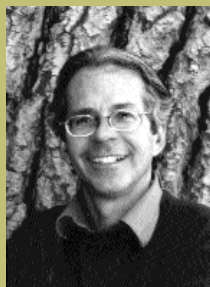




forest

WISDOM

newsletter number one of the forest guild / september 2004



Henry Carey
is Executive Director
of the Forest Guild.



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Welcome to our new newsletter! The Forest Guild represents a strategic integration of the programs of the Forest Trust and the Forest Stewards Guild. The boards of both institutions envisioned creating an energetic new organization that builds on the strong professional membership and national reach of the Guild and the research, public policy and community forestry capacities of the Trust.

These two organizations share a history that dates back to 1984. At that time, I was working for the Forest Service. I was fascinated with the social structures human beings evolve to preserve and enhance the natural world and had stumbled across a rare book entitled "Indian Use of the Santa Fe National Forest." The following passage caught my attention:

[A] precarious subsistence base over the centuries has played an important role in developing institutions and strategies intended to prevent misuse of resources. Such a philosophy would have as its basic concern the maintenance of harmony between man and nature. Nature is viewed as pervaded with life and spirit which must be treated with respect and consideration, never abused. To this end the Pueblo villages were and continue to be organized into many societies, each with responsibilities for different aspects of life—hunting, curing, weather, etc....

I felt that our precious natural resources could only withstand the pressures of human development if "societies" were entrusted specifically with their care and preservation. Feeling that there were no such organizations in the West targeting the forest, I created the Forest Trust.

Over its history, the Trust addressed issues specific to the land ownerships found in the Southwest. On the nonindustrial private lands,

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forest guild / september 2004
newsletter number one

forest GUILD

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Mission

The Forest Guild promotes forestry that sustains the integrity of forest ecosystems and the human communities dependent upon them. The Guild provides training, policy analysis, and research to foster excellence in stewardship, to support practicing foresters and allied professionals, and to engage a broader community in the challenges of forest conservation and management.

Letter from the Director, continued from page 1

we focused on forestry consulting and land trust strategies. On the large expanses of public land, we advocated a forestry that uses nature as a model and protects all resource values. We didn't engage in appeals or litigation with the federal agencies. Recognizing that the small villages spread across the countryside have a profound impact on the forests, we developed a strong community forestry program to help rural people enhance their livelihoods and engage in the decision process.

Throughout the early years of the Forest Trust, I felt something was still missing in the institutional landscape. Foresters who saw their principal mission as the care and tending of the forest were not represented. The idea for an alternative organization for professional foresters first came to me in Washington, D.C. in the early 1980s. A colleague and I had just attended a forestry conference at which we had both felt desperately out of place. We started to dream about creating an alternative to the existing associations of professional foresters – an organization that would focus on maintaining the natural character of the forest.



1997 – At the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina, like minded foresters met to adopt a statement of mission and principles, forming the Forest Stewards Guild.

The idea went no further until, in 1994, the Pew Charitable Trusts, wanting to encourage cultural change within the forestry community, hosted a small meeting of “progressive” foresters. Coming out of this meeting, the Pew Trusts made a small grant to the Forest Trust to explore the notion of this progressive network of foresters.

In canvassing people from around the country, we discovered a core of passionate individuals

who expressed strong support for our idea. These feelings ran particularly high among field foresters. Each year, attendance grew at the meetings we held across the country. Finally in 1997, at the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina – the “cradle” of forestry in the United States – the assembled group adopted a statement of mission and principles and formed the Forest Stewards Guild. Since then, the Guild has grown into a national organization of some 500 foresters and natural resource professionals managing over 41 million acres.



2001 – Foresters gather at one of many field tours put on during the Forest Stewards Guild Annual Meeting in Silver Bay, New York.

