, now what they're

doing is they're using their tax money to move themselves out of town. They're paying the people that's closing them down. So the mill closes, so those people who work at the mill leave, same as here. The industry went to hell. So the people leave. The wages weren't there. But the price of lumber is higher and higher and higher every year. But we can't cut the wood. So the people leave. Governor King don't care. He brags about the Seven Islands mill in Portage that the mill is going to saw 13 million board feet per year and employ 40 people. But down the road a few miles in Sherman, there's a mill that closed that had been there a hundred years. Now there's something that's not right there.

They're going to employ 40 people and people say "that's a good thing." And, really it is. But if they really wanted to create jobs, what about the 15-16 million board feet a day that's leaving here and being sawed in Canada? There are two major mills in one town that saw five million a week, and most of the wood comes right out of Maine. Does the government care if we have jobs or not? They don't.

When we had 800 people in this town, the town road cost \$25-27,000 to plow it. Everybody was paying taxes and a small percentage of their taxes was going to plow the road. Now there's 260 people and we've still got that same amount of road to plow. We've got a store up here—we had two, but one closed. When you lose a customer, then another one has to make it up at the store. And if you lose enough, pretty soon the store's only going to be open part-time. And pretty soon they can't afford to be open part-time, and they're going to close. So the guy who said it doesn't matter to me if there isn't any logging left because I don't have any-

thing to do with it, probably he was retired, probably he was doing something else. But now, instead of going to the store up here that's two miles from his house, now he's got to drive 30 miles. How does the logging industry affect him? Whether he was in it or not, it affected him.

I had a guy at the chainsaw shop tell me, "I'm getting more into lawnmowers than I am chainsaws." I said if the guy is working in the woods here, he's gonna mow his grass. But if he leaves here the grass grows up around his house. He don't need a chainsaw, and he don't need a lawnmower.

Irving bought all this land up. And now we have this thing with Millinocket. Well Millinocket is ready to become Allagash. Because the same thing that happened to our town is going to happen down there.

These communities that are being destroyed by this industry, some of the people in those communities are still going to be there when industry is gone. They they're going to have to fend for themselves.

JS: I think you said the magic word—community. If you rip out the guts of a community, that's going to have an effect on anybody who's part of that community. If you have a community that's healthy, everybody's going to benefit. If you have a community that's being screwed over for the benefit of one or two, everybody else is suffering. That's why these corporations from far off are so bad. The CEOs from Irving don't have to see these plundered forests. They don't live with it. You do. This is your backyard. This is your home. If they had to live with the consequences of your actions, whether logging or anything else, they might do it a lot differently.

HH: If the majority of the people in the state of Maine were concerned at all about their taxes and the economy of Maine as a whole—not only northern Maine—they'd be doing something about this right now. We lose 14.7 jobs per million board feet of lumber that goes to Canada. Last year there was what—300 million? That's losing a lot of jobs. Ant that's not counting all the other off-jobs that there would be here and there and everywhere else. So we're losing an awful lot of our economy. We're losing a lot of tax revenue off the lumber going out. We're losing a lot of revenue off the tax because of the way the Tree Growth Tax is set-up. The Tree Growth is giving the big landowners a big, big break on

their taxes. You would think that a part of it would be: "You'll get this break if you use the lumber in Maine to boost the economy in Maine." They're not even doing that.

[The cutting up here] is just being done way, way too fast. And it's being done solely, totally to feed Canadian mills. Every bit of our lumber is going to Canadian mills.

There's laws on the books today that say lumber can't go out to Canada unless it's scaled before it leaves the state. Load after load is going out. No one's enforcing it.

Right now there's a lot of lumber going out of the state that's being classified as pulp. Even on state land. They're paying stumpage on pulp. That's high-grade wood. So, who's losing on that? People in the state of Maine are losing. Canadian guys are cutting on a deer yard on state lands. Why does the state have to hire a contractor to bring in Canadian labor because he can bid higher on the wood and then sell it to Canada? Does the state have to make all that money on the wood? Why don't they hire private individuals to cut the wood the way it needs to be cut? Do the people of the state of Maine want their public lands to benefit a Canadian company?

There's money in this industry, but the com-

Every bit of our lumber is going to Canadian mills.

never do anything about it? Because the threat of bringing in Canadian trucks is there. So they're going overloaded and they're spoiling the road up above here. Now pretty soon they'll be done hauling wood up there for Irving. Who's got to drive up and down that road? My father's retired. He's got to drive up and down that road.

JS: The New Hampshire Highway Department once game me this statistic: a 100,000 pound truck has the same impact on a stretch of road like this as 19,200 passenger cars. One truck goes by, it does the same amount of damage 19,200 cars going by in terms of road damage. A 120,000 pound truck is equal to about 40,000 cars. People just don't realize how heavily subsidized the trucking industry is.

HH: We're paying to maintain the roads—you and I do—so that they can wreck 'em. Now, who are we paying to wreck 'em? We're paying Irving. Because the state is allowing Irving to use the threat of Canadian labor to not pay the rate to haul a legal load.

JS: Irving needs wood hauled over these roads, but Irving doesn't have to pay for its fair share of the cost to maintain the roads. In effect we're paying for the roads for Irving and they're nice enough to let us use them too.

HH: Exactly. But that truck that's hauling overweight up that road could haul a smaller load if the rate was there.

JS: What is your grievance with the Certified Loggers program.

HH: (Hilton flunked the CLP class because he wouldn't cut dead wood. All his equipment was "tip top." Stewart Hall, who flunked him agreed that his unwillingness to cut dead wood because the company wouldn't pay him "was a legitimate complaint.") I had the whole class, but I never got a certificate because I wouldn't cut dead wood unless the company paid me and the

company wouldn't pay me. In the woods the biggest threat is exposure to hazards in the logging industry—the exposure to dead wood—from OSHA's point of view. Obviously, if I'm working on a piece rate and that green tree is going to pay me a dollar and a half I've got to hurry up and cut it as quick as I can cut it and get out of there. What makes me hurry more to cut that is if I have to cut all this dead stuff for nothing. Then I've got to really, really hurry. So that's not safe to begin with.

JS: And it's unlikely you're going to do a careful job.



Scorched Earth Policy North of Moosehead Lake Photo © Conrad Heeschen May 1996

munities aren't seeing it. [We asked a representative of the companies] "Why don't the companies pay more to loggers?" "We don't have to." Here's trucks going by my house and they're overloaded. They're hauling for Irving. But because the rate is too low, they're hauling just as much wood as they can.

JS: It doesn't make sense for them to haul a legal load because they can't make money on it so they overload it?

HH: And why do they overload because they can't make money? And why do they

Hilton Hafford Interview

HH: Exactly. So if I get off and I've got ten dead trees to cut and only one live one that's going to pay me anything, am I better off as far as expense point [of view] from the insurance company and from OSHA—to cut that one live tree and get out of there or am I better off to spend all my time cutting ten other trees that could kill me. Now I'm exposed to it ten times as long, as if I cut one.

JS: You're cutting at a more reckless pace.

HH: Exactly. In essence you'd have to go ten times as fast. It's a safety program, and a sustainable forestry program. None of them guys care about sustainable forestry and none of em really care about safety. They care about workers' comp rates. They saved 78 percent of the cost of workers comp for loggers. The money they saved was supposed to go to the loggers for doing the extra work, for part of it. And they never gave them any. They said, "Do it or go home." The contractor pocketed the money. Nobody paid me for that week that was my time that I had to go spend for the company.

How do you tell a guy that's worked in the woods for 30 years and tell him that he's no longer qualified because he hasn't had a four-day class to teach him about sustainable forestry?

The guy who runs it was until last year a bonding agent for Canadian labor. Bringing Canadian labor into the state.

I took that certified loggers program shortly before the Clearcutting Referendum came along. It was a four-day class. All they talked about at that particular time was how we should vote against the clearcutting ban. The state forester came to give a speech about the clearcutting referendum. I asked him how many clearcuts there were in northern Maine, and he said there's none. And I said, "Then I guess I don't want to hear the rest of your speech."

When we had that Clearcut referendum there were a lot of people that were told that if they voted to ban clearcutting that they'd lose their jobs. But look how many have lost their job since then. And all the mills that have closed.

We were all in favor of banning clearcutting. Every logger I ever talked to around this area was in favor of banning clearcutting. Every one I talk to now is in favor of turning it into a Park and stopping the cut. Talk to the loggers in our group. They'd support a National

Park. If they turned it into a National Park, there would be something left here. If they don't turn it into a park or do something about it, all we're going to have is a barren desert that nobody's going to come to. So why not have a park that maybe somebody would come into?

JS: You could live in an economy that was much more of a guiding, recreation-based economy than a timber economy?

HH: Maybe I couldn't. But I'm going to have to leave it anyway. So why not leave it here to come back to.... If we're not going to benefit from it, why give it to someone else? Why not leave it there? Why give it away.

How do you tell a guy that's worked in the woods for 30 years . . . that he's no longer qualified because he hasn't had a four-day class to teach him about sustainable forestry?

personal fight. Can I get the selectmen of my town to put in all the money the town's got to fight you? That's what the Governor did. He used the power of the state of Maine to fight in favor of the paper companies.

JS: And they made it seem like the poor paper companies were being picked on by the Greens. Talk about a reversal of reality. The bullies act as if they are the innocent victim.

HH: Just before Irving bought that last piece of land from Bowater, a guy came in and said we've got to save all the little hardwood trees for the future. He didn't care no more about the

hardwood trees than anybody else. And he said to me: "We've got to keep all the little hardwood trees for the future." I said, "Don't talk to me about the future. There's no present for me. I can't make a living here now. What do I care about the future?" Well, he says, "We've got to do a good job because Jonathan Carter would maybe come around." I said, "If you see him this afternoon, tell him I'd like to see him. Because I want to join his group."

As far as I'm concerned, the people who want a park aren't our enemies. They want

Talk to the loggers in our group. They'd support a National Park. . . We were all in favor of banning clearcutting.

the same thing we do. The Green Party, I don't think that they are our enemies. The group that we have would rather give it [the North Woods] to the Park than give it to Canada. If the Green Party had it, or if it turned into a Park, then there's people from New Jersey or New York or somewhere that'll come and see it. But what's gonna happen is as soon as all the lumber's cut off of it, then the Governor or the state is going to turn it into a Park. The only problem is: there's nobody from New Jersey or New York that wants to come and see the desert. So if we're not going to get the total, total benefit of it, why not let somebody else use it that ultimately would benefit us. Because as we drive along here, you see what this has turned into.

JS: (We were driving along logging roads in Allagash Plantation.) Where is the cutting going on right now?

HH: They're cutting a lot in the beauty strips. And they're cutting areas where they're just leaving small beauty strips. That's a joke isn't it, leaving a small beauty strip. Why not cut it all?

JS: Then the public doesn't see what you're up to.

HH: That's the only problem. [The companies] are cutting in the 400 foot strip in the Allagash.

If they would have started along the Allagash Waterway in that 400 foot strip, if they would have started cutting from the river back, they would have got only 400 feet before someone would have stopped them. Instead, they left that 400 foot and the people don't see it.

JS: And the people in the canoes think—gosh, I'm in the wilderness.

HH: We had an ice jam here back in 1991. Tore everything all to hell. \$32 million in damage. Clearcutting had a lot to do with that. Why? It started warming up in the spring. We had a lot of rain. Big hardwood trees will suck up an awful lot of that water that's going into the ground. But you take the whole side hill and cut all the wood off of it, it's not sucking up the water, plus it's not shading the sun and the snow is melting faster and the faster the snow melts, the quicker it goes into the river, the quicker the water raises, then the more ice you have. The higher the water gets the bigger the jam gets. When it jams up, it starts tearing the sides out of the river here. When it tears the sides out of the river, the next year, the water is lower because the river is wider. If the water is wider, you have more ice.

HH: (We came upon a black spruce plantation near the Allagash River put in by Irving in 1998.) A tree plantation is not a forest. There's nobody alive today that'll read that sign that'll ever see a working forest there again in that tree plantation. They'll tell you there's more trees now than there were back [in 1800]. I can go and count a spruce tree that's 14 inches on the stump, probably 150 years old. Now that tree's gone from there. Next year there might be ten or fifteen trees in the spot that tree was.

JS: You know who's doing the planting?

HH: Mexicans.

JS: We've got Canadians cutting them and Mexicans planting them. At least you've got a front row seat.

HH: It doesn't seem to me that you can grow a tree that's a better seed than the one that was naturally put there. If we would have come here before that was cut, we probably would have seen a lot of spring brooks that put right into that brook that are all dried up now.

The companies spray these herbicides in the woods. They say there's no danger at all there. How do we know there's none? We only know what they tell us.

(We came to an area that had recently been sprayed.) Right here there's a little cold spring brook flows right out of the valley there. Right down here's one of the best fishing spots there was because of the cold spring. Now they cut that and they sprayed it. That fishing spot has been ruined. They didn't cut right down into the brook, but they cut along the feeder brook that was there, cold, cold spring water. They cut it so hard along that brook that the sun beats on that water while it's running down. Now the brook's too warm, there's no fish there. The trout are gone. They left this strip and they didn't spray it. Now if you were to walk back right through here, you could see where they sprayed right along the brook.

JS: You mean they only spared the brook by the road?

HH: Where anyone was going to see it. Now because there's no cover for the brook, the fish come to the cold spring water this time of the year but because they destroyed all the cover for that brook, the water warms up in the hot weather before it gets down there. So there's no reason for them to come there. The water's already warm.

Who's going to decide in a few years, if the spray was no good. If it should never have been done?

JS: How many times has that already been done? DDT; 2-4-5-T. A lot of these they've found aren't so good.

HH: A friend of mine who moved to New Hampshire used to tell people that the landowners got a permit to kill the people. People would ask him about that. They'd say he was crazy. But what happens in a few more years if we find out that everything's that's cancer-related in this valley or that's disease-related was because of the spray?

In Vermont, right now, they have a lot of tours that go through and look at the foliage. We have five seasons up here now—one happens in August [when they spray]. That's our first fall. We have two autumns. We have an extra season. We did gain that.

JS: When was the last time you worked in the woods?

HH: I had a couple of weeks in March of this year.

JS: What have you been doing since then?

HH: Unemployment. It just ran out. I like to do logging. That's the only reason I'm doing it now, is because I like to do it and I want to live here. It's not a very good job, but I like to do it.

JS: How many generations have you been here?

HH: Four. We come from generations of loggers, and we've been taught by professional people that have been in this business since they were 11-12 years old. With no education, but knew the logging industry. That's who taught us. When I was probably 11-12 years old, I was cutting four-foot pulpwood for my father. My job was driving the horse. Right in back of our house.

JS: How old are you now?

HH: I'm 41 now. I can't cut wood now according to this political thing we've got going. But I raised a family and I cut wood, and I went in the woods and worked alongside of Canadians, and I bought skidders, and I bought chainsaws, and I paid for them, and now I can't go because I'm not a certified professional logger.

If this comes out in print anywhere, I'll never have a job working around here again.

JS: I'm not going to print anything without showing it to you.

HH: Oh, go ahead. Because I'm one of the people that realizes that I don't have one anyway. There's nothing that I've said today that I wouldn't say direct to Irving or Seven Islands.

The problem is that there's not enough of us to get together to fix the problem, because the only thing that's going to fix the problem is civil disobedience.

End of Interview

A Logger Calculates His Wages

I have taken my total wages and skidder and chain saw allowances that I have earned for the past 11 weeks at R&G Lumber. They are paying the best price in this area. I wanted to see what my wages would be if I had worked the entire season, approximately July 98 thru February 99, 7 months. Based on complete attendance, no missed days other than holidays and working as hard as possible from daylight until dark, I took my wages and skidder and chain saw allowances of \$9433.73 and divided that by 11 weeks. My average was \$857.61 per week. From July through February would be approximately 28 weeks multiplied times \$857.61 or \$24,013.08 total wages plus skidder and chainsaw allowances for 7 months of work.

I took my total receipts for maintenance, oil, gas, etc. I have had no major breakdowns. Total receipts for the 11 weeks \$1644.87 divided by 11 weeks of work is \$149.53 per week. \$149.53 multiplied by 28 weeks would be \$4186.84.

Total wages, skidder and chainsaw allowances for 7 months would be \$24,013.18. Total receipts for maintenance of skidder and saw would be \$4186.84. The balance left would be \$19,826.24.

This figure does not allow for skidder payments, insurance on equipment, pick-up payments necessary to travel to work or any breakdowns on equipment other than normal maintenance and is based on gross wages.

If you take \$19,826.24 and divide it by 52 weeks you get \$381.27 per week a year or based on 40 hours per week, \$9.53 per hour. This is the amount a man with an expensive amount of equipment is able to earn working as hard as possible at what is considered to be one of the most dangerous professions there is.

In addition woodworkers receive no benefits. There is no health insurance provided, no pension fund, just a worn-out body at 65 years old praying that there will still be social security funds available for him.

Companies say there is a lack of American workers. At one time there were 70 to 100 skidders between Allagash and Fort Kent. The men couldn't afford to stay in the woods. If men complained about working conditions or wages, contractors changed to mechanical harvesting doing away with the men.

Canadians set the rate of pay by working contrary to what is normal. I've seen them going into the woods way before daylight with the chopper walking ahead shining a light. CLP course is one more financial burden on the woodsman. He has to assume the cost but receives none of the benefit.

— Leighton Kelly



Paying Loggers

by Mitch Lansky

How do you pay loggers to cut wood? The question might seem strange, given that loggers have been paid to cut wood for generations. Why ask now? Because the more common payment systems have neither served the loggers or the forests well.

Traditionally in Maine, loggers operating chainsaws and skidders have been paid on a piece rate—by the cord. The goal has been to encourage production. Production means getting the wood out fast. The more a logger cuts, the more he makes. Logging equipment has also been designed for production. Today's dominant technologies—feller-bunchers, grapple skidders, and delimiters—can move a lot of wood fast. While the contractors who own the equipment are paid by the cord, some of the operators of these machines are paid hourly wages, like factory workers—although they are paid a fraction of what paper-mill workers get.

But look at the woods. Something has been forgotten in the name of productivity of extraction. The productivity of the residual forest. Too much land gets taken up in trails and yards to accommodate the machinery. Too many residual trees get damaged. Too often the result doesn't look much like a forest. As John Arbuckle said, "You get what you pay for." If you want to reduce residual damage and manage for a well-stocked, high-quality forest, you have to pay the logger appropriately.