A year ago, the boards of both the Trust and the Guild began to engage in deliberations relating to the maturing of the organizations, a changed funding environment and a reevaluation of programs and service delivery. They examined not only the challenges facing the staff and membership but also the great opportunities offered by a shared, unique perspective on forestry. They concluded that the purposes of both would be benefited by unifying the staffs and programs into a single organization. The board envisioned increased effectiveness in relaying the Guild's message to an ever-wider audience and in applying a stewardship ethic to a greater forest acreage.

People often ask me what makes the Guild unique. My first response is that the organization is value-based. Many groups are oriented towards a specific goal or activity. On the other hand, membership in the Forest Guild starts with a personal identification with the values imbedded in the “statement of principles.” Sharing their experiences in the forest from a

Letter from the Director, continued on page 5

IN THE FOREST

Indigenous Restoration Knowledge: Sustainably Managing Southwestern Pine Habitats

By Gary Nabhan

historically, many conservationists have perceived the Southwest's ponderosa and pinyon-juniper habitats as key areas for designating wilderness, whether they are located in the Sky Islands or in Canyon Country. While many areas deserve such status, it is also clear that many of these habitats have been "culturally influenced" in one way or another for several millennia. In the Colorado Plateau ecoregion, stretching from the western flanks of the Jemez to the Grand Canyon and beyond, more than 230 species of non-timber forest species have been harvested, used or otherwise influenced by the diverse cultures in these landscapes.

I prefer the term "culturally influenced" rather than "managed" because many of the indigenous influences have not diminished the "untrammeled" wilderness character of pine-dominated communities; that is to say, indigenous peoples have not tamed them or turned them into pine plantations. Nevertheless, the influences of Native Americans on the structure, function and patch dynamics of Southwestern pine communities has been underestimated, perhaps because these influences have not altogether reworked or converted the dominant cover of these habitats. Instead, the changes generated by traditional ecological knowledge and practices are subtle in their effects on patch dynamics – but are nonetheless present. Many of these changes affect the understory diversity, abundance, and utility of non-timber forest products more than they do commercial timber species.

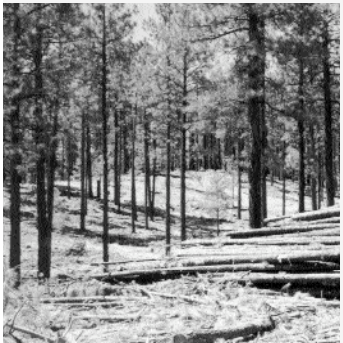
From what I have gathered from Navajo, Hopi, Zuni and Apache friends over the course of field trips into the forests and pygmy woodlands during the last three decades, the cultural influences of Native Americans often had different focuses. For example, sometimes the focus was utilizing

or managing individual plants and sometimes plant populations; sometimes the focus was microhabitats, and other times it was landscapes.

Craig Allen, research ecologist with the USGS at Bandelier National Monument, recently made a good case that fire management by Pueblo people did not much influence fire frequencies on a landscape scale. However, neither Craig nor I dispute that sumac patches, riparian canyon bottoms, and wetlands edges choked with cattails and rushes were frequently burned over the last millennia throughout the Colorado Plateau, although on a scale and with frequencies that made their impacts minor in comparison to the influence of lightning strikes in the tree ring fire scar records. The commentaries about culturally influenced burns come from early oral histories and ethnohistories, particularly those compiled by Grenville Goodwin and Hank Dobyns. In the southern portions of the Gran Apacheria, Mark Kaib has confirmed that the influences of these burns in the tree ring records are rich and varied.

Fire is not the only way that forests and woodlands are culturally influenced. More than 230 understory species from across the pine-dominated ecosystems of the Colorado Plateau are utilized as traditional non-timber forest products by Native Americans. In the Grand Canyon wildlands ecoregion where I live, 89 of these species have persisted in use among the Navajo and Hopi. They are not merely "collected," as if Native American wildcrafters passively accept

Indigenous Restoration Knowledge, continued on page 4



Gary Nabhan

is Director of the Center for Sustainable Environments at Northern Arizona University, which sponsors the first community-supported wild foraging project in the country.