The question of logger payment systems is important to the Maine Low-Impact Forestry Project. We are interested in results on the ground that lead to long-term benefits for the landowner, but also compensate the loggers for the efforts to reach such a result. In Hancock County, we are in the early stages of setting up a landowners' association. The association could, potentially, improve marketing of wood by using a concentration yard, or even set up value-added opportunities, such as saw milling and kiln drying. Improved marketing might offset some of the added short-term costs of more careful logging.

THE SURVEY

To help brainstorm better payment systems, I sent out a logger payment survey to selected foresters and loggers. It was not my intention to get a statistical sample and then choose a system based on majority preferences. Rather, the survey was designed to find out how individuals, who see themselves as careful stewards, deal with logger payment issues, and to ask them for ideas and advice.

I started by asking the respondents their status (loggers, foresters, or landowners), the scale of their operations, and the type of equipment they use. Those from different perspectives might favor different payment options.

I then mentioned two possibilities for who might sell the wood. The landowners might sell the wood to the loggers—who then cut it and sell it to the mills. Or the landowners can retain ownership of the wood and (with the help of foresters) sell the wood themselves. In Hancock County, a landowner association would probably favor the second option.

With any payment method, there is an opportunity to encourage better practices with incentives. Landowners might want to encourage loggers to: leave better residuals (and do less damage), do better bucking and sorting (to increase product value), or be more productive at cutting wood. Payment incentives include:

- job security (long-term contracts or right-of-first-refusal on next cut),
- monetary incentives for exceeding standards, or
- monetary disincentives for poor performance (i.e., penalties or loss of job).

I suggested that there are four basic situations that loggers and landowners might face—and each one might call for a different payment system:

- 1) High-value cut in easy logging conditions;
- 2) High-value cut in difficult logging conditions;
- 3) Low-value cut in easy logging conditions; and
- 4) Low-value cut in difficult logging conditions.

With higher-value wood, the logger would be doing a revenue cut. With lower-value wood, the logger would be doing more of an investment cut. With an investment cut, the landowner may make little or no money if the logger is to be adequately compensated. The landowner might choose to pay for such a cut if the forester thinks the future stand will be more valuable. With low-value wood on a poor site with rough terrain, the landowner may decide that it is not worthwhile to cut at all.

I listed five possible payment methods, and for each one listed some considerations:

- 1) By product and grade (standard piece rate). While a piece-rate payment encourages productivity and good sorting, it can also be an incentive for highgrading and stand damage. This may mean more costs for supervision or for remediation. With low-value stands, a logger might not get adequate compensation for his work. Because of pressure to get wood out fast, this payment system can lead to a higher accident rate.

- 2) Straight rate by volume (or weight) regardless of grade. A straight rate creates less incentive for highgrading. Because the logger is still paid by the piece, there is still an incentive to rush, which can lead to accidents. With a straight rate, the logger might not get adequate compensation cutting small wood in rough conditions. The logger and landowner might want to negotiate a different price depending on the wood and the conditions.

- 3) Per time (hour, day, or week). A wage per time would have to account for labor and equipment. With a payment by time, there is less incentive for highgrad-

ing and accidents, but there is also less incentive for productivity and proper bucking and sorting. Payment by time assures that the logger is adequately compensated regardless of the size of the wood and the condition of the terrain.

- 4) Per area (by the acre or by the lot). This system is often used for precommercial thinning. Payment would have to be based on the average size of trees, the stocking, and the difficulty of cutting. This system, like other piece-rate systems, creates an incentive to rush and may require more supervision.

- 5) By formula. In Scandinavia, foresters have computer software that takes into account stocking, percent removal, average size of trees, difficult trees, slope, roughness of terrain, yarding distance, and performance requirements. While this sounds complicated, the forester can type in the numbers for these variables in a matter of minutes and come up with a per-cord payment system. The trick is to have an accurate formula based on real data about performance in all these situations. Such a formula has not been created for Maine, however.

I asked the respondents to choose which payment system (with incentive modifications if desired) would be most appropriate for the four logging situations. Finally, I left space where respondents could leave any comments. These comments, based on experience, were the most important part of the survey.

RESULTS OF THE SURVEY

The survey was sent to a small group of foresters and loggers who have experience doing higher-quality management. I was pleased to get nearly a dozen responses. The respondents included loggers, landowners, and foresters. Some were all three. They used all types of equipment ranging from horses to single-grip mechanized harvesters. They worked on small woodlots and ownerships in the thousands of acres.

Few of the respondents had experience with a formal incentive system, but most had recommendations ranging from logger performance bonds, long-term contracts, fines, and monetary incentives.

Except for payment by area, every payment system got an endorsement from some respondent for some situations. Managers of large areas (who could offer employment security) preferred straight payment by volume or weight, regardless of species or grade. Many of the other respondents suggested a variety of payment methods, depending on the wood and logging conditions.

INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

This was not intended as a scientific poll—the point was to get ideas and to learn from others' experience. While I was hoping to get strong guidance towards the "best" payment system, instead, the variety of responses led me to a different conclusion: the system is not as important as the result. When the logger and landowner come together to negotiate a price, the landowner needs to make sure that the logger does a high-quality job at a reasonable price. The logger needs to make sure he makes a living—regardless of what is cut and the conditions of the forest.

It is possible to tinker with all the methods to ensure the desired results:

- 1) Landowners can accept reduced stumpage payments to take into account the logging conditions and the extra efforts needed to reduce damage.

- 2) The straight-rate per volume could be modified based on logging costs and conditions.

- 3) Payment by hour could be modified with financial incentives and disincentives to encourage quality, productivity, and value.

- 4) Payment by area could be modified depending on the conditions and the quality of performance.

- 5) Payment formulas could be devised that assure that loggers can earn a living regardless of conditions.

This conclusion leads to others:

Loggers need to know their costs under different logging conditions.

Foresters need to accurately describe the wood and logging conditions. These should be a standard part of the cruise.

Loggers, foresters, and landowners need to negotiate a payment method based on the above information.

Regardless of the payment method, the results should be similar—otherwise someone will not get a fair deal.

For a landowner association, such as the Maine Low-Impact Forestry Project in Hancock County, it would be desirable to eventually come up with a single method that is less confusing. The association would benefit, however, even if multiple systems are used if landowners, loggers, and foresters keep careful records of costs, benefits, and general results. Such records would be crucial to a logger referral service. A logger with a good record and satisfied customers will be in demand and can get a better price.

Ultimately, all methods need to ensure that the logger makes a living wage and can pay for his machinery (or horse). If this is not the case, loggers will avoid low-impact logging contracts. The simplest method to achieve that result would be to pay for loggers and machinery by time with clear job requirements and incentives for excellent performance. Even with this system, the logger has to be able to calculate how much the machinery is worth per hour (or day).

The next challenge for the MLIFP is to come up with a work sheet to help loggers calculate their costs given their type of equipment, the type of wood to cut, and the logging conditions. This would enable clear negotiations with landowners, regardless of payment methods.

With Low-Impact Forestry, initial cuts are often of low-value wood, leaving the best quality trees behind to grow and fill the forest. Low-value wood often goes into chips to be turned into commodities, such as pulp. Mills have, through a variety of

IN RESPONSE TO OVERCUTTING IN MAINE, ARE LANDOWNERS CUTTING LIGHTER?

The US Forest Service has shown, and the Maine Forest Service (MFS) confirmed, that cut during the period 1982-1995 was greater than growth. The inventory declined. Cutting has not been sustainable.

According to statistics from the Maine Forest Service, the percentage of cuts that are clearcuts has gone down from 45% in 1989 to 6% in 1998 (see chart 1). One way of interpreting this is that landowners have been winding down the "salvage" cutting of spruce and fir in the wake of a major spruce budworm outbreak that ended in 1985. Also during the 1990s, there have been repeated attempts to regulate clearcuts. Landowners have gotten the message that they have to clearcut less. Finally, landowners are aware that past cutting was too heavy—many claim to have adjusted their cut levels to sustainable levels. Indeed, many of the big landowners have signed on to the "Sustainable Forestry Initiative." Considering this, one might assume that landowners are operating with a lighter touch on the land.

Although the Forest Practices Act (FPA) passed in 1989, harvest rules did not go into effect until 1991. The biggest drop in clearcutting (from 45% to 22%) happened between 1989 and 1990—after the definitions for clearcuts changed, but before the rules were implemented. At least some of the decrease in clearcutting could be explained by different terminology, rather than different practices.

Not all clearcuts, for example, remove all trees ("silvicultural clearcuts"). A "commercial clearcut" just removes all merchantable trees—leaving small trees, unwanted species, and culls. In 1989, The MFS reported that 65% of all clearcuts were "commercial clearcuts." Under the FPA, the Maine Forest Service now lists heavy cuts that leave more than 30 square feet of basal as "selection cuts," which is an intentional misuse of a silvicultural term. Foresters for the Maine Forest Service are fully aware that the proper term would be "partial cut," rather than "selection." True selection cuts aim to create an uneven-aged forest with stand improvement as the goal. Highgrading and diameter-limit cuts (where the logger cuts all trees over a given diameter) are not "selection" cuts. Also under the FPA, cuts that remove all merchantable trees but leave advanced regeneration are considered "shelterwood overstory removals" rather than clearcuts.

Before the passage of the FPA, MFS estimates of acreage cut were way off—many landowners did not report their cutting. The US Forest Service inventory of the Maine woods estimated that between 1982 and 1994 the average annual area cut was around 560,000 acres. In 1988, the MFS only reported 261,000 acres cut. In 1989, the number rose to 326,057 acres. During the 1990s, the figures have been above 400,000 acres—with the last few years being above 500,000 acres. One impact of the FPA is that more landowners are reporting acreage cut. Many of the landowners who did not report harvesting previously were woodlot owners who were not as prone to do clearcuts. So the acreage of "selection cuts" went up and the percentage of clearcuts went down even further.

Volume per acre. Because these classifications can be misleading, I decided to check the average volume per acre removal. Unfortunately, acreage earlier in the decade was underreported. Large landowners who did report tended to clearcut more than smaller landowners, so volume removals per acre earlier in the decade tended to be a little higher. Despite this, the evidence from MFS statistics does not show any major drop in the average intensity of cutting—notwithstanding the incredible drop in acreage and percentage of "clearcuts." (see chart 2)

Acres Cut by "Silvicultural" System 1990-1998

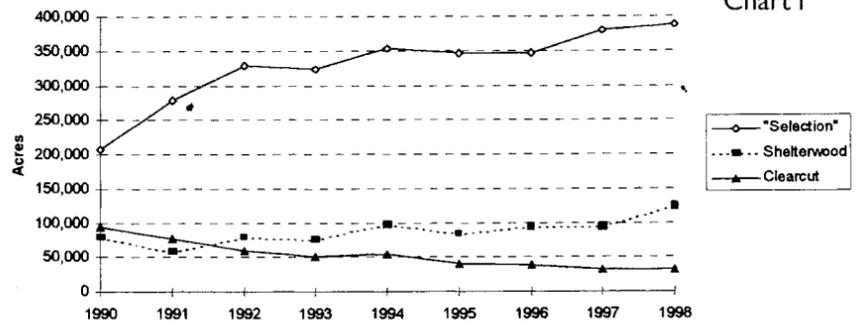


Chart I

% Clearcut vs. Vol/Acre Cut 1990-1997

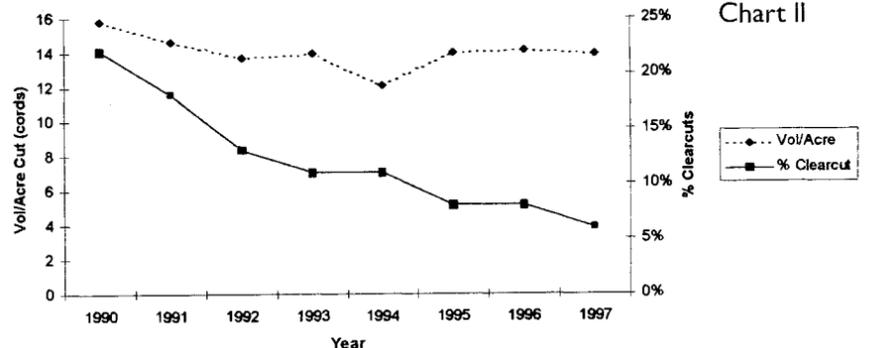


Chart II

Volume and Acreage Cut 1990-1997

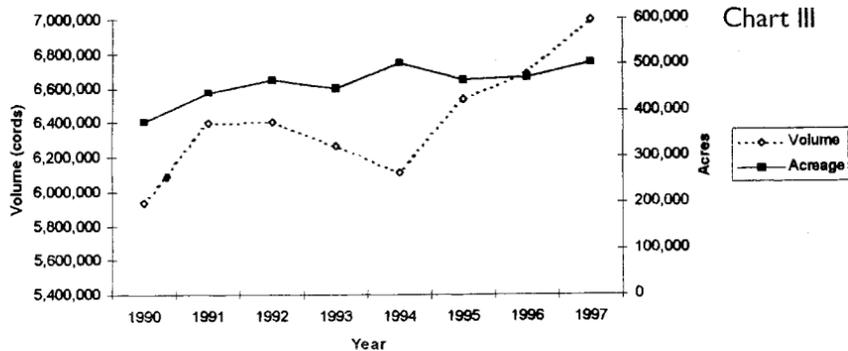


Chart III

Cut of HW and S-F 1960-1997 Sawlogs and Pulpwood

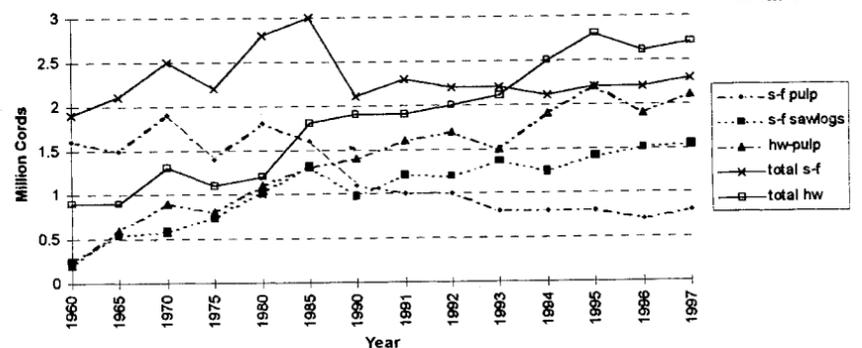


Chart IV

Continued from page 14

loggers, and foresters involved in managing such stands. This has created tensions when loggers or landowners feel shortchanged for their efforts.

When the wood is cheap, what produces it becomes cheap as well. This leads to cheapened forests, cheapened workers, and cheapened communities. A full cost accounting would lead to prices reflecting the cost of producing the product in a more sustainable way and giving adequate compensation to the producers. The economics of low-impact forestry will improve as the economic system is reformed.

SELECTED COMMENTS

The following are some of the comments from respondents:

•"Performance incentives would be a very positive addition to the equation. A payment system that takes into account all the variables involved in a harvest would be a sound point from which to negotiate a contract between logger and landowner. The gross price for a specific volume of wood (MBF, M lb,

cords, etc.) is information that the landowner, logger, and forester need to share openly. From this mill delivered price deductions are made by the parties involved based on mutually agreed on debits and credits from within a payment formula." (logger)

•"Have owners compete to hire the best logging crew—set a true market price for a logger." (forester)

•"Pay \$15/hour base plus XX/MBF to encourage production. Give 10% extra for minimizing stand damage" (forester)

•Payment by time "sounds like an employer/employee relationship. Therefore worker's compensation insurance is required under Maine law." (forester)

•"I have tried to explain to landowners the hidden costs of harvesting. A higher bid does not guarantee a good job. That is why it is important to view past jobs of contractors or to get references." (forester)

•"Stumpage prices as a % of mill delivered would encourage utilization. Hourly pay to loggers would allow them the time to do a good job. An additional incentive based on some measurable unit could be

added. E.g., a (?)% bonus if (?) % or less of the residual stand has damage smaller than a credit card." (forester)

•"I used to get good results for owners and loggers when the logger was hired to land product roadside and was paid by owner (usually a farmer) by the day....I have used bonus incentives and penalties in many of my contracts over the years...(one) incentive was land base (opportunity for long-term work). Stumpage prices were negotiated every year and were based on a percentage of mill price. No bonus." (forester)

•"How do you make 'stewardship contracts' (right of first refusal for other cuts) legally binding to control forgetful landowners?" (forester)•"I require loggers to control/limit residual damage to less than 10% — that is a contract requirement just like putting water bars in. Good work means job security and a returned performance bond. Bonuses are only paid for active marketing; then on a % basis. Performance bond would balance logger's short-term interest with landowner's long-term interest." (forester)

ROADLESS AREAS IN WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST MERIT FURTHER PROTECTION

LACONIA, N.H.— (Sept. 9, 1999) Citing a Forest Service survey in which 94 percent of New Englanders polled agreed that 'the remaining undisturbed forests on the White Mountain National Forest should be protected', three of the region's leading conservation organizations today released a report calling for the protection of WMNF roadless areas under the new National Forest Management Plan.