“More than 230 species of non-timber forest species have been harvested, used or otherwise influenced by the diverse cultures in the Southwest's ponderosa and pinyon-habitats.”

Unfortunately, those of us who care about the health and resilience of Southwestern pine forests and woodlands...have too often extrapolated from studies done elsewhere.



what is placed before them. Instead, people have burned or pruned these different species of plants to render their products useful. For example, some plants must be dug up, and their corms or rhizomes separated and replanted, to allow the population to persist after harvest. In short, their demography, morphology and abundance have been altered by cultural means. In another example, the old, tough, jagged branches of three-leaf sumac are virtually useless to basket makers. But when new velvety shoots rise from the ashes in the month following a summer fire, the sumac shoots are straight, long, pliable and ideal for basket weaving as Vorsila Bohrer has documented. Ethnobotanist M. Katherine Anderson has found similar morphological changes with redbud, mountain mahogany, and other shrubs. Cultural use of every plant is not a given, but comes from traditional ecological knowledge on when and how to burn or prune.

Understory species diversity, productivity and morphology can all be dramatically altered by fire suppression, grazing and the subsequent establishment of "doghair thickets" of overstory trees. In a preliminary assessment done by Center for Sustainable Environments researchers, it appears that as many as 65 non-timber forest species traditionally used by the Navajo and Apache have diminished in abundance as a result of forest cover changes and fire policy over the last century. Ironically, many of the traditional-use species persist in harvestable quantities only in or on the edges of open patches near fields, pastures, and houseyards, or in the forests that are anthropogenically maintained as open habitats. There

– despite fire suppression policies and gathering restrictions irregularly enforced by federal and tribal agencies – indigenous families and clans are maintaining a patchwork quilt of habitats that meet their various material and spiritual needs for foods, fibers, medicines and ceremonial paraphernalia.

Unfortunately, those of us who care about the health and resilience of Southwestern pine forests and woodlands have too few case studies of indigenous pruning, burning and tending effects documented within our region; we have too often extrapolated from studies done elsewhere. Recently-endorsed policies now encourage the National Park Service and Forest Service to allow Native American harvesting and to evaluate the effects rather than assuming the harvests are by their very nature damaging. However, too few parks and forests are implementing these policies or doing the follow up "to get it right" with their Indian neighbors. Worse yet, the Department of Justice recently pulled all National Park Service files related to gathering permits for Native Americans in parks from the Denver regional office. The Justice Department is mounting a legal challenge to policies that grant Native Americans rights to gather in parks and monuments where their ancestors harvested materials from the same species or populations for centuries. The Justice Department may wish to consider that some habitats that give National Parks their essential character might look, feel and smell radically different were it not for centuries of influence by Native American farmers and foragers. Similar issues occur on National Forest lands, where USFS officials might give lip service to promoting non-timber forest product development, but deny permits even to foragers who wish to harvest exotic species such as Siberian blackberries!

Northern Arizona University's Center for Sustainable Environments received a grant from the National Commission on Science for Sustainable Forestry to further document forest use history impacts on understory biodiversity, and to look at the implications for management and restoration strategies in the Western U.S. Its forthcoming monograph, *Woodlands in Crisis: A Legacy of Lost*

Diversity on the Colorado Plateau, will be distributed by the University of Arizona Press beginning in September, 2004. ■

For More Information

The Center for Sustainable Environments welcomes exchanges with tribes, agencies, and non-profits, as well as with individual forest stewardship practitioners, wildcrafters, basketweavers and curanderos. The website www.environment.nau.edu will have current details on the project. Look for *Woodlands in Crisis: A Legacy of Lost Diversity on the Colorado Plateau*, University of Arizona Press, a cd-data base of non-timber forest products, in September, 2004.

framework of common values is also the "spark" that brings members to the annual meetings year after year.

Secondly, the Guild represents the perspective of field foresters. Their views and recommendations are not theoretical – they are based on practical experience in the forest. Guild foresters are applied ecologists, keen observers



of natural patterns who follow nature's wisdom in their practice of forestry. Finally, many Guild foresters have a long history of practice in place. Many have spent their whole careers working in a single region. Thus, they have observed not only natural cycles in the forest but also the consequences of their own decisions and actions. They have learned from their mistakes – as well as from their successes.