The Wilderness Society, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the Conservation Law Foundation released a joint publication identifying 16 road-

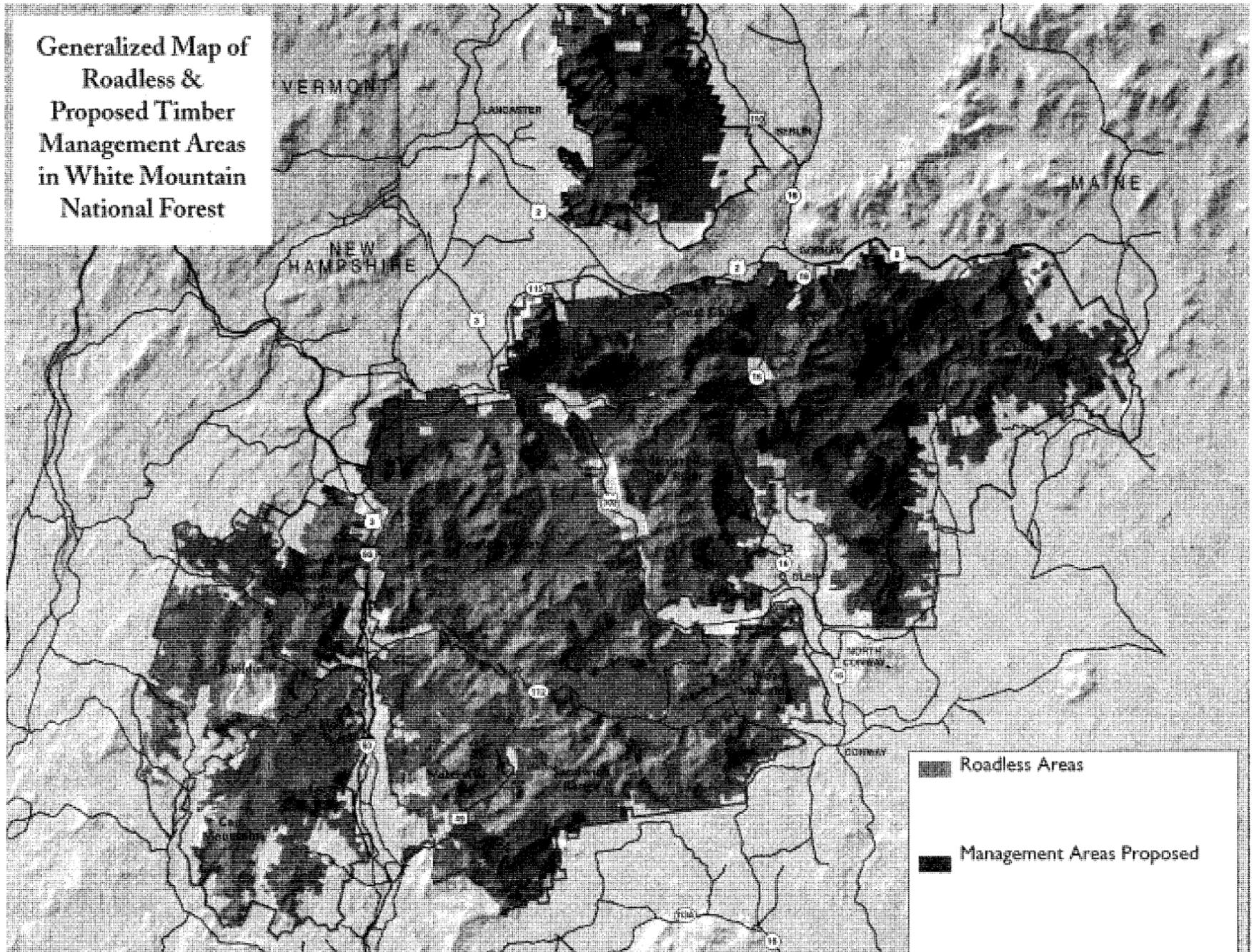
"The best bet for protecting large blocks of remote, forested backcountry in New Hampshire is in the White Mountain National Forest," says Julie Wormser, Northeast Regional Associate for The Wilderness Society. "With increased urban sprawl to the south in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and intensive timber harvesting and massive land sales to the north, the Whites are becoming an island in a rapidly shifting sea of land use."

The proposal would provide the following public benefits:

In late 1998, the U.S. Forest Service commissioned a survey of New England residents to gauge their opinions on the management of the White Mountain National Forest and found that 94 percent of those polled supported protecting roadless areas in the WMNF. These findings were supported by a recent nationwide poll commissioned by The Wilderness Society, the Heritage Forests Campaign, and the National Audubon Society in which 63 percent of Americans favored protection of roadless areas of 1,000 acres or more in all national forests,

White Mountain National Forest, reducing the timber base from 45 percent to about 30 percent. Road-building and logging are already restricted on 80 percent of the identified roadless areas, and conservationists in the three organizations believe these critically important areas can be protected without significantly reducing the volume of timber harvesting in the WMNF. The national forest currently supplies approximately four percent of the annual timber volume harvested in New Hampshire.

The proposal supports the contin-



less areas across the 781,000-acre White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) that deserve greater protection. The areas range from just under 5,000 acres to over 120,000 acres in size, and with few exceptions, are located at least 1 mile from existing roads.

The document, titled Mountain Treasures: Roadless Areas in the White Mountain National Forest, is intended to help foster public discussion of roadless area management as the public planning process for the next WMNF Management Plan begins again this fall. That plan, which will be shaped by public input, will guide forest uses over the next decade or more.

- Watershed protection
- Preservation of habitat attractive to large and elusive wildlife, such as Canada lynx, that prefer large, unroaded areas
- Opportunity for remote recreation experiences
- Benchmark lands for comparison with modern forest management practices
- The spiritual renewal that mature, remote landscapes can provide for people who venture into them
- The eventual ecosystem-wide benefits of old-growth forest;
- Continued management of the WMNF as a multiple-use forest with a wide range of traditional uses.

while just six percent said too much has already been protected. Protection of roadless areas has also been embraced by the Clinton Administration, which last February imposed an 18-month moratorium on road building in roadless areas on most national forests. Forest Service Chief Michael Dombeck was quoted in the September 6, 1999 issue of Newsweek that "the concern that drives him", he says, is how we can "maintain the large unfragmented tracts of land within the national forests."

Protecting the areas described in Mountain Treasures would require a shift in land-use classification—from timber management to non-timber management—on 15 percent of the

ued management of the WMNF as a multiple-use forest, in which recreation, timber harvesting, wildlife habitat and wilderness management and watershed protection co-exist.

"As much as anything, our 'Mountain Treasures' proposal is about balance," says Appalachian Mountain Club Deputy Director Walter Graff of Randolph, N.H. "There are very few places in the Northeast where you can let forests grow to old age, and where people, wildlife—indeed, whole ecosystems—can reap the benefits. Public land is an appropriate place for this to happen, and this proposal helps the national forest provide the region with a unique mix of large roadless areas and a viable timber program."

Connecting Wildlife Habitat between Algonquin Park, Ontario and the Adirondack Park

Prepared by Peter Quinby(1),(3), Steve Trombulak (2), Thomas Lee (3), Jeff Lane(2), Michael Henry(3), Robert Long(4), and Paula MacKay(4)

1 University of Pittsburgh, Johnstown, Pennsylvania 2 Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont 3 Ancient Forest Exploration & Research, Toronto and Powassan, Ontario prepared for 4 The Greater Laurentian Wildlands Project South Burlington, Vermont July 1999

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Wildlands Project (TWP) seeks to help minimize nature's short-term losses while working toward the long-term recovery of the natural landscape. Founded in 1992, TWP's mission is to help protect and restore the ecological richness and native biodiversity of North America through the design and implementation of a connected system of reserves. This report integrates the results of two studies designed to identify the most suitable wildlife habitat corridor between Algonquin Park in Ontario and the Adirondack Park in New York State – a region known as the Frontenac Link.

Given that it was impractical to assess the habitat requirements of all species native to the study area, we evaluated the region in terms of its ability to fulfill the habitat needs of a single umbrella species – the eastern timber wolf (*Canis lupus lycaon*). A top carnivore, the wolf is a wide-ranging, habitat generalist that requires extensive areas of forested habitat for movement and foraging. Providing for the habitat requirements of the eastern timber wolf, therefore, will protect many other species with smaller, more restricted area and habitat needs. In addition, restoring functional connectivity between Algonquin, which currently supports wolves, and the Adirondacks, where potential wolf habitat has been identified, may facilitate future recolonization of the timber wolf throughout its former range.

Habitat suitability comprises habitat productivity (food resources) and habitat security (safety). For many of the larger carnivores, and especially habitat generalists like the wolf, habitat security is often a function of road and human density. It is important to note that this study primarily addresses habitat security, and is not a fine-scale habitat suitability analysis. Further examination of prey density would be necessary to analyze habitat suitability for wolves in the Frontenac Link.

Because road and human densities are high in many parts of our study area, recent attempts to identify a continuous linear area suitable as wolf habitat in this region have failed (see 4.4). This study, in contrast, attempts to answer the question: If wolves were to attempt dispersal between the Adirondacks and Algonquin Park, what would be their path of least resistance? This is an important question, especially when prioritizing protection and restoration efforts in developed landscapes.

The Priority Conservation Corridor was identified by developing a number of descriptive models and using geographic information systems (GIS) analyses. The models were used to assess and integrate variables that have been shown to influence the integrity and movement of wolf populations, including road density, pres-

"Forests on private land aren't likely to be given a chance to mature to old age because the economic pressures on owners to harvest and develop are too great," says Nancy L. Girard of the Conservation Law Foundation. "It is important that a significant amount of land be set aside to allow forests to grow to ecological maturity, and the national forest, as land that belongs to all of us, is an appropriate place to do that."

The report notes that the WMNF is one of the few places in the Northeast where such land management would be possible; the three other large public ownerships in the region are Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest, New York's Adirondack State Park, and Maine's Baxter State Park.

Others with interests in the national forest say the roadless area document will serve as a valuable tool as the forest planning process proceeds.

"As people get re-engaged in discussing Forest

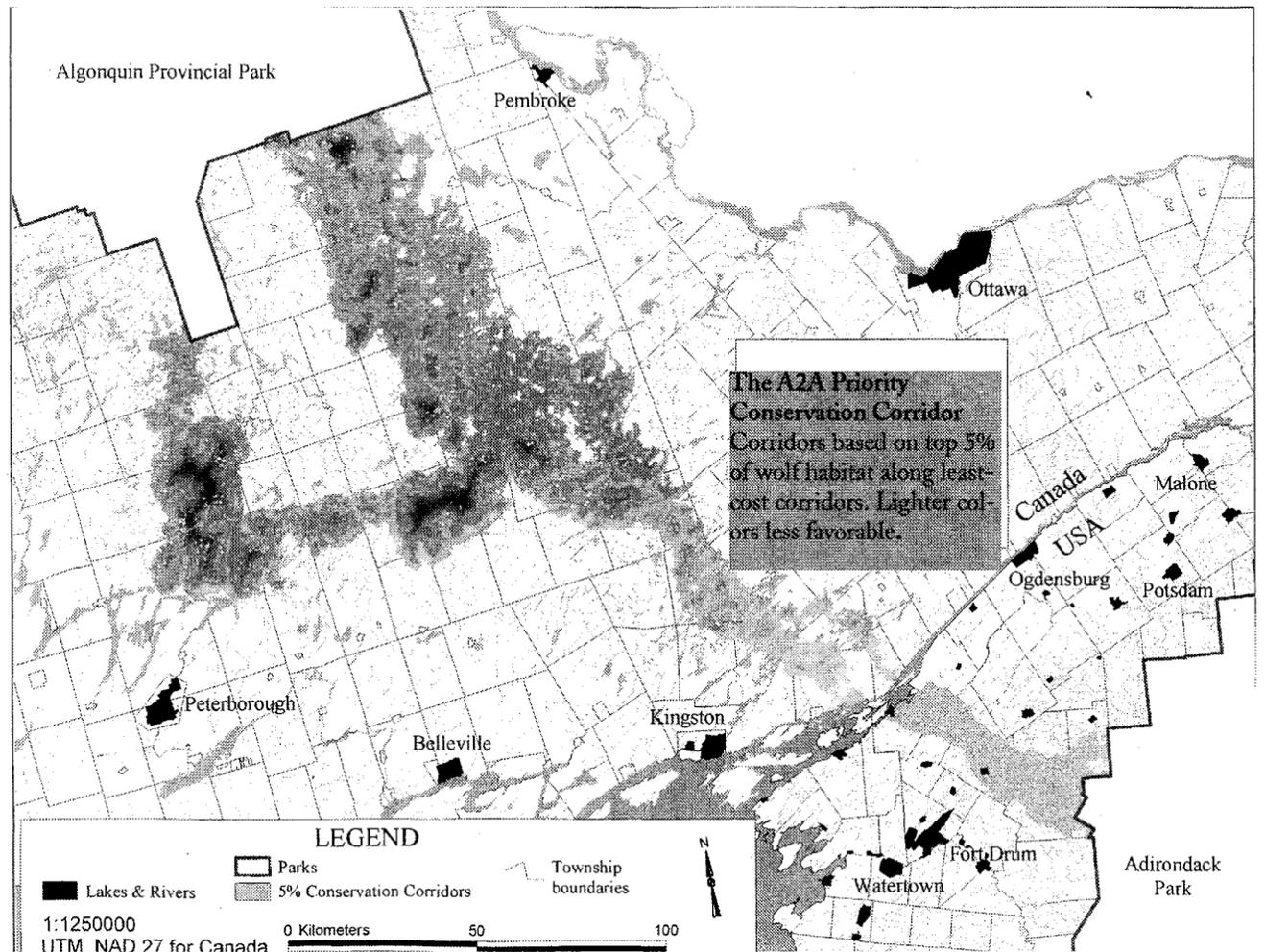
plan revision issues, this kind of information greatly helps focus the dialogue on critical issues," said Donna Hepp, Supervisor of the White Mountain National Forest. "We sincerely appreciate the willingness of The Wilderness Society, Appalachian Mountain Club and Conservation Law Foundation to enter into those discussions with all interests to seek common ground."

Phil Bryce, Director of the New Hampshire Division of Forests & Lands, said the proposal recognizes the importance of multiple use on public lands, focusing on one set of values. "While I do not agree with some of the basic premises in Mountain Treasures, the report gives us an important perspective in determining a balance of uses on the largest single ownership in the state. How this will play out in contrast to other values we expect from the White Mountain National Forest, such as wood products and motorized recreation, is what the upcoming forest planning process is all about."

"We know very little about wildlife in undisturbed forests—because there are so few undisturbed areas left," said Richard Moore, President of the Audubon Society of New Hampshire. "We look forward to learning more, and we welcome the discussion about increasing and connecting roadless areas on the White Mountain National Forest."

"Sprawl is a growing quality-of-life issue for many New Englanders," concluded Wormser. Here, on the other hand, is an outstanding opportunity, where, with one decisive policy decision, we can protect a significant block of remote, wild forestlands to balance the other 90-plus percent of New Hampshire open for forest management and development."

CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Julie Wormser, The Wilderness Society (617) 350-8866
Walter Graff, Appalachian Mountain Club (603) 466-2721, ext. 194
Nancy L. Girard Conservation Law Foundation (603) 225-3060, ext. 22



ence of major roads, population density, land use and proximity to water. Raster-based path analysis techniques were then used to identify the most favorable paths between the parks and to assign path widths by evaluating the relative "cost" of moving any distance from the path.

By qualitatively evaluating various width corridors, we determined that the top 5% of cells identified along the best single cell path provide a better corridor design than those based on smaller or larger percentages. This model minimizes bottlenecks in northwestern New York and provides a continuous corridor throughout the remainder of the study area. The New York 5% corridor has a road density of 0.31 km/km², which is well below the threshold for suitable wolf habitat (0.70 km/km²). Thus, this model, with an area of 977 km², was chosen as the New York Priority Conservation Corridor. This Corridor provides equal or overrepresentation for most natural aquatic ecosystems present in the study area, but underrepresents many of the less common plant community types in the region. Using the 5% level and similar but slightly different methods, we also identified a Priority Conservation Corridor for the Ontario study area, with an area of 7,622 km². The highest quality wolf habitat within the overall study area is located in the northern half of the Ontario Priority Conservation Corridor.

Based on our criteria, the Priority Conservation Corridor is the least degraded, continuous corridor linking the Adirondack Park with Algonquin Park, and allows managers, landowners, educators, municipalities, and land trusts to focus land protection strategies where they are most likely to benefit biodiversity.

NOTE: Copies of the full report are available for \$7.00 through the Greater Laurentian Wildlands Project, 4 Laurel Hill Drive, South Burlington, VT 05403.

Keep the Promise: Honor Joseph Battell's Wildlands Legacy

By Jim Northup

Over his lifetime, Joseph Battell—turn-of-the-century philanthropist, naturalist, writer, Vermont legislator, Morgan horse enthusiast, and owner of the Bread Loaf Inn—amassed a personal fortune that included over 30,000 acres of forest land in Vermont. He bought much of these lands, some virgin forests, to protect them from the “timber butchers, lumber merchants and firebugs.” At the end of his life, he deeded or willed these lands to his native state of Vermont, his alma mater Middlebury College and to the United States Government so that they could be held in trust forever and managed as wild forests available for the public to enjoy.



The story of Joseph Battell's intended—and partially circumvented—wildlands philanthropy is a rich and complex one that is still unfolding in the hills of Vermont. His unorthodox desire “to preserve considerable tracts of mountain forests in their original and primeval condition” perplexed many people, including the trustees of his estate. After all, the norm at the turn of the last century was widespread clearcutting and deforestation. Because people could not fully grasp the ecological, economic and social benefits of wild forests, some found ways to interpret Battell's will to allow logging and development, in direct contradiction to his wishes, on much of the land he once owned.

Battell divided his lands legacy into three main pieces: (1) 1200 acres, including the summit of Camel's Hump, were donated by deed to the State of Vermont; (2) over 25,000 acres surrounding the Bread Loaf Inn and the Inn itself were left in his will to Middlebury College; and (3) about 5000 acres on the ridge from Mount Ellen to Mount Abraham were willed to the United States Government for a National Park. Since the United States Government declined Battell's gift, this piece of wild land went also to Middlebury College. The college eventually sold almost all of Battell's forest land to the United States Forest Service (USFS) for inclusion in the Green Mountain National Forest.

The State of Vermont kept its promise to Battell by passing legislation in 1969 that protects the summit of Camel's as forever wild; Battell would be pleased. Middlebury College kept its promise to Battell by passing

a resolution on May 8, 1999 that protects as forever wild several hundred acres of Battell's former forest land that it still owns. The USFS, current owner of the lion's share of Battell's wildlands legacy, has not yet kept its promise to Battell. The federal agency has logged the old-growth forests, clearcut large sections of mountainside, and allowed intensive ski area development on the land that Battell intended to be forever wild.

The language of Battell's last will and testament is impressive in its clarity of purpose and its straightforward directives to the trustees overseeing his charitable gifts. Battell said he wanted “. . . preservation of a considerable tract of mountain forest in its virgin and primeval state. . . in trust forever. . . neither to cut nor permit to be cut thereon any trees whatsoever. . . it being a principal object of this devise to preserve intact said wild lands. . . and. . . considerable tracts of mountain forests . . . in their original and primeval condition. . .” Unfortunately, the interpretation and execution of Battell's last wishes were anything but straightforward.

After much deliberation and debate, the will's interpreters concluded in the 1920s that Battell desired to heavily restrict—but not eliminate—logging on most of the land. They assumed that if the forests were left uncut then insects and disease and fire would surely destroy them, along with Battell's wish to keep them intact. They even concluded that logging some of the old growth was necessary. Their interpretation is difficult for us to fathom given the clear and plain meaning of the language in the will. They, unlike Battell, were conceptually shackled by the culture and conventional wisdom of the times. Both culture and knowledge have changed and we now know, as Battell did, that wild forests are essential to our spirits and planet and they do just fine without logging.

In response to economic hard times, Middlebury College decided to sell almost 20,000 acres of the Battell land to the USFS in the 1930s and another 10,000 acres to the agency in the 1950s. The land was sold to the USFS conditioned by the public charitable trust created by Battell's will. Over the years, the federal agency lost sight of its duties as trustee and developed and heavily logged much of the land once owned by Battell. The Sugarbush Ski Area, under lease

from the USFS, covers most of the east side and portions of the summit of the ridge that Battell wished to be preserved in its “original and primeval condition” as a national park. The scars of large clearcuts are still visible on the western flank of that ridge and elsewhere on the former Battell land.

In keeping with his last wishes, but not in direct response to them, the vast tract Battell owned along Bread Loaf Mountain is protected from logging and development by the 1984 Vermont Wilderness Bill's designation of the 22,000-acre Bread Loaf Wilderness. In stark contrast to his wishes, most of the rest of the land he once owned, including the 10,000 or so acres of “. . . wild lands in. . . Hancock, Rochester and Goshen,” is now being managed by the USFS for timber production. This can and must change. The United States government should keep the promise it made to Battell when it became trustee overseeing the forests that Joseph Battell intended to remain forever wild. Logging these lands must cease; ecological restoration must begin.

Congress should designate as Wilderness the area of the Green Mountain National Forest that Battell wished most to be forever wild—the rugged mountains in Hancock, Rochester and Goshen that he so loved—plus any adjoining land that would add to the new Wilderness area's ecological integrity. This fitting act would properly honor the memory of Joseph Battell, would gratefully acknowledge his priceless charitable gifts to the nation, and would officially commemorate his once and future vision of “consider-



able tracts of mountain forests in their original and primeval condition.”

This article is excerpted from “Joseph Battell: Once and Future Wildland Philanthropist,” Wild Earth Journal, Vol. 8, No. 2, Summer, 1999, (802) 434-4077. Author Jim Northup is Executive Director of Forest Watch, 10 Langdon St., Montpelier, VT 05602; (802) 223-3216, [www.forest-watch.org] and former planner on the Green Mountain National Forest. Reprints of the full article are available from Forest Watch.

Saddleback Mountain—The Truth About Eminent Domain

It amazes me how much mileage the Breen family, which owns Saddleback Ski Area, continues to get out of their assertion that the federal government can't take more than 330 acres of land by eminent domain from Saddleback Ski Area for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Since it's possible I am the only person in the entire state of Maine who has bothered to look at the Congressional legislative history to see if the Breens' claim holds up, I guess I'd better share my research for the record. Here goes:

In the beginning, in 1968, Congress passed the National Trails System Act. The law provided that "condemnation proceedings may not be utilized to acquire fee title or lesser interests to more than twenty-five acres in any one mile and when used, such authority shall be limited to the most direct or practicable connecting trail right-of-way." (P.L. 90-543, Sec. 7(g), Oct. 2, 1968, emphasis added.)

In 1978, Congress amended the law to eliminate that language and replace it with language that remains in place today. It did so because in the intervening years from 1968 to 1977, Congress found that experience with the trail demonstrated that additional authority was needed "to insure the acquisition of a corridor sufficient to protect trail values." (Senate Report No. 95-636, Feb. 10, 1978, page 4.) According to Senator Mathias, the 1968 law's limitation in right-of-way acquisition "has resulted in incompatible development within sight and earshot of the trail." (Congressional Record - Senate, p. 27945, Sept. 7, 1977.)

After a thorough search, I found nothing in the 1978 amendments or their legislative history to support Saddleback's oft-stated position that the Park Service can take a maximum of a 1,000-foot corridor, or 125 acres in any one mile. The "125 acres in any one mile" language was present in an earlier Senate version of the bill (Congressional Record - Senate, p. 27845, Sept. 7, 1977), but that language was dropped and never made it into law.

Instead, both bodies of Congress and President Carter in 1978 opted for more expansive language that totally eliminated the 1968 law's limitation on the amount of acreage that could be taken in any one mile. On March 21, 1978, the amendments to the National Trail Systems Act became law, stating that "condemnation proceedings may not be utilized to acquire fee title or lesser interests of more than an average of one hundred and twenty-five acres per mile." (P.L. 95-248, Sec. (4), Mar. 21, 1978.) The limitation of the use of condemnation to the most direct or practicable connecting trail right-of-way was also dropped.

To avoid any confusion or ambiguity as to what the changes really meant, Congressman Sebelius, who helped create the 1978 amendments, stood up on the floor of the House to speak before the House vote. He made clear that the new language meant more than just an expansion of trail acquisition from 25 acres per mile to 125 acres per mile. He emphasized that the language expands the acquisition authority for condemnation from the current maximum of 25 acres in any one mile; to a maximum of not to exceed an average of 125 acres

per mile for the length of the trail. Thus, not only is the average width expanded, but the limitation of a certain amount per any one mile is replaced by a limitation of a width which cannot exceed an average of a certain width over the entire length of the trail. Moreover, the feature of the 1968 law requiring that any condemned right-of-way be only by the most direct or practicable connecting route is removed.

(Congressional Record - House, p. 34991, Oct. 25, 1977, emphasis added.) The removal of language referring to "the most direct or practicable connecting trail right-of-way" allows condemnation of adjacent lands away from the trail in order to protect trail values.

Language concerning a 1,000-foot corridor does not appear anywhere in the law, but was one interpretation posited by a Congressman who never implied that it was a maximum corridor width ("I also endorse the provisions in the bill widening the potential trail corridor to 1,000 feet..." (Congressional Record - House, p. 34992, Oct. 25, 1977).)

That about sums it up for the Appalachian Trail and eminent domain.

I've also read the proposed "Donation Warranty Deed," so-called. It's not a warranty deed at all. It's a release of an interest in land giving a right of passage and a right to maintain the trail, something that already has been done for over 50 years. It contains so many reserved development rights that for protecting the scenic and remote values of the trail, it's worthless.

I think I have the Breens figured out. They're just like the rest of us and hate to pay taxes. The only difference is that the Breens went so far as to buy an entire ski resort so they could run it at a loss as a write-off against their more profitable enterprises. Their disdain for paying taxes would also explain their donation offer to the Park Service: by giving a "donation," of an easement or interest in land to the government, the Breens can take advantage of another tax write-off. Perhaps the write-off would go to help offset the capital gains tax they expect they'll have to pay from selling the ski area for 15 million dollars. Keep in mind that if the Breens were actually to sell land for the Appalachian Trail corridor instead of making a "donation", they would have to pay taxes on the proceeds. That would mean giving some of their money right back to the federal government (that despicable entity)! Perish the thought. The issue then is, will the IRS really consider the Breen's proposed "donation" to be a qualified conservation easement, given that it does not protect the Appalachian Trail from ski development? I don't think so.

The only advice I have for the Breens is to get a second legal opinion before spending another million on legal fees fighting the National Park Service in an eminent domain proceeding. My legal research tells me that they may not be getting good advice on either the eminent domain question or the tax write-off.

Northern Forest Needs LWCF

In 1964 Congress promised the American people that \$900 million dollars of offshore oil and gas leases would be returned to the public through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This program, commonly known as LWCF, was to provide funding for outdoor recreation and conservation spaces. Wild areas from Denali to the Everglades have benefited from LWCF. Hardly a national park, wildlife refuge, or forest has not used LWCF money. The list does not end here however. Most state conservation projects, like Camel's Hump State Park, Franconia Notch State Park, and the Bigelow Preserve, and many municipal parks and recreation projects, have also used LWCF to make land available to the public.

Unfortunately, Congress hasn't been very diligent in using LWCF for its intended purpose. Recent years have seen as much as 85% of LWCF go to projects unrelated to outdoor recreation and

conservation. Many feel however that this is the year that we can put an end to this. Several bills are being discussed to permanently and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Of vital importance to the Northern Forest states is a measure to allow for a 'flexible-funding' component which will allow our states, who don't benefit too much from the current population and federal lands based formulas, extra money for large scale conservation projects.

Please write to your Senators and Representatives and ask them to work to pass a fully, permanently, and flexibly funded LWCF-THIS YEAR. Some influential lawmakers are trying to sneak in language that would increase offshore oil drilling into the final LWCF bill- make it clear to your delegation that this is not acceptable.

For more information contact Matteo Burani at the Northern Forest Alliance. (802)434-4300, mburani@nfainfo.org.

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

CHAMPION LANDS OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

On August 2, 1999 some of the recently acquired Champion lands were opened for public use. In New York the Champion lands included purchases of over 70 miles of wild river corridors. All of the rivers have been outfitted with put-ins, take-outs, good signs, parking areas, and portages by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). These lands will all be added to the Forest Preserve. The DEC is honoring the last year of 3-year leases hunting clubs had with Champion set to expire in 2000. There will be no public hunting, camping or fishing allowed until next year. Canoe routes are opened for day use only and people can hike within a half mile of the rivers as well. Starting in August 2000, full public recreational use will be established for the Champion lands. The State of New York acquired 29,000 in fee title for the Forest Preserve and 110,000 acres in conservation easements.

STATUS OF CONSERVATION EASEMENTS IN THE ADIRONDACKS

Prior to the Champion deal, the State of New York owned approximately 142,000 acres in conservation easements across the Adirondacks. Each easement is different. In some areas the state owns recreation and development rights; in others simply development rights. With some landowners, forest management conditions are part of the easements, in others there is no mention of forest management. Purchase of the Champion conservation easement brings the total to nearly 250,000 acres. On average, the State of New York pays \$6 per acre in local taxes on each acre where it owns a conservation easement.

CLASSIFICATION HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR LITTLE TUPPER LAKE

The Adirondack Park Agency has scheduled public hearings for the William C. Whitney Area, which includes Little Tupper Lake. The APA is not making a formal recommendation for classification, but will take public comments on a range of options, everything from Wild Forest, Canoe Area, Primitive Area, and Wilderness classifications. Under the APA's Land Use and Development Plan, all of the Forest Preserve lands, as well as all the private lands, in the Adirondack Park were zoned. The Forest Preserve has a range of smaller, generally administrative classifications such as historic and administrative use. These are largely for state campground areas and historic structures. Most of the Forest Preserve is either Wilderness or Wild Forest. Wilderness is the strictest classification. It requires contiguous tracts of over 10,000 acres, no roads, no cabins, limited inholdings. Mountain bikes and snowmobiles are prohibited on trails in Wilderness Areas, but allowed in Wild Forest. DEC administrative use with motor vehicles is prohibited excepts for emergencies. Wild Forest Areas include roads (about 240 miles of roads crisscross these areas), administrative buildings, snowmobile

trails, and other structures such as firetowers.

Primitive Areas are those that are essentially to be managed as Wilderness, but are either less than 10,000 acres, such as the Lake Lila Tract, or have "non-conforming uses" like roads (deeded rights-of-ways to inholdings or other private lands) or railroads that pass through them. Canoe Areas are essentially to be managed as Wilderness, but have roads used for administrative programs, such as fisheries management. There is only one Canoe Area in the Adirondacks, the St. Regis Canoe Area, a pond-hoppers paradise with more than 30 lakes and ponds. The Canoe Area classification could be used in other areas, and like Wilderness Areas, lures visitors by its name.

The William C. Whitney Area is 14,800 acres. Few dispute that the 80-acre former Whitney Headquarters should be classified as Administrative Use. This is the main launching area and public parking area. This compound includes a number of buildings that house rangers, and seasonal work staff, generators, educational buildings, and equipment. The remaining 14,800 acres tract, which includes Little Tupper Lake and a dozen other lakes and ponds, will draw much attention in the weeks ahead.

The tract should be classified as Wilderness. Many will claim that somehow Wilderness "locks up" the property and discourages public use. The Whitney tract has been managed under interim guidelines as a Wilderness Area since it opened to the public in June 1998. Since then over 8,500 people have visited the tract, some of the highest use outside the High Peaks area. 8,500 people can't be wrong: this land is highly accessible. Further, only a Wilderness classification ensures that motor vehicles will be prohibited from the property. Little Tupper Lake is 14 miles long. It connects to Rock Lake and via portages through a half dozen smaller lakes and ponds, it connects to Lake Lila (which connects via the Beaver River to the Stillwater Reservoir). Motorized use of water craft would destroy one of the best flatwater canoe areas in the East. Motorized access to some of the interior lakes and ponds would destroy the character of these places. Only Wilderness provides the level of stewardship necessary to protect the tract's natural resources as well as provide solitude and tranquillity that visitors desire. The overwhelming majority of Adirondack lakes are overrun with jetskis and cigarette boats and water skiers. There are only a handful of big lakes in the Adirondacks, Lake Lila and Little Tupper Lake among them, where an uninterrupted flatwater wilderness canoe experience can be pursued.

Northern Forest Forum readers are encouraged by this writer to send your public comment to the Adirondack Park Agency calling for the William C. Whitney Area to be classified as Wilderness. All comments should be directed to John Banta, Adirondack

Park Agency, P.O. Box 99, Ray Brook, NY 12977 and be mailed prior to October 15, 1999.

NEW YORK ACID RAIN FIASCO

Think acid rain is a non-partisan issue? Think again. For the last three years bills to prevent New York utilities from selling excess pollution credits to utilities upwind of New York and the Adirondacks have been introduced in both houses of the Legislature and passed in the Assembly. In New York, our state Senate is led by a solid Republican majority and the re-election rate for all Senators is about 99.9%. The Assembly is led by an even more solid Democrat majority and the re-election rate is about 99.9%. Reformers always put out that more incumbents have left office in Albany due to indictments and convictions than loss at the polls.

This past spring, the Assembly and Senate put in similar though different bills to prevent New York utilities from selling credits upwind of the Adirondacks. In the past two years, the Assembly has passed bills and then beat up on the Senate for failing to take action. Governor Pataki is hostile to this bill; he's close to the New York utility industries lobby. Senate Majority Leader, Joe Bruno, is even more hostile to this bill; he's even closer to the utility industries lobby. The bills introduced this year differed only insofar as the Senate version waited three years before it became law; exempted utilities from this law if the enacted "restrictive covenants" of their own to accomplish the same objective; created a tracking mechanism so that pollution credits sold by New York utilities are tracked throughout their lifetimes, well past the initial trade or purchase.

Under duress in the last hours of the Legislative session, the Senate passed this bill by unanimous consent. Grassroots organizing made this a must-do bill for a number of Senators despite vigorous opposition from the Majority Leader and Governor. The Assembly had passed its version earlier in the spring and quickly called for a conference committee to reconcile the two bills. The Senate leadership refused to name a conference committee to reconcile the bill, they remained hostile to the bill and preferred that it didn't become law, leaving the only option before the Assembly to pass the Senate bill and send it on to the Governor. The Assembly chose not to do this. Rather it has put politics in front of good policy. Frowning on passing the Senate bill, its leaders have stated that they have the better bill, while privately griping about "not giving away" this hill to the Republicans, the Assembly has done nothing. The Assembly Speaker is said to be contemplating a week-long session in September and this remains the last hope to see this bill become law.

If this bill is passed by the Assembly the Governor will have to sign it into law. This would send a powerful message to Washington that the states will begin to take unilateral actions to force modifications of the 1990 Clean Air Act, Title IV of which deals with acid rain. This should boost efforts reform the Clean Air Act acid rain program. A recent report to Congress reported that despite sulfur emission reductions nationwide accomplished through the Clean Air Act, acid rain remains a growing national problem, from the Front Range in Colorado, to southern California forests, throughout the Appalachian uplift, including decimating trout streams in Virginia, and mountain ecosystems in North Carolina. Acid Rain was also pinpointed as the leading single contributor of nitrogen in East Coast estuaries, from the Chesapeake through Narragansett Bay. And, of course throughout the Adirondacks, White Mountains, and Green Mountains acid rain damage is widespread.

Peter Bauer is the executive director of the Residents' Committee to Protect the Adirondacks. he can be reached at PO Box 27, North Creek, 12853, (518) 251-4257.

NYS Attorney General to Sue Acid Rain Offenders

(Press Release of the Adirondack Council)

ALBANY—September 15—The Adirondack Council today praised NYS Attorney General Spitzer for announcing his intent to bring legal action against individual utility companies whose emissions appear to have violated federal clean air standards and contributed to the Adirondack Park's acid rain problems.

"The Attorney General's actions couldn't come at a better time," said Adirondack Council executive director Timothy J. Burke. "Aside from forcing these companies to be more responsible toward the health and well-being of their neighbors downwind, the suits should act as a wake-up call to Congress. We need Congress to take note of the fact that it can solve this problem in one stroke with new legislation curbing both sulfur and nitrogen emissions. Otherwise, New York is prepared to engage in a long and expensive legal battle that pits one region of the country against another.

"We are talking about the survival of mountain ecosystems from Maine to Florida, as well as Colorado and California," Burke said. "In the Adirondacks alone, more than 500 lakes and ponds have become too acidic to support native life because of acid rain. Within 40 years, the number will more than double, unless new emissions restrictions are enacted. Up and down the East Coast forests are dying, waters are being poisoned, wildlife is being sickened and killed—all because the current limits on emissions are too weak to protect us from the coal-fired smokestacks of the Midwest."

In his announcement, the Attorney General said he intended to sue 17 separate coal-fired power plants in Ohio, Indiana, Virginia, Kentucky and West Virginia. The action is essentially a citizens' suit brought by the people of the State of New York, alleging that the plants should be following stricter emissions standards. Because they were extensively renovated, they should be required to follow the standards for newer plants, not the standards for older plants. Older plants are exempted from certain requirements of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments because the owners argued that they would be shut down soon and that investing in emissions reduction equipment that would be used only briefly would be a waste of money. Because the plants identified in the legal papers were renovated, their life expectancy is now much longer.

The Adirondack Council is an 18,000-member, privately funded, not-for-profit organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing the natural character and human communities of the Adirondack Park through research, education, advocacy and legal action.

MORE ON ALUMINUM, MERCURY, CALCIUM & ACID RAIN

Last spring a federal study was released that demonstrated widespread soil calcium depletion in the soils of eastern forests. Research was conducted by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), several universities, the US Forest Service and the Institute for Ecosystem Studies. Researchers identified a new mechanism by which aluminum in the soil, released from the mineral layers by acid rain, is transported upward through the soil, displacing calcium. Timber harvesting may add to calcium depletion stress in forests. Research focussed on sugar maple and red spruce forest. USGS Water Resources Report 98-4267 is allegedly available on the internet at <http://bqs.usgs.gov/acidrain> or through the USGS Troy, NY office 12180 tel. # 518-285-5602.

Vermont research on Mt. Mansfield conducted by the Vermont Forest Ecosystem, Monitoring Project is looking at mercury accumulation in the forest ecosystem from direct atmospheric deposition. Mercury derived from Midwestern coal-fired power plants has long been considered a risk to aquatic ecosystems; its accumulation in soils is a disturbing development.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. recently had an op-ed piece in The New York Times (September 18) on the subject of mercury contamination in Catskill fish. Kennedy called for Congress to close the Clean Air Act loophole allowing older Midwest plants to emit mercury by passing legislation "sponsored by Democratic (sic) Senators James Jeffords and Joseph Lieberman."

Coastal Waters Watch

REFORESTING ATLANTIS

THE GEORGES BANK NATIONAL MONUMENT & THE HIGH ATLANTIS INTERNATIONAL PEACE PARK

Designation of the Georges Bank/Gulf of Maine National Monument will establish a ten mile wide band of marine wilderness extending along the 250 mile length of the Hague Line, the US/Canada offshore border across the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank.

Combined with a similar Marine Protected Area already under consideration on the Canadian side of Georges Bank, the GB/GOM National Monument will be the US half of the 5,000 square mile High Atlantis International Peace Park, providing joint protection and restoration of extensive northern coral forests, other natural benthic ecosystems, and the related wild inhabitants of these regions that historically supported the world's most prolific marine fishery.

LOCATION The Georges Bank/Gulf of Maine National Monument will consist of all submerged lands within 10 miles of the "Hague Line," the official boundary separating the United States and Canada's federal territories and exclusive economic zones across the Gulf of Maine and the Georges Bank plateau. Starting from the mouth of the Bay of Fundy, the Monument will follow the Hague Line across the Jordan Basin, the Truxton Swell, Crowell Basin and Georges Basin within the Gulf of Maine, across Georges Bank's Northern Edge, Northeast Peak, and Georges Canyon area and southeast into the abyss.

PURPOSE The Georges Bank/Gulf of Maine National Monument will:

- Memorialize the historic importance of the Gulf & Bank in American economic history.
- Restore coral habitat and other public resources across a variety of North Atlantic seascapes.
- Enhance productivity throughout the area as fish & shellfish grow to egg bearing maturity.
- Create a no-removals border buffer zone to reduce cross-border fishing encroachments.
- Provide a wide variety of untrawled seafloor environments for fisheries ecology research.

DESIGNATION PROCESS National Monuments are established by Presidential proclamation under the Antiquities Act 16 U.S.C. 431-433, and are the precursors to National Park/Wilderness status. International Peace Parks are established by Acts of

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Coastal Waters Watch . . .

WORM DIGGERS FILE PETITION TO END INTERIDAL MUSSEL DRAGGING IN MAINE

Worms, clams to breathe easier, if state hearing officer grants request.

by Ron Huber

AUGUSTA — An organizer representing blood worm and clamworm diggers has filed an official petition with the Maine Department of Marine Resources, requiring that a public hearing be held on changing Maine's commercial fishing rules to expressly prohibit the use of dragging gear to harvest mussels from the Maine's intertidal zone. If passed, the rule change would protect more approximately one thousand square miles of Maine's intertidal environment from being scraped by mussel dragging vessels.

One hundred fifty signatures were required to make the public hearing mandatory. Tom Atherton, the leader of the effort, collected well more signatures than necessary.

The specific language of the new rule will read:

"It shall be unlawful to take or harvest mussels by dragging above the low water mark to the extreme inside edge of Maine's territorial boundary; hand raking or harvesting by hand will be allowed."

ISSUE SUMMARY

Historically, mussel dragger vessels have supplied Maine mussel farm lease sites with "seed" mussels scraped by drag equipped boats from wild mussel beds in Maine's coastal waters.

As the subtidal mussel beds have been depleted by mussel draggers, the industry has turned to dragging the intertidal mussel beds to compensate for the decline in the subtidal mussels.

Tom Atherton, a Bucksport resident and worm harvester from midcoast Maine, organized the petition effort. He and other worm harvesters have documented the severe and lasting damage to marine worm resources from draggers scraping the intertidal flats to gather mussels, which occur in large areas across Maine intertidal flats.

The wormers' resource harvest has declined in unison with the encroachment of draggers into intertidal areas. Starting in 1984 the wormers found that their harvests of the two most sought-after marine worm species, bloodworms and sandworms, plummeted from nearly 8,000,000 pounds per year down to around 100,000 pounds per year, following the mussel dragger encroachment into the intertidal area.

These worms are important both for human 'consumption' as a major sport fishing bait and as food and co-habitants for migratory shorebirds and other native wildlife.

Tom Atherton has been organizing wormers up and down the coast to protect their resource. Worming is one of the top ten of Maine's commercial fisheries by value. Combined with intertidal clambers, marine worm harvesters are the 4th highest value marine fishery in the state. Atherton notes that while there are approximately 2,500 licensed wormers in Maine, there are only 80 licensed musselers and 40 mussel dragging boats. He says that it is unfair to allow a much smaller industry take away the livelihood of a much larger fishery. Tom gets email at <nautica257@aol.com>. His home telephone # is (207) 469-6585.



A raked mussel bed at low tide. Photo courtesy of Coastal Waters Project.

As preserved in England's Rolls of Parliament for the 1376-1377 A.D. session, English hook and hand fishing citizenry appealed to their government, asking for relief against what they saw as the destructive and wasteful new drag-style fishing device, called the "wondyrchoun", literally "wondrous machine" (evidently a beam trawl) then being deployed on the Thames River's estuary. The complaints have an eerie resemblance to the concerns presently arising from today's hook and line fishermen, academics and conservationists. . . .

From The Rolls of Parliament, for the years 1376-1377:

"Great complaints are made against the use of the net called 'wondyrchoun' which drags from the bottom of the sea all the bait that used to be the food of great fish.

"Through means of this instrument fishermen catch such great plenty of small fish that they do not know what to do with them, but fatten their pigs with them."

From: Rolls of Parliament Volume 2, p. 369. 50 Edward III, (1376/77 A.D.) (Official citation courtesy of Trevor Kenchington of Gadus Associates.

National Monument

the US Congress and Canadian Parliament.

Websites of existing National Monuments and an International Peace Parks below.

EXTENT OF PROTECTION The Monument will prohibit any disturbance or removal of living or non-living resources from the water column and seafloor of the area. The right of innocent passage by vessels transiting the Monument area will not be affected.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT. Under the National Monument designation, the New England Fisheries Management Council's authority to manage fisheries and aquaculture within the designated area will be extinguished, and existing permits sunsetted. Primary management responsibility for the area's living marine resources will be vested in the National Park Service.

MINERALS MANAGEMENT. Under the National Monument designation, all existing leases and other mineral and hydrocarbon claims within the designated area will be extinguished or bought back. No further commercial leases will be offered in the area.

LAW ENFORCEMENT Existing US offshore law enforcement activities are sufficient to protect Monument resources from theft or damage. On average, two 270 foot cutters, three 110 foot patrol boats and five aircraft patrol the US side of the Hague Line every day. Canada has similar coast guard operations on its side of the Hague Line. Existing joint law enforcement agreements will be modified as necessary.

CONTACTS

•Ron Huber, Director, Coastal Waters Project, 418 Main St. Rockland ME 04841 Tel 207-594-5717 <coastwatch@acadia.net>

•Professor Martin Willison, Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia <willison@is.dal.ca> Dr Willison first propounded the Hague Line International Peace Park

•Derek Jones, Director, Canadian Ocean Habitat Protection Society <dkpjones@mail.atcon.com> (902) 745-2950 (Northern Coral advocate)

•Faith Scattolon, Director DFO (Maritimes) Oceans Act Coordination Office (Nova Scotia) (902) 426-2065 email <scattolonf@mar.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>

RELEVANT WEBSITES

•Summer '99 Gulf of Maine Times article on the Hague Line marine reserve proposal:
http://www.gulfofmaine.org/times/summer99/hague_line.html

•The newest US National Monument: <http://www.ut.blm.gov/monument>
•Waterton/Glacier International Peace Park:
http://parkscanada.pch.gc.ca/waterton/english/welcome2_e.htm

•Roosevelt-Campobello International Park Commission <http://fdr.net>
•Buck Island Reef National Monument <http://www.nps.gov/buis/>

•Department of Fisheries and Oceans' Oceans Act Coordination Office http://www.gfc.dfo.ca/science/oceans_act/eng/

•Dalhousie University website depicting deep ocean corals off Nova Scotia <http://biotype.biology.dal.ca/biotype/1998/dec98/coral.html>

•Ron Huber's 8/18/99 op-ed in the New Bedford (Massachusetts) News-Standard <http://www.s-t.com/daily/08-99/08-18-99/c05op087.htm>

Point . . .

THE LOST FORESTS OF ATLANTIS

By Ron Huber

It is good to see that keeping the crude habitat-destroying trawlers and scallop scrapers away from our public lands on Georges Bank for a few years has let ecological recovery begin out there. The response we make to the bank's condition being upgraded from 'critical' to 'serious', however, shouldn't be a return to the failed technology and simpleminded so-called 'management' that brought the residents of our offshore public lands to their knees in the first place.

As is painfully obvious from underwater video footage and historical records, a century of continuous scraping by the crude unselective drag-and-scrape technology has flattened the once complex sea floor environment of Georges Bank almost beyond recognition.

Gone are the thousand-year-old stands of tree coral that covered hundreds of square miles of the Georges Bank plateau, providing safety and food to thousands of generations of cod, halibut and 100 other fish species.

Gone are the vast meadows of sea anemones and other soft organisms that formed a living sea floor. Gone even are the rolling underwater hills and ridgelines of this wild Atlantis that guided the cod on their historic migrations.

All are smashed so flat by the thousand-pound steel doors, the chains and dredges pulled across them by the scraper and dragger fisheries, that the depths on the navigational charts of Georges Bank have had to be revised downward again and again. Crushed. Leveled down to sand, gravel and mud, except for a few steep areas at the 150 fathom line that the scrapers have been unable to get at.

For the last four years, freed from this century-long scourging, wild nature out on Georges Bank has been restoring its battered, beaten kingdom. Like a bulldozed area does on land, it is going through a succession of plant and animal types that inexorably lead back to a fully stocked ecosystem.

But here's the rub: the animals that first reclaim Georges Bank's scraped-over undersea landscape are those heavily armored creatures that can live in such a hostile dragger-blasted environment. Remember, no cover exists, and there is nothing to eat except plankton drifting in on the current. Enter the sea scallop, the early successional 'weed' of choice that marine nature prefers offshore.

In a normal world, the healing scab of sea scallops that has begun restoring the sea floor of the gulf and bank would peak and then decline. Other sea floor animals would take up the succession that leads to the complicated system of hundreds of differ-

ent marine species that nature has ordained should be living out on our wild Atlantis.

But nature is no match for the timidity of fishery managers, the cowardice of the so-called conservationists, and the avarice of the investors who drive the seafood markets. Rather than let the successional process go its natural route on the Bank and bring plenty to everyone, big industry lobbyists like former U.S. Rep. Gerry Studds pressured the Clinton administration into allowing the scraper invasion of the partially healed Georges Bank. At 4 years of age the scallops are less than halfway to maturity, but are legally marketable.

What followed has been an ecological disaster. Scrapists in more than 400 ships have invaded Georges Bank. Starting June 15 they waged a brutal campaign against the sea floor. Ripping away the healing scab from the bank's sea floor, they are killing everything they come in contact with.

Of course, as scraper advocate and New England Fishery Management Council member James Kendall of New Bedford, Mass., bragged in National Fisherman magazine in July, the scrapers had already been sneaking onto Georges Bank in violation of the law and pillaging whenever they could get away with it.

That Kendall has not been booted from the council for his public defense of theft of public resources shows how completely off course the system is.

The feds are as guilty as Kendall and his cronies. For example, the federal Fisheries Science Center in New England is so cowed that its 'scientific' reports of what is torn from the sea floor and brought to the surface by scrapists have only three categories: 'scallops,' 'flounder,' 'trash.' For a scientific review to call the corals, sponges, anemones, sea squirts, barnacles, sea worms and hundreds of other seafloor animals 'trash' indicates how debased the science has become.

When the scrapers have been driven off Georges Bank, the scallops will rise and, their work done, fall, replaced by the coral forests and other living sea floor features that are capable of providing the limitless bounty of cod, haddock, flounder, halibut and the many other sellable fishes that stunned and delighted the hook and seine fishing fleets of the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th and early 20th centuries. While Wall Street fumes, the gillnetters, the tub trawlers and the rest of our low-impact offshore fishing fleet will prosper.

NOTE: This exchange of opinion between Messrs. Huber and Williamson first appeared in the Bangor Daily News on August 27, 1999 and September 5

. . .Counterpoint

Harvesting New England Scallops

By John Williamson

You don't make paper without chainsaws and skidders. You don't grow corn and wheat without a tractor and a plow. You don't put food on the table without cars, trucks and highways. And you don't harvest scallops on the open ocean without a rugged boat and steel dredges.

All of these things are human activities that have environmental impacts. The challenge of the next century will be ecological. As a civilization, we are learning how to protect and enhance the functions of natural biological systems that sustain life on this planet. And we are learning how to engineer industrial processes, the underpinnings of our society, to be more in harmony with the environment. Wow!

An Aug. 27 commentary by Ron Huber gave an extremely distorted picture of sea scallop harvesting on Georges Bank and an inaccurate assessment of how this resource is being managed. It left the impression that commercial fishermen are wantonly destructive and that the science and management of fisheries is corrupt. As one of the fishery managers most directly involved with scallop management in federal waters, I feel compelled to respond.

In 1994, 6,000 square miles of prime fishing grounds on Georges Bank were closed in order to speed recovery of overstressed groundfish stocks. These areas included some of the most productive scalloping grounds on the East Coast. At the time a promise was made to the scallop industry that their access to these grounds would be restored as soon as appropriate controls could be developed. This year we took a step toward keeping that promise, with implementation of a tightly regulated program for access to these specially managed areas. That program has been designed to meet three important standards. The first standard is to control harvest rates such that removals do not exceed the amount that the scallop population can sustainably reproduce. Less than 20 percent of the scallop biomass in the managed area will be harvested this year.

The second standard is to minimize the impacts on other species. Because groundfish spawn in the winter and spring, scalloper access to this area is being limited to the summer and fall months. Dredge designs are being modified. One out of every four scallop vessels is required to carry a government observer to record 'bycatch' levels. A flounder bycatch quota has been set; when that number is reached the program will cease, which is a strong incentive for scallop captains to improve their fishing practices.

The third standard is to lessen

impacts on bottom habitat to the greatest extent possible. A scallop dredge is a steel frame and a chain bag, towed on a steel cable. It rides heavily on the bottom to root out scallops in depressions and crevices. It can turn over rocks, uproot vegetation or crush or disturb the mud burrows of benthic organisms. Scallop harvesting has unavoidable impacts, but are there acceptable trade-offs?

Last fall, a detailed stock survey was done and large beds of mature scallops were identified on parts of the closed areas of Georges Bank that are predominantly sand bottom. The biological complexity of this 1,500-square-mile-area is relatively low, and because it is subject to natural disturbance from storms and tidal action, the effects from dredge activities are soon washed away. In other words, the scallop fleet is being directed to an area of high scallop abundance but where there is low ecological sensitivity.

What Huber should understand is that this program, which he characterized as a "brutal assault on the sea floor," is an experiment. It is being closely studied. A number of universities are involved as well as the Northeast Fisheries Science Center in Woods Hole, Mass. There is a high level of observer coverage. The scallop industry has participated creatively and responsibly. And a portion of scallop landings from this program is dedicated toward paying for ongoing research.

The biomass of scallops in the closed areas of Georges Bank is estimated to be 30 times greater than in those areas that have remained open. We have closed large tracts off of New Jersey and Virginia with the intent to grow similarly high concentrations of high-quality seafood. In the future we may see a system of "rotational closures," where scallops are "cultivated" for periodic harvest. We will manage areas that are designated as "scallop habitat" and move the bulk of scalloping effort out of more marginal grounds or areas of high ecological sensitivity.

Huber maligned a fishery manager, Jim Kendall of New Bedford, Mass. He accused Kendall of encouraging fishermen to cheat on fishery management regulations. That is utterly false. Kendall sits on the Coast Guard's enforcement advisory panel, and is the respected chairman of the New England Fishery Management Council's Enforcement Committee. Kendall takes the courage of his convictions to the waterfront daily, and he does not condone lawlessness.

Marine ecology is complex, and the marine environment is foreign to most people. Harvesting food from the sea has never been a simple endeavor. We are learning how to do it better.

John Williamson is a former commercial fisherman, now a community activist and researcher. He serves on the New England Fishery Management Council.

Aquaculture's Waterloo?

Rejection of Blue Hill Bay fish farms spurs call for federal aquaculture moratorium in Maine waters

By Ron Huber

BLUE HILL BAY. The decision by Laurice Churchill, Maine's aquaculture czar, to recommend rejection of two mammoth fish pen operations on the Maine coast may be the salmon farming industry's 'Waterloo', according to long time salmon farm critics, who are asking federal and state decision makers to impose a moratorium barring any new fish pen operations on the Maine coast until federal and state agencies carry out a full environmental impact study of the rapidly expanding coastal fish farm industry.

"Churchill's decision to rule against the wishes of two very powerful companies suggests that there are serious flaws in the fish pen industry's long range plans" said Ron Huber, director of the Rockland-based Coastal Waters Project. "The industry wanted to use incredibly flimsy environmental studies to expand what are essential 'marine hog farms' into waters presently considered unsuitable. Without a public outcry, they would have gotten away with it."

Huber said that for the last 7 years, his group and others have been calling for the state to hold the burgeoning fish farm industry to higher standards. "As hard as it is to believe," Huber said, "the marine science reference texts for DMR for this project were a pair of 1970s era state planning office texts and a 1978 layman's 'Field Guide to the Atlantic Seashore'."

"In a state with a dozen outstanding academic and private marine science laboratories, to use only outdated non-technical documents when reviewing the impacts of multimillion dollar enterprises should be a huge embarrassment to Governor King, who usually prides himself on seeking science based solutions to public policy issues," he said.

Because of the rise in disease and other problems in fish pen operations in Maine, Canada and Europe, Huber said his group has written to the US Army Corps of Engineers calling on them to stop approving any more fish pen aquaculture permits until a comprehensive study of that industry and its effects on Maine's fisheries and coastal environment is carried out.

In that letter, the group cites the state's failure to seriously examine the existing

ecology and water currents in the vicinity of proposed fish farm operations in Maine waters, the likelihood of disease transmission brought about by the industry's plans to shuttle fish from downeast Maine to Blue Hill Bay, despite disease epidemics in downeast fish pens, and the risks to wild Atlantic salmon, which would have had to pass through the pen sites to reach the Union River, one of the salmon's known spawning rivers.

Herb Hoche, co-director of Coastal Waters Project said that what most concerned him about the proposed fish pens were the fact that they would be emplaced atop upwellings that supply nutrients to existing wild fish and shellfish, including twenty major economic species.

"This was obvious on the DMR's videotape of the seafloor of the lease sites, which showed a large zooplankton bloom taking place at the time of the taping." Hoche, a retired groundfisherman, said "Also, they couldn't answer the question of how much fish manure and medication was going to be dumped into this ecologically important area."

Hoche also noted that the shallows near the two fish pens are being designated juvenile cod Habitat Areas of Particular Concern by the New England Fishery Management Council, which hopes to restore Maine's depleted inshore groundfish by protecting and restoring shallow water habitats. "Dumping fish manure there for years and years is not going to help restore the cod," he said.

Huber noted that similar salmon farms in Scotland have recently become riddled with disease, forcing closures of scallop fisheries over thousands of square miles of coastal waters there.

He said that the ongoing disaster in Scotland should be a clear warning to Marine Resources Commissioner George LaPointe, that if he fails to hold the fish farm industry here to scientifically based standards, the King Administration may cause the same destruction of inshore fisheries that Scotland and New Brunswick are experiencing.

"That would be a pretty awful legacy for Governor King," Huber said, adding "We think the Army Corps of Engineers can read the writing on the wall, and will agree to our request for a moratorium. Too much is at risk for them not to."

A SCOTSMAN AQUACULTURIST'S VIEW

In his article entitled "Down East fish farmers need not apply", published in *Bangor Daily News*, September 9, Bruce Kyle draws attention to some of the problems which have limited the development of aquaculture along the Maine coast. Heralded in its early years as the saviour of the wild fisheries, the move to farming the sea as an alternative has not fulfilled early promise.

Down East, and elsewhere in the world, there are conflicting demands on the coastal area, aquaculture is just one of many. My own experience of the industry in Scotland over the last twentyfive years may shed some light on the matter. Back in the early 1970s the coastal waters of the Highlands and Islands appeared ideal for the development of aquaculture. The industry appeared to be a way to halt depopulation and revive the economy of remote coastal communities. The farming of salmon in net pens in sheltered sea lochs and bays was in its infancy then, with a production of only 400 tonnes per year in 1976, shellfish farming, mainly mussels and oysters was beginning to produce, albeit on a very small scale.

Early success convinced politicians and planners that aquaculture deserved real support and a great deal of public money was spent in promoting and developing the industry. Salmon farming in particular was a great commercial success, and the industry progressed by leaps and bounds. By 1998 production had risen to 120,000 tonnes worth around \$375,000,000. ex farm. Employment peaked at around 1500 jobs in the early 1990's, but has since declined as technical development increased productivity. Modern large scale units now produce between 100 and 200 tonnes per annum per worker in contrast to the 40 to 60 t.p.a of ten years ago. Today's industry provides just over a 1000 jobs.

All this has not been achieved without cost. Problems caused by the environmental impact of the industry were brushed aside as a "small price to pay for the benefits", and research was mainly focussed on maximising production. The growing shellfish industry suffered greatly from the effects of the toxic antifouling Tri Butyl Tin (TBT) used on the pen nets in the 1980's, and the use of the compound was only banned when the public became aware that some salmon on public sale contained levels of TBT high enough to exceed those declared by the US FDA as "unfit for human consumption".

Although previously unrecorded, in 1990 a widespread outbreak of Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) in areas affected by salmon farm discharges, heralded regular annual shellfish harvesting closures. The latest closure this year, caused by Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP) has meant a ban on scallop harvesting in over 10,000 square miles of coastal waters for over six weeks. The ban is still in place.

Naturally these events have caused many to question government assurances that these are "naturally occurring and nothing to do with pollution". My own visit here is en route to an International conference on the environmental effects of mariculture where I will give a paper showing links between the production of nitrogenous biotoxins such as those causing PSP and ASP, and the current discharge of around 9,000 tonnes per year of ammonium from the Scottish net pen salmon industry.

Another environmental problem recognised as related to the activity of the net pen salmon farming industry, is the catastrophic decline in wild salmonid stocks. Research in Norway, Ireland and Scotland shows that wild fish are affected by disease and parasite infestation emanating from salmon pens. The 'small price to pay' is growing fast, and current legal action in Scotland may result in the salmon farming industry becoming uninsurable.

In time it is most likely that the industry will have to leave coastal waters and come ashore into closed systems. Those living in coastal areas which have adopted a cautious approach and limited such development will have good reason to be thankful.

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Halibut fishermen with coral Photo courtesy of Derek Jones.

Not Quite Random Notes from Across the Region

by Andrew Whittaker

SALES PULLED IN FACE OF APPEALS

The United States Forest Service has pulled two timber sales planned for the White Mountain National Forest. The Conservation Action Project of Concord, New Hampshire and Native Forest Network of Burlington, Vermont had appealed the Trestle and Bickford sales in the Bethlehem-Franconia-Carroll areas which involved 882 acres, 3.8 mmbf, some whole tree harvesting and clearcutting of over 100 acres, according to David Carle of CAP and Mick Petrie of NFN.

"According to Forest Service documents, required wildlife monitoring has not taken place," said David Carle of CAP. "As the courts have found, wildlife monitoring is not taking place in Georgia, in Texas, and Pacific Northwest national forests. And it is not taking place here in the White Mountains."

Carle was alluding to recent court decisions that include the Monday August 2nd ruling of Judge William Dwyer in Seattle which found USFS failure to conduct adequate wildlife surveys as required by 1994's "Spotted Owl" Northwest Forest Plan. The ruling halted sales of 100 mmbf and could eventually lead, optimistic environmentalists suggest, to complete bans on remaining old growth (See *New York Times* front page story of Thursday, August 5).

The Boston Globe ran a story on August 15 detailing a hitherto internal document from the WMNF which suggested a lack of progress in the legal requirement to monitor specific impacts of logging, ski areas and other uses of the National Forest. Forest personnel argue that they have been following general population trends of indicator species; David Carle says the report is further evidence that the USFS does not know what the impacts of its logging program really are.

PRAISE THEM

Meanwhile, over on the Green Mountain National Forest, Forest Watch of Montpelier, VT penned a letter of praise to GMNF supervisor Paul Brewster, thanking him for the summer halt to logging which accompanied an Indiana bat monitoring program. Forest Watch's defense of the bat earned the group—and the bat—the old raspberry from John McClaughry in a *Vermont Public Radio* commentary which attacked the groups efforts on behalf of the bat as "smashmouth environmentalism." Other Vermont environmental groups including the Northern Appalachian Restoration Project joined the call for Brewster to embrace a number of management changes on behalf of the bat. These include:

- Not logging within ten miles of Indiana bat hibernacula.
- Not logging in broad corridors along streams or other riparian areas.
- Not logging hardwoods during the warm-weather months.
- Refraining from clearcutting or its variants (shelterwood and seed tree cutting) to log hardwoods.
- Increasing the average rotation age of hardwoods, where possible.
- Favoring the retention of big, old hardwood trees as potential Indiana bat roost sites wherever they occur.

TRAP THEM, DAMN 'EM

The summer months also saw the (almost) final pieces of the Champion deal fall into place in Vermont and New Hampshire. The Essex Timber Company now holds title to the 84,000 acres sold as "working forest" and subject to the easements imposed by the Conservation Fund which brokered the three state deal. The state of Vermont now holds title to 16,500 acres and will eventually hold 22,000 acres—subject to easements held by The Nature Conservancy. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is now an established presence in the Nulhegan Basin and has proved its mettle to locals (complaining via the U.S. Senate) by duly dispatching a beaver that had dammed the road to Lewis Pond. This should

quell the worries of those who fear for the future of trapping on the Federal lands.

The New Hampshire Champion lands may soon be sold to Neil Tillotson of the Balsams/Wilderness resort who wants to use them for educational purposes and long term silviculture (Mr. Tillotson is himself over 100 years old). These largely mountainous lands would be subject to an easement precluding logging over 2700 feet; no big reserves otherwise. The Conservation Fund is pursuing over \$2.2 million in Forest Legacy funds that would pay for the easements. According to *The Coos County Democrat* (Sept. 8 article by Edith Tucker) the Legacy application emphasizes the productivity of the land for timber and its centrality and connectivity to other large forested areas to the east, west, north and south: "Protection of the 18,000-acre property will facilitate creation of a protected corridor of over one million acres."

With all these corridors, it would seem what's needed now are some core reserves; maybe LWCF funds could be dedicated to establishing old growth reserves of at least 10,000 acres where the potential for a million acres total exists. . . .How about it, Al, Bill, Elizabeth, George, Jesse and Warren? Angus, Jeanne and even Howard seem reserved about reserves and in park about parks . . .

MANAGEMENT ON THE STATE LANDS

The state of Vermont lands are nominally in the hands of the Agency of Natural Resources' Department of Fish and Game. It remains a matter of conjecture how they will be managed and to what end. There is no statutory commitment to ecosystem management across Vermont's public lands, there is no state "Wilderness" designation and there's plenty of institutional commitment to managing ecosystems for whitetails and woodcock. An Agency Lands Conservation Plan at least acknowledges the last 10 years' development of reserve design and native biodiversity considerations. The upcoming and long awaited release of the report of the Vermont Biodiversity Project as well as the October visit of Dr. Reed Noss may help jump start discussion of what a system of connected and buffered core reserves in Vermont would actually look like and how public lands could be managed to fit with ecosystem management objectives. Here's hoping.

The Indiana bat criteria above might be a good starting point for state managers on the former St. Regis lands. Doubling, tripling or quadrupling the size of the riparian buffers would help save what few areas dominated by large trees exist in the Paul Stream-Dennis-Wheeler drainages; ripping up bridges would help re-establish only recently lost roadless areas and close off roads which are vectors of non-native plants, ATVs and hooliganism.

Bridgeheads contribute to sedimentation of streams; road closure would increase the quality of hunting, hiking and other recreation tenfold while—more to the point—create a higher quality of habitat for the shy top predators the former St. Regis lands really ought to be home to. (And, as usual, the summer has brought panther sightings, of both the probable and mythical variety. The tawny cats are believable and have even been captured on film, prowling about the edges of fields. The black panthers now, they invite incredulity . . .)

While some people like to suggest that big W Wilderness will never occur on the Champion lands because of their importance to the local hunting community, others point out that a constituency exists for the old style of hunting, wherein you actually leave your vehicle, hike in for miles on a day of good tracking snow, and may go for hours on a good track without crossing a major road or finding a pickup parked on an old deep woods stand.

A SNOWMOBILE STATE PARK FOR FLATLANDERS

The failed acquisition of the Nulhegan lands by the snowmobiling group VAST, which was supported by that man of the people Bill Sayre and Associated Industries of Vermont received serious treatment in the July issue of *Vermont Business Magazine*. The theme of the article was that since no one is 100% happy with the Champion deal it must be a good one and, in any case, it was a private land deal mostly, so the public should restrict comments.

A number of people seem to over-play the significance of the "traditional" snowmobile: VAST president Bryant Watson has the snowmobile accounting for 80-90% of the Northeast Kingdom's winter economy. Wonder what those snowmobiles are hauling.

The number is not only ludicrous, however, the traditionalism of the snowmobile is a misnomer. Many of the businesses that rely on the noxious machine are themselves owned by transplants and the machiners themselves are increasingly a new breed of often unmannerly (and sometimes cocked) cads with foreign license plates on vehicles that few locals could (really) afford.

I wish those who feel they must kiss the rear of such 'traditionalism' would visit the far more traditionally-minded fellow I visited with last winter in the East Charleston cheap goods store: we both agreed the stream of big trucks trailing expensive ordinance headed back to Massachusetts after another climate change weekend represented a serious mis-allocation of valuable economic resources.

We would do better to encourage heart-healthy recreation that challenges and develops our woodcraft beyond the ability to scrounge gasoline when stuck in the woods. Have you ever skied or hiked a snowmobile trail? The lacing of fumes is thick enough to cause sore throat. I must admit to owing several welcome rides out of the roads to the machines, courtesy however of those for whom chivalry still exists . . . Word is that locals in Pittsburg and elsewhere stay off the trails on weekends.

WHO IS ETC?

The following investor profile is from the Vermont Land Trust website (www.vlt.org):

"Essex Timber Company (ETC) is a limited liability corporation that was newly formed for the purpose of owning the private lands associated with the Champion Lands Project. ETC is based in Boston, Massachusetts and is owned by a small group of individual investors. Wilhelm Merck is the managing member for ETC.

"After 15 years in the securities industry, Mr. Merck became more interested in growing trees than trading stocks. He is a co-general partner (with the Lyme Timber Company) of The Vermont Forest Conservation Fund, L.P. that currently owns and manages a 3,600 acre timber land parcel in Westfield, Vt. In addition to being a forestland investor, Wil serves on the boards of the New England Forestry Foundation and the Trustees of Reservations, the largest land trust in Massachusetts.

"While much of the property is in a regeneration stage, ETC believes that forests can be profitably managed for the production of large diameter, high quality sawtimber within a context that considers the ecosystem as a whole. If managed well, the Champion Lands have the capability to produce valuable timber products to meet an increasing worldwide demand. ETC intends to certify their lands through a forest certification process, with the expectation that certification will be a way to add value to their products while being recognized for sustainable management practices.

"ETC has contracted with North Country Environmental and Forestry of Concord, Vt. The firm was established in 1988 and is owned by Jim Wood, a Kirby native and lifelong resident of the

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

... More Notes from Around the Region ...

region. Jim received Forestry and Wildlife Management degrees from the University of Vermont and is very familiar with the former Champion property.

"84,000 acres is a lot of forest land. ETC will need to invest considerable time and resources in the near future, before developing a management plan for the property as a whole. ETC is not only committed to producing high quality timber, it is looking forward to working with the public, the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service to continue the tradition of allowing public access on this important recreational resource in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom."

Next issue of *The Northern Forest Forum* we'll summarize the conservation easements placed on the various pieces of the former St. Regis lands and also propose various steps for implementing ecosystem management across the North Country of northern Vermont and New Hampshire. (You can read a Guide to the (ETC) Easements at the VLT website.)

CAN WE TRUST THE PAPER COMPANIES?

Northern Logger editor Eric Johnson asks the question in the Summer 1999 *Northern Woodlands* magazine, successor to *Vermont Woodlands*. His answer seems to be "No." Johnson sees the International Paper sale on the St. John River and the Champion sale across the region as a sign of a coming general exodus. Long skeptical of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and its fairness to loggers as well as true commitment to improved practices, Johnson is even more distrustful of land sales that convert timberland to wilderness. He concludes that the paper companies "don't plan to be around much longer."

That, he says, is bad news for all who rely on the pulp market to sell low-grade wood. Managers of woodlands across the Northern Forest who are attempting to rebuild sawtimber inventory generally agree that without the pulp market they are lost. Given the decrepit condition of many of the region's mills and their need for (public?) investment, it would seem the paper industry is at another crossroads.

We'll predict: a northern New England paper infrastructure largely owned by Canadian interests within 15 years. The Quebec mills, it should be noted, are largely integrated with the sawmill industry, and may bring that experience south. This subject, however, places many environmentalists on the side of the economic rationalists who would curb any interference by Government in propping up a stressed industry.

"WHEN PEOPLE CAUSE ECOLOGICAL CHAOS, PLANTS TAKE ADVANTAGE" SAYS THE NEW YORK TIMES

Invasive plant species now pose the second largest threat to native biodiversity, after habitat loss, says the World Conservation Union. Plant invaders have been highlighted in a rogues gallery published by **The New England Wildflower Society** (vol. 2 #3 of *Conservation Notes* of the Society) that also delves into the biology of invasiveness. Eurasian watermilfoil, a sprig of which was plucked out of awesome Lake Willoughby this summer; the Buckthorns; honeysuckle (rampant in Maine Audubon's Biddeford Pool reserve at the mouth of the Saco) Purple loosestrife (spotted in North Stratford, New Hampshire this summer); Phragmites (a native gone rampant or an introduced strain taking over, ecologists do not agree); the descriptions contain these commonly recognized "villains" as well as less obviously threatening species such as Norway maple, multiflora rose and black locust.

Herbicides, weevils and beetles (introduced and native) as well as public awareness campaigns are the current controls. "Most invasive exotic species thrive on two things, sunlight and disturbance," says the Society, a seeming argument for ecosystems that are 1.) Shady and 2.) Undisturbed over short time-frames—

Wilderness, we might suggest?

However the meaning under the surface of invasiveness is under debate, as illustrated by an article in the House and Home section of the September 16th *New York Times*. "What's Eating America? Weeds" by Anne Raver gives some truly impressive numbers on the extent and costliness of invasiveness. Items: California may spend \$20 million on controlling *Arundo donax*; invaders cause \$123 billion/year(!?) in damage says Interior secretary Babbitt's science adviser; 100 million acres in the United States are affected, with an annual increase of 3 million. 1/2 the 300 species plaguing the U.S. (not counting Hawaii) are escapees from nurseries and gardens. Therein the rub.

Nurserymen, according to the *NYT*, fear blanket federal regulations that would overlook regional differences in plant behavior; others dread a Balkanized system of regional rules. Eco-moralists who would fight invaders in the name of native plant communities are dismissed by the relativists who accept the current chaos as an albeit humanly caused adapt-or-perish spasm. Dr. Peter Del Tredici, director of living collections at Harvard's Arnold Arboretum, even goes so far as to term anti-invasive ecologists as "creationists" in denial of evolution.

Swarthmore College is not being so relativistic however: it hosts a conference November 3rd and 4th, "Invasive Exotic Plants: Current Management Strategies" (call 215-247-5777 ext. 156). The state of New York has an Invasive Plant Council (518-273-9408-ext 22). Visit the New England Wildflower Society website: www.newfs.org/invasive for further information and many links to further further information.

News that Galerucella beetles were being experimentally released into stands of purple loosestrife once made a friend of mine yell at the television: "Don't you dumb bastards know there is such a thing as ecological balance?" Invasiveness is a real challenge to our thinking: should Nature be left to heal itself? What does "healing" mean? If the context is continuing disturbance and habitat fragmentation, how can Nature "balance"? There are no solid reference points.

Meanwhile, it remains to the uneducated to conclude: the best defense against invasion and protection of native biodiversity is areas closed to human disturbance, of sufficiently large size and adequately connected to other large areas to sustain gene flow.

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AERIAL HERBICIDE SPRAYING POISONING THE MAINE WOODS

by Daisy Goodman

Aerial application of herbicides is a common forestry management tool in the United States and Canada, and one which is currently employed in the northern New Hampshire and Maine woods. In 1998, a total of 58,264 acres in Maine were sprayed with a mixture of herbicide products by nine companies, including Bowater, SAPPI, International Paper, Irving and Champion International.

Herbicides are used in forestry to eliminate primary successional species which grow following clearcutting. These plants, including raspberry, blackberry, pin cherry, aspen, yellow birch, and grasses, are considered pest species by the forest products industry, competing with the desirable secondary successional spruce and fir "crop" trees. Herbicides act by disrupting specific metabolic functions in plants, causing disorganized growth and eventually killing the plant through starvation. Because hardwood and brush species have a different seasonal life cycle than softwood species, herbicides applied in late summer and early fall kill deciduous species only.

Four herbicides are used in forestry applications in Maine: glyphosate, imazapyr, triclopyr, and sulfometuron methyl. All are classified as broad spectrum, meaning they kill a variety of plant species. However, most herbicide applications in Maine involve at least two herbicides, most commonly glyphosate and triclopyr. Imazapyr and sulfometuron methyl are added if there is a predominance of species resistant to the first two herbicides— for example, sulfometuron methyl is very effective against grass species. In addition to active ingredients, herbicide products contain a certain percentage of "inert" ingredients, whose identity is not released by the EPA, even through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) process, without the manufacturer's permission. Some inert ingredients are in themselves toxic, as in the case of GARLON 4, which combines a diesel fuel carrier with the herbicide triclopyr, and OUST, which includes a formaldehyde condensate with the herbicide sulfometuron methyl (see sidebar). Furthermore, the herbicide glyphosate requires the use of a surfactant to facilitate transport of the herbicide into the plant. Although the Maine Board of Pesticides does not require companies to report on surfactants used, glyphosate product labels specifically recommend use of the detergent-like surfactant POEA. This compound is a potent water contaminant known to be dangerous to aquatic organisms.

Unfortunately, almost all research on the toxicity and environmental fate of forestry herbicides is conducted on herbicide active ingredients in isolation. Sometimes herbicide products, including active and inert ingredients, are tested, but no research exists on the herbicide product combinations such as those in actual use in the Maine woods. Additionally, very little field research has examined the environmental impact of herbicide applications on the ecosystem level. The toxicology and environmental fate studies which are available, therefore, give only a partial, simplified image of the actual impact of forestry herbicides in a real forest ecosystem.

Aerial applications are typically made by helicopter from 60-80 feet above the target area.

Because of the method of application and the chemical behavior of the mixtures used, movement of herbicides, surfactants and inert ingredients off target is both inevitable and extensive. According to researchers at EPA's Environmental Fate and Effects Division, off target drift is estimated by the agency at 45% of applied rate, and some percentage of spray may transport as much as two miles off site. Highly potent, mobile herbicides such as sulfometuron methyl and imazapyr require much lower concentrations to cause plant mortality, and therefore more widespread damage is likely to occur as a result of drift. Movement in soil (leaching) and surface water transport increase the area affected by herbicide applications. The herbicide sulfometuron methyl has been shown to be more mobile in water than the highly controversial water contaminant herbicide atrazine. Surfactants that are detergent like- such as POEA- are highly water soluble and wash off sprayed vegetation. Once dissolved in water, herbicide mixtures run off site and contaminating nearby bodies of water. Such off target movement greatly increases the area impacted by herbicide applications.

Herbicide applications alter the forest ecosystem on all trophic levels. On the microbial level, growth and function are dramatically diminished after herbicide applications. Both the essential bacteria which fix nitrogen in soil, and the mycorrhizal fungi which facilitate nutrient uptake by a plant's root system are inhibited by most herbicides. Bacteria and fungi have similar metabolic functions to higher plants, and so are affected by herbicides in similar ways. The herbicide sulfometuron methyl, in fact, is recommended for use by the manufacturer as a soil sterilant, and the herbicide Triclopyr has been shown to suppress mycorrhizal fungal growth by close to 100% at a concentration of 1000 ppm.

After an herbicide application, the early successional plant species which prevent erosion and nutrient leaching from soil die. Loss of their stabilizing root structure leads to an increase in water movement through the soil, increased nutrient loss, and increased erosion from the spray site. In fact, soil nutrient loss from forest areas treated with herbicides has been shown to be greater than loss after either clearcutting or clearcutting followed by burning. The effect of herbicide treatments on soil quality and nutrient uptake by plants is compounded by the persistence of certain herbicides in soil. The half life of the herbicide imazapyr in soil is calculated as 49.5 months, and triclopyr was detected in soil at 365 days post spray.

Following herbicide treatment, regeneration occurs over the next several growing seasons for a reduced number of plant species. The herbicide triclopyr in particular has been shown to severely inhibit seed germination on the forest floor after forestry applications. Some species are able to grow more quickly in the presence of herbicide residues in the soil, these are typically the more vigorous primary successional species, including grasses and raspberry. More sensitive plant species may be eliminated altogether, strongly reducing forest diversity. Additionally, certain herbicides act to reduce a plant's ability to bear fruit at a sub lethal dose level such as occurs with herbicide drift. Rare and endangered native plants are at great risk from interference with fruiting ability or seed germination.

Wildlife is adversely affected by forestry herbicide applications in many ways. First, the reduction of plant diversity limits availability of preferred foods, shelter, and breeding/rearing areas for young. During the first year after herbicide application, a very limited number of species regenerate, and wildlife population densities are drastically reduced. Avoidance of sprayed areas is reported for a number of years after herbicide

treatment. As species that return to a given area seasonally are forced to re-locate, territorial boundaries are compromised and breeding and nesting behaviors are disturbed. Small mammals are more subject to predation due to loss of ground cover.

Wildlife is also directly affected by exposure to toxic chemicals. Although efforts are usually made to ensure that humans are not in target areas during spraying, other species are afforded no such protection. Exposure occurs through herbicide mixtures contacting fur and skin, through inhaled mist, and through eating sprayed foliage. Aquatic organisms are exposed to herbicides when water contamination occurs through drift or runoff from spray areas after rainfall.

Dermal (topical) exposure to herbicide products causes mild to severe effects, particularly to the eyes, depending on the active and inert ingredients. For example, imazapyr is classified by EPA as a "severe eye irritant," and the herbicide triclopyr requires a petroleum based carrier, typically diesel or kerosene, both of which are dangerous eye, skin and respiratory irritants. Exposure to diesel fuel reduces bird egg hatchability to almost zero.

Most herbicide products used in forestry have a severely irritating effect on lung tissue when inhaled. In particular, inhalation of kerosene or diesel causes potentially fatal chemical pneumonia. The combination of glyphosate and the POEA is linked to serious lung injury. This same combination causes inflammation of gill tissue in fish, especially in young fish, reducing survival. Even small amounts of diesel and kerosene in water are highly toxic to fish. The leaching of nitrogen from soil, increase in water temperature in sprayed areas also affects survival of cold water fish species.

Ingestion of herbicides can occur initially when an animal attempts to clean itself after dermal exposure- particularly likely if the substance is irritating, and chronically through eating plants containing herbicide residues. Although there is no visible damage to plants immediately after spraying (mortality may take up to six weeks), residues are present in plant tissue and herbivores may be exposed repeatedly while feeding within a spray area. Glyphosate residues have been found in animal tissues at six weeks following spraying, and triclopyr, because it is a fat-soluble compound, has been shown to accumulate in the tissue of mammals. Humans consuming animals exposed to triclopyr in particular should be concerned about herbicide residues in meat.

Herbicides are also associated with reproductive problems. A strong correlation has been made between glyphosate exposure and decrease in sperm count and increase in abnormal and dead sperm in mammals. Exposure to sulfometuron methyl is linked with atrophied and degenerated testicles in rats and

dogs. Both studies cited above point to disruption of reproductive function on the endocrine level, the body's hormone regulatory system, and raise grave concerns about the long term impacts of exposure, particularly to combinations of pesticides and other toxic ingredients of pesticide products. To date, no studies are available which specifically address endocrine disruption by any of the herbicides currently in use in forestry in Maine.

Recently, pesticide exposure has been linked to immune dysfunction in numerous studies. A study by Swedish oncologists Drs. Lennart Hardell and Mikael Eriksson published in the journal of the American Cancer Society in early 1999 has revealed clear links between glyphosate exposure and development of non-Hodgkins lymphoma, a form of cancer of the lymphatic system which has increased worldwide at an alarming rate in recent years.

The cumulative impact of aerial spraying on wildlife is poorly understood because of the narrow focus of the research available at this time. The combination of stressors which occurs through exposure to a mixture of herbicides, surfactants, and inert ingredients presents a far more serious threat to an individual's survival than is provided by a controlled study of one chemical and one exposure route in the laboratory setting. Claims by the forest products industry that aerial spraying is harmless or beneficial to wildlife are hardly supported by the limited scientific literature that exists, and there is a serious lack of research available. Existing evidence shows that this practice alters the forest ecosystem on all trophic levels, but the real environmental impact of extensive aerial herbicide applications in Maine and northern New Hampshire is unknown. Should we continue to allow a giant environmental experiment to continue without challenge?

AND FOR THE CHEMISTS AMONG US . . . PRODUCT NAMES/MANUFACTURERS/CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS...

- ACCORD herbicide- manufacturer: Monsanto
active ingredient: glyphosate
inert ingredients: water, FD&C blue No. 1
- ARSENAL herbicide- manufacturer: American Cyanamid
Active ingredient: imazapyr
Inert ingredients: glacial acetic acid
others- claimed confidential by manufacturer
- GARLON 4 herbicide- manufacturer: DowElanco
Active ingredient: triclopyr
Inert ingredients: Dodecylbenzenesulfonic acid
Ethoxylated sorbitan monooleate
Petroleum solvent (usually diesel/kerosene)
- ESCORT herbicide- manufacturer: EI DuPont
Active ingredient: sulfometuron methyl
Inert ingredients: sodium naphthalene sulfonate-formaldehyde condensate
sulfate of alkyl carboxylate

PESTICIDES & WILDLIFE, WOODLAND OR WETLAND HABITATS—A SELECTED, ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sylvia Knight of Charlotte, Vermont has recently published from her desktop a new bibliography of herbicide research which she has annotated and indexed. This bibliography follows earlier work on "Drift Fate and Transport (May 1999)," Glyphosate, Roundup and other Herbicides (January 1997)" and "Golf Pesticides on Prescreened List, February 1999."

Contact Sylvia at 273 Lynrick Acres, Charlotte, Vermont 05445; 802-425-2068; or sknight@together.net



Sylvia Knight submitting an earlier herbicide bibliography to Vermont legislators in 1996. Photo by Gustav Verdeber.

Thinking Like A Mountain, Acting Like A Tree Compassion As a Tool For Bringing About Environmental Change

by Kathryn Mathieson

Reverent experience with nature lays the groundwork for effective action. Without an informed and compassionate understanding of the natural world, the effectiveness of our struggle to create change is just that—a struggle. As humans, we must acknowledge our place within the ecosystems that we sometimes harm and sometimes help, and begin our quest for change now, with ourselves, one breath at a time. It is time we acknowledge our connection to the natural world, not in our heads but in our hearts.

But how do we summon compassion into our lives? By reading the right books? By hugging trees? What is needed is time spent in stillness, with no meetings, books, or voices to supply our already busy minds. Time spent with ourselves, listening and deciphering the ways we keep from completely engaging with the natural world we strive so hard to protect. Compassion for all life forms naturally arises as we attempt to understand the deeper and more spiritual aspect of the world, deciphering our connection as we move through the landscape.

Into this silence also comes the ability to extend compassion to those who we see as the "enemy". According to the tenets of Deep Ecology, we are all a part of the same world, and to harm a part of that world is to harm ourselves. Developing compassion for the baby seal or the monolithic redwood may come easy, but learning to understand and accept the person fighting against our personal wishes for the ecosystem may be far more challenging.

The philosophy behind Deep Ecology can serve as a foundation for discovering a deeper approach to nature where Earth spirit, mind, or intelligence is realized and appreciated. I contrast this belief system with what

I call "shallow environmentalism". The difference lies in thinking we have the sovereignty to control and tame the Earth into sustainability and knowing we are part of the planet, connected completely to all things in the biosphere which have, as we do, an inherent right to unfold in their own time within the larger whole.

Many of the ideas that concern compassionately engaging the Earth are drawn from Christian, Buddhist and Native American spirituality in an attempt to describe the deeper aspects of the natural world. Perhaps this traditional wisdom can bring us to a new level of ecological wisdom that is necessary in order to help a planet that is in dire need of healing.

But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee;
and the fowls of the air, and they shall teach thee;
Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee;
and the fishes of the sea shall declare unto thee.
Job 12:7-8

Within Christianity there exists the idea that

praxis, or compassion, leads to true reflection which in turn leads to worthwhile action. Paulo Freire defines praxis as reflection and action upon the world in order to transform it. Can this definition be extended to environmental and societal change?

The first step is to give a dignity to everything. Only if we revere and respect something will we take steps to protect it. Expanding our capacity to understand and serve others can be brought about by a deepening of one's personal life through prayer, meditation, and contemplation. The experience of self-emptiness and letting go is the key to entering nature and becoming a part of the system we work to save. Before a change agent can go out into the world, a change must first take place within.

Environmental activists also need to withdraw from "battle" occasionally to get a fresh perspective on the challenges they face. Burn-out can be remedied by engaging oneself so that compassion, like a small flame, can begin to grow and facilitate change. Self-engagement is the beginning of social/environmental engagement. This means both inner and outer transformations: change in corroded social, political, and economic structures must be accompanied by change in the personal and collective outlook.

To choose the world, according to Thomas Merton, is to engage with the world, to choose to do the work we are capable of doing in collaboration with those around us so as to transform the world into a place where life is revered and held sacred. Merton directs people to "find a fundamental source and anchor for existence in the midst of an increasingly frenetic world." Only when we are rooted can we begin to reach out and address problems that are plaguing our ecosystems and the life they hold balanced within them.

En la kech.

A la keen.

(I am another you. You are another me.)

Traditional Lakota Song

"In our perception all life is equal, and that includes the birds, animals, things that grow, things that swim. All life is equal in our perception," writes Native American Oren Lyons in his article An Iroquois Perspective which appears in the anthology Learning to Listen to the Land. This reverence for the land and bonding with non-human nature embodies the path of compassion

necessary for truly helping the Earth.

What is called for, says Lakota Elder Lorain Fox-Davis, is a real generosity of spirit. It is this sense of forgiveness and acceptance that leads to the compassion that manifests itself in helping others and in helping the earth. There is no separation between spirituality and service. One leads to another. The purpose of one's life is service to all life. When compassion is not present, an anger can result, perhaps a potent anger that forces change, but one that can be destructive in the long run, for self and perhaps for the forest, animal, or river we are striving so hard to protect.

Mending our personal relationship with nature helps us to explore how we are conditioned by dominant modes of thinking that can lead to egoism, competition, abstraction, and domination. A voice for nature can be brought forth for itself and not solely for the use of humans, however well intentioned, environmentally-motivated, or "green" we may be. Action that results from hate, anger, and bitterness

often goes awry or is ineffectual. What is needed, instead, is to deepen our sense of wonder, realize our vision for the world, and honor our commitment to compassionate environmental activism.

"The word meditation is sometimes used to mean contemplating a particular theme or object: meditating on such and such a thing. By meditating on a question or problem, we can find the solution to it," Trungpa Rinpoche, Shambhala: The Sacred Path of the Warrior.

Eastern religions have long provided insights for dealing with environmental imbalance. Many of the interpretations produced by writers such as Emerson, Thoreau, and Gary Snyder have served as the inspiration for environmental and social activists—people who are engaged in cultivating their own ecological consciousness.

"Buddhism teaches impermanence, suffering and no deity. 'No self in self, no self in things,'" writes Gary Snyder in Turtle Island. He adds that the true source of compassion and ethical behavior is actually one's own realization of the "insubstantial and ephemeral nature of everything." These ideas mesh with the philosophies upon which Deep Ecology is based. "The search for deep ecological consciousness is the search for a more objective consciousness and state of being through an active deep questioning and meditative process and way of life," writes Snyder in his discussion of stripping away the human-based order and progress from our view of the natural world.

It is futile to engage in social or environmental action without first engaging in the present moment. Without mindfulness, action is lost or frittered away. In Buddhism, there is an organic unity, or mutual co-arising, along with an acceptance of biocentric equality. These ideas are by-products of the maturation cycle which is the process of awakening from illusion and delusion and dropping the blindfold that prevents us from seeing the connectedness of all life.

Interconnectedness can be thought of as: if I suffer, everyone and everything does, and visa-versa. Any-violence in the world is my own violence. "As we work to heal the earth, the earth heals us," writes Joanna Macy in World as Lover, World as Self. Yet she also stresses the importance of the individual self maintaining and increasing its uniqueness while continuing to be an inseparable aspect of the whole system.

It is the act of questioning and the practice of searching for answers that leads to engagement. But in questioning, one must be willing to let go of outcomes and open up to answers and the accompanying pain that may arise. Engaged activists refuse to turn away from the pain, suffering and sadness that they encounter in their work. Suffering becomes the starting point for activism and for transformation. Change arises from the ashes of despair.

It is our responsibility as members of the Earth's sangha (to borrow the Buddhist term for community) to recognize and respect all creatures and forms of life and to save them from suffering to the best of our ability. And we are rewarded tenfold for doing so. By being in the moment, emptying out and learning from the sky, the sun, the grass, the trees, we begin to think like a mountain. This is when the change begins to happen, when ecological consciousness replaces dominant culture's habit of imposing self upon the other. Once we can begin to "think" like a mountain, then our actions will become more rooted and grounded in the earth we are striving to heal.

Kathryn Mathieson recently worked for The Northern Appalachian Restoration Project as development director and is now expecting a child while awaking the Buddha nature of several dogs at her East Montpelier home.



ONE NIGHT WHILE HUMANS PLAY VOLLEYBALL IN THE RAIN

by Peter Franklin

It's a wet spring night. Out There, a few hundred yards beyond the circle of halogen light, something begins to happen . . . as it annually has for millions of years . . . (Tonight no human is there to see, but if it hadn't begun occurring humans wouldn't have evolved at all, thank you very much oh vertebrate amphibians, and the reptiles also thank you . . .) Along the mown shore of the pond where earlier in the day bipedal forms had floated and swum, the unwitnessed spectacle is that of young toads, *Bufo americanus* to be precise, making their first emergence from their birthwater. Masses of toads no bigger than baby peas are climbing through the roots and stems of grasses at the edge of the water. They have—most of them—recently dropped their tails, and they've been waiting, waiting, somehow they know they'll dry out and die if conditions aren't right, they have to ease their transition to air and these warm drops of rain that pelt them—some drops bigger than themselves—serve as portable spacesuits that will keep their skins moist as they crawl, as they test their strength with tiny hops, a hundred strong at first, then a thousand, then tens of thousands—though no one is there to count them by flashlight beam . . .

Some males, dazed by their hormonal need, latched onto other males, and one, especially crazed, found a dead fish irresistible

A couple hundred (uncounted) adult toads had mated in the pond a month before. Each female, squeezed tightly from behind by a male, had extruded up to 10,000 uncounted eggs. (Some males, dazed by their hormonal need, latched onto other males, and one, especially crazed, found a dead fish irresistible and kneaded the soft rotting flesh with its clasping front legs for twenty four hours.) A few thousand of the resultant polliwogs had been eaten by fish, herons and turtles; some had died from genetic defects; ten or twenty had expired this very afternoon in the hands of curious children who may or may not have understood the frailty of such tiny creatures. But the toads have no historian to trace the lives of individual members of their species (unless their

mating trills encode some oral tradition indecipherable to the human ear), no one to account for those that in the ensuing months will die beneath the hooves of passing deer, or get gobbled up by crows. Of course some humans (elsewhere) are studying toads and frogs—counting them—and scientists, debating causes, are concluding that amphibian populations are decreasing. Too much ultraviolet light, some say, caused by human pollutions; some say nematodes. Less debatable is the fact that in spite of having been copulating, eating and shitting a lot longer than humans, somehow the amphibians haven't yet learned how to lay eggs on the asphalt of shopping mall parking lots; nor have they developed defenses against the highways that increasingly crisscross their breeding grounds. (If scientists really want to be of assistance, I would suggest that instead of taking millions of frogs out of their natural habitat for closer observation in laboratories, they do some gene splicing that would help turn skin spots into three inch nails capable of puncturing tires.)

Well, if they're lucky, the toads will be able to hang on another few million years, and they won't have to deal with *Homo sapiens* any more—humans have about reached the point where their destructive tendencies can attain critical mass and pass beyond all semblance of control, so they'll either die off from self-inflicted causes other life forms may or may not survive, or evolve into some more benign form.

Be this as it may, tonight all over the country there are concentric waves of toadlings moving away from birth ponds and marshes. . . by dawn the quickest and most determined will have voyaged thirty or forty feet into the new world . . . thirty yards the next day . . . a steady stream of toads following the toeprints of the pioneers, one after the other, HOP hop HOP, looking for a spot to settle down. . . and in a few years they will—the survivors—be hopping back on a warm spring day into water, to perpetuate the cycle, keep the ball rolling . . .

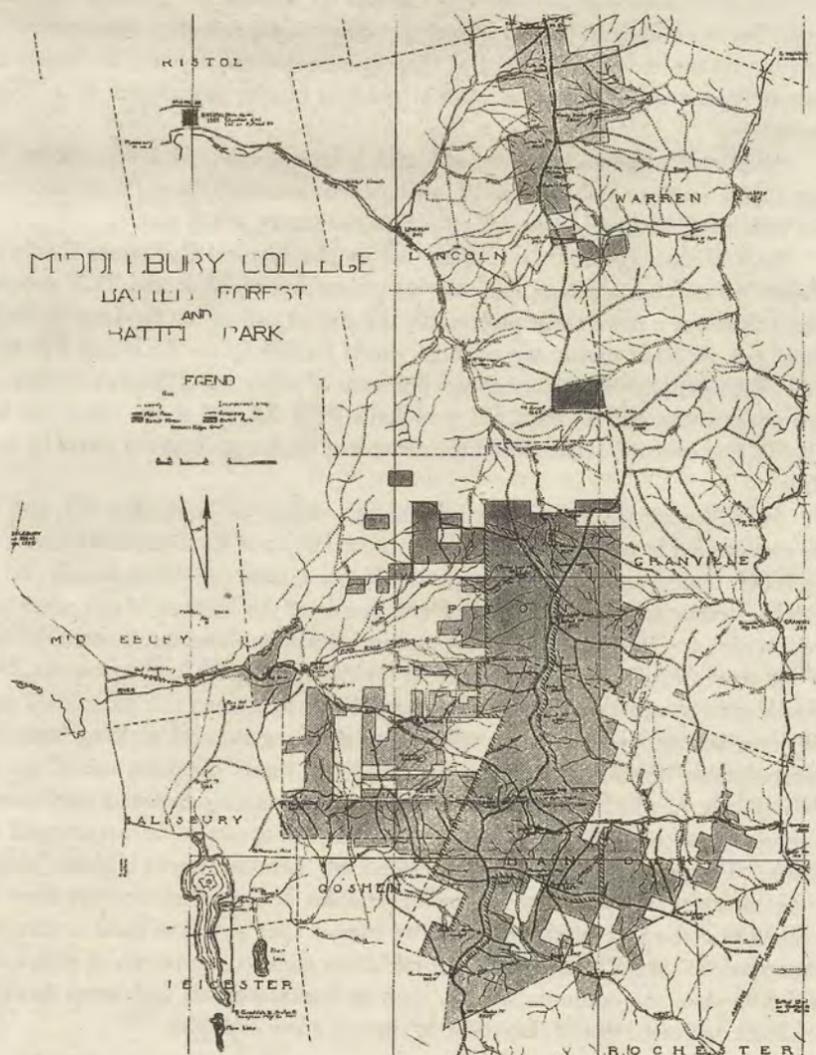


Eastern Old Growth Notes is your best resource for a regular compilation of old growth news, research and conference proceedings. Edited by Mary Byrd Davis and advised by pre-eminent old growth ecologists, the newsletter is published by the Eastern Old-Growth Clearinghouse, POB 131, Georgetown, KY 40324; marybdavis@earthlink.net.

Supporters of the Clearinghouse receive the newsletter for their annual donation of \$30; \$15 low income; \$60 benefactor. Please make checks payable to ASPI/Old-Growth Clearinghouse.

LATE BREAKING NEWS ON BATTELL LANDS

The Forest Service announced on September 14, 1999 that it has no legal duty to respect Joseph Battell's wishes, but was silent on the issue of its ethical and moral duties to Battell. It seems that the federal agency went through 'condemnation' proceedings in the local court to clear title to much of the land and believes that it can now do as it pleases. Forest Watch and other critics disagree. Upon taking ownership of the wild lands, the Forest Service made a promise to Battell to honor the restrictions established in his will and neither wishful thinking nor legal shenanigans can extinguish the agency's ethical duty to keep that promise. — Jim Northrup



"THERE ARE SOME CONSTRAINTS PLACED ON US BY NATURE WHICH WE CANNOT ALTER AT WILL WITHOUT UNACCEPTABLE CONSEQUENCES"

by Peter Neils

Over the past year, the controversial tactics of the Native Forest Network have become familiar to the people of Maine. Beyond the actions covered by snippets on the evening news and in the Maine sections of the newspapers, NFN's campaign to persuade Lincoln Pulp & Paper to convert to Totally Chlorine Free (TCF) technology is the result of a carefully considered analysis of the dynamics of the regulation of the paper industry in the State of Maine, and the long term environmental impacts of the continued release of even the most minute amounts of highly toxic chemicals which bioconcentrate in the food chain, making fish caught in these rivers unsafe feed to our children.

On April 8, 1996, Governor Angus King announced that the operators of all seven of Maine's bleach kraft mills had signed a plan which pledged to "eliminate the discharge of pollutants, including dioxin, into Maine's waters."

This resulted in a series of meetings of various stakeholders, convened by DEP commissioner Ned Sullivan. What eventually emerged was the sobering fact that the paper industry had no intention of "eliminating dioxin discharges," but rather the radically different, if ostensibly reassuring, objective of "reducing levels of dioxin in wastewater discharge to undetectable levels."

In response to this situation, two different legislative tracks developed. One, supported by the Governor, the Paper industry, and the Paperworker's Union, proposed to reduce dioxin in mill discharge to undetectable levels, by the year 2002 through the conversion to Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF) technology, substituting chlorine dioxide for elemental chlorine. The second, supported by a broadbased coalition of health advocacy, public interest, and environmental groups, proposed the elimination of dioxin in the waste stream by eliminating the use of any form of chlorine in the pulp bleaching process through Totally Chlorine Free (TCF) technology.

In 1992, the International Joint Coalition, a commission of three Americans and three Canadians appointed by their President and Prime Minister respectively to monitor and assess the progress of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, concluded that only the ELIMINATION of the use of chlorine and chlorine compounds could insure that the generation of dioxins would be prevented. "Zero discharge means just that: halting all inputs from all human sources and pathways to prevent any opportunity for persistent toxic substances to enter the environment as a result of human activity. To prevent releases completely, their manufacture, use, transport and disposal must stop; they simply must not be available. Thus, zero discharge does NOT mean less than detectable."

In 1996 the Maine DEP proposed a water quality standard of .013 parts per quadrillion, assuming a 'safe' level of dioxin in fish tissue of 0.065 parts per trillion (ppt). In fact, the test for dioxin in fish tissue is only reliably accurate to 0.1 to 0.2 ppt for most commercial laboratories.

Thus, fish tissue monitoring programs are not capable of measuring dioxins at levels necessary to determine whether the assumed 'safe' levels have been achieved. The effects of endocrine disrupters like dioxin on humans are incompletely understood, but are known to impact hormonal activities, reproductive development and activity, and the immune system. In 1998, the International Agency for Research on Cancer revised its classification from a "possible human carcinogen" to a "human carcinogen."

Additionally, the composition of bleach kraft mill effluents is so complex, new ingredients continue to be identified, making resistance to reducing both the volume and toxicity of discharges increasingly difficult to justify, at any cost.

In A Vision For Maine's Papermills by the Natural Resources Council of Maine, a careful analysis of the costs of converting to ECF and TCF processes found that over a fifteen year project life, the cost of conversion for Lincoln Pulp & Paper per air dried metric ton of pulp, would be \$28.30 for ECF and \$36.40 for TCF. Expressed as the additional cost per ream of paper, the difference between the two options was just .6 cents, or 1 to 3 cents PER REAM at the consumer level. The TCF conversion also reduced the volume of discharges into our rivers by nearly 90%.

So, if the legislature had this information, which we know they did, and they are empowered to represent the interests of the People of the State of Maine, which we is our understanding, what happened? If asked, most legislators usually feel that they are acting in the best interests of the people of the State of Maine when making decisions. The rationale supporting this perception, however, is often the result of the way in which issues are framed by lobbyists, the press, and colleagues. In the case of environmental regulation, issues are frequently framed as a dichotomy, pitching more stringent standards against jobs, or elevating the cost of doing business to "unacceptable" levels. This creates the sense that these "opposing views" are on a sliding scale on which an inversely proportional relationship between them must be carefully balanced with the judicious application of a sort of "environmental relativism." The principle flaws in this construct are: 1. the treatment of these factors as components of an equation which are all variables, denying that there are some constraints placed on us by nature which we cannot alter at will without unacceptable consequences, and: 2. the continued exclusion from cost analysis of externalities which deplete the common wealth, such as diminished air and water quality or resultant increased health care costs, to cite just a few examples.

Environmental activists are all too familiar with conversations with their legislators in which they are told that the legislation they have decided to support, "while not ideal, is the best we can do now", or "recognizes political reality."

It is hard to imagine that most of us would blanch at paying \$4.98 instead of \$4.95 for a ream of paper, knowing that this additional cost would reduce mill discharges by nearly 90% and eliminate the toxicity of the remainder, so where are the origins of this "political reality?"

The answer, unfortunately, is that legislators operate in an environment in which the concerns of the average citizen are frequently overwhelmed by the extraordinarily persuasive arguments of legions of paid salespeople who have no interest in the common good of the public, just minimizing the impact of regulation on the industry which they represent.

The fact that they have become facile at tailoring their presentations to APPEAR to be concerned about finding the "right balance" between "sensible" regulation "protecting" Maine's natural resources and "saving jobs" obscures the stark truth that they are paid to thwart the efforts of legislators to control the excesses of their employers.

LEGISLATORS CLEARLY form their view of what is politically possible based on what they hear, more than what they read. Every legislator had a copy of the paper from which the data in this essay was excerpted, as did every major newspaper in the state. Yet not one article nor a single legislator raised the issue of the discrepancy between the "safe" level of dioxin in fish tissue, and the sensitivity of existing testing procedures. Not one article presented to the people of Maine the fact that the difference in the cost of the two options being debated in the legislature would amount to just 1 to 3 cents a ream at the consumer level. Thus the people of Maine often have no objective frame of reference in which to evaluate proposals before the legislature that they might communicate an informed opinion to their legislator.

The old story about getting the mule's attention by hitting it in the head with a 2x4, then shouting "gitty-up", reflects why NFN chooses the tactics we do. There seems no other way to get people to consider the hypocrisy of our public policy.

Most demonstrators take time off from work to participate in actions. The choice to risk arrest to raise these issues is a reflection of their commitment to leaving our children a living planet. We can only speculate about the motives of those who mislead the people of Maine with slick public relations campaigns while they continue to poison our air and water.

PUBLIC SUPPORTS SET-ASIDES

Recently surfacing in my heaps of paper is the executive summary of a study "Public Preferences for Timber Harvesting on Private Forest Land Purchased for Public Ownership in Maine." A publication and survey of the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station (Miscellaneous Report 414) dated May 1999 it reads as follows:

"The research investigated how the public would like to see a generic 23,000 acre parcel of forest land in northern Maine managed for forestry when purchased by the state of Maine from a commercial timber company. The study also tested the degree of support for acquiring such a parcel of land. A total of 926 surveys were completed out of a 2500 sample for a useable response rate of 45%."

Respondents were asked how they would allocate land between managed and set-aside forest. "The research found that respondents gave the highest rating to setting half of the land aside from timber harvesting."

Respondents were then asked what sort of timber management they would like to see on the managed lands. Results indicated strong support for lighter road density, abandoning roads, leaving more standing snags and slash in the forest, and cutting methods other than clearcutting.

Broad support also exists for paying for such land protection. The average Maine household might be willing according to the survey to support a one-time payout of \$444 toward the hypothesized 23,000 acre forest. Provided that is, that one half the land was set aside and the other half managed more lightly. Voila. — A.W.

WMNF Roadless Areas Meeting Convened October 13 Concord, NH

Join the American Lands Alliance at the Concord Public Library, 45 Green St. 5:30 pm for a panel discussion of proposed protection strategies for White Mountain National Forest roadless areas. Call 207-863-6059 for further information.

by Mitch Lansky

One might imagine that a book put together by a "balanced" committee containing representatives of industry, academia, government, and environmental groups would be so compromised as to be less than useful. In the case of *Biodiversity in the Forests of Maine: Guidelines for Land Management*, this is not the case. Indeed, this book, based on the work of a committee from the Maine Forest Biodiversity Project, is a must read for anyone who has an interest in managing with biodiversity in mind in the Acadian forest region of northern New England or Eastern Canada.

The book is, in general, easy to use. For a given topic, it provides a definition, the importance for biodiversity, the goal, background and rationale, considerations, and recommended practices. Illustrations help the reader understand such topics as connectivity, fragmentation, or habitat size and shape. Because the book covers so many topics, it can't, by necessity, go into great depth on any particular subject. It has, however, an extensive set of references for each topic so the interested reader can explore further. Finally, there are numerous appendices with key information—from lists of endangered plant and animal species, to amphibians and reptiles that use vernal pools, to species using dead and downed trees. These features make this book the basic text for anyone with forest biodiversity concerns.

The book does not always have hard-hitting recommendations that logically follow the scientific premisses. Landowners or others with biodiversity concerns can, however, read the relevant information and make their own management decisions. The committee felt it was more important to give readers up-to-date factual information rather than dictate a given management approach. Managing for biodi-

versity is still a relatively new discipline. While there is no guarantee that following recommended practices will lead to desired results, the further one strays from basic principles of conservation biology, the higher the chances that something will go wrong.

Although the outline of the book was written by a committee, the text and much of the research was done by consultants Gro Flatebo, Carol Foss, and Steve Pelletier. Cathy Elliot, of Maine Cooperative Extension, edited the work. This book required many meetings over a period of years. The committee read the drafts and had many ardent discussions on topics ranging from broad concepts to minute word smithing. MFBP director, Phil Gerard, deserves credit for helping to get this disparate group to come to agreements and actually produce a useful document.

In the name of full disclosure, I must admit here that I was one of the committee members. I also must admit that in the beginning, I had grave doubts that we could make a real contribution to the subject. Indeed, there were some tense moments when we all wondered if we could agree on a given sentence, let alone write a book. One third of the committee members were representatives of large landownerships. In general, science won out over politics. The process was more successful than my expectations.

To order copies, send a \$25 check or money order payable to University of Maine Cooperative Extension to Tracey Nelson, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, 5755 Nutting Hall, Orono, ME 04469-5755. Price includes shipping, handling, and sales tax.

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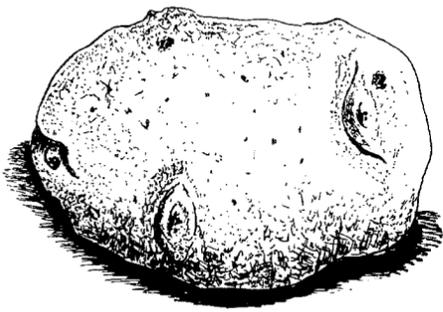
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A Hymn to the Potato

I Praise the Potato

*Because it needs the praise
When engineers come
And mix it with a Giraffe
It will never again be the same.*



II Boycott the Spud

*Which is designed by big money:
They say it's safe but what they mean is
the profit
Which is their Superior motif*

III Praise the Potato

*Boiled fried baked
in an oven
We need potatoes
Like we need rainy day clouds
...& they do look just like them.*