In a recent conversation, Mike Dombeck, former Chief of the Forest Service, told me that he believes America is experiencing a crisis of trust in its experts. This crisis is not surprising when we recognize that experts are providing

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information that does not stand the test of reason on everything from military intelligence to toxins. This advice is often based upon political agendas that are not practical, are not grounded and that involve highly simplified views of the world and its complex web of relationships.

In this vacuum, the Forest Guild has a great opportunity to provide our country with answers to many of the ambiguities surrounding good forestry. Harkening back to the description of Native American cultures, my hope is that the Guild will become a "society" that results in the expert care of the forest. I see the Guild providing leadership that is based on principle, is grounded in a knowledge of place and is inspired by thoughtful observation of the natural forest and intersecting human systems.

In the coming year, the Guild's board of directors, the newly formed "Membership and Policy Council," the staff, members and supporters will be working to realize this vision. We will be building a strategic plan that will target three to four issues in a similar number of regions around the country where we think we can make a measurable difference in the way forestry is practiced. We hope that you will join us in this endeavor. ■

“Forestry is a movement – a way to replace heavily exploitative forest cutting with practices that use planning, inventory and silvicultural knowledge to provide wood forever while retaining the forest as a natural functioning ecosystem.”

- Ross Morgan



FOREST POLICY

Public Forests Could Set National Standards For Excellent Forestry

By Ross Morgan

Ross S. Morgan

is a consulting forester in Craftsbury Common, Vermont and serves on the Forest Guild Board of Directors.

I have been surrounded by wood and the woods all my life. In my living room are two wooden chairs; one belonged to my great-great grandfather Joseph L. Perry, and the other, according to my grandmother, was made from woods from the home woodlot by cousin Chauncey Hibbard in 1837. The family woodlot is on a parcel of land partially cleared and settled by my ancestors after the American Revolution. Certainly the wooden chairs are important possessions, but they have served me in more ways than a place to sit; they connect me to my history and to my life's work as a forester.

Forty years ago I began my career marking red pine trees to be removed in thinning operations. I have dedicated my life from that time to the management of woodlots in Vermont and northern New York. Forest management is complex and little understood work. For me, forest management centers around answering the question, "What is the best way in which to enter into the forest, take from it and be certain that it remains whole?"

Forestry is a movement – a way to replace heavily exploitative forest cutting with practices that use planning, inventory and silvicultural knowledge to provide wood forever while retaining the forest as a natural functioning ecosystem. The forestry movement is quite idealistic in light of the realities we see happening around us. From Vermont, I see thousands of acres of lands that I managed in the past become liquidated of wood and rutted with machinery. These practices are not forestry – they are actually what forestry was brought here from Europe to replace at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Yet somewhere I have found enough hope and optimism to continue trying to manage forest land. I continue because I believe there is a need for excellent forest management in this nation – from the Atlantic to the Pacific. I continue because of the amazing, accumulating body of knowledge that is fundamental to the practice of forestry, much of it from the research and management work of the United States Forest Service.

I look to the results of the management of the Green Mountain National Forest and White Mountain National Forest, and research from USDA Forest Service facilities in the Northeast Forest Experiment Station and Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, to provide an essential understanding of how northeastern forest ecosystems work. From these management examples and research studies, I take ideas to use in my silvicultural practice.

The national forests are often battlegrounds for conflicting values. Yet we know how to carry out sound forest management operations in a sustainable fashion and can do so within the context of the law. I look to these public forest lands to provide dynamic, working examples of excellent forestry that set the standard in this country for hundreds of years to come. This central use of national forests should be enabled for the very longest period of time. However, this does not mean that management of national forests should be oriented solely to producing timber. The production of quality water, habitat for wild animals and biodiversity at both the niche and landscape levels, many forms of recreation and setting aside wild land are also essential. ■

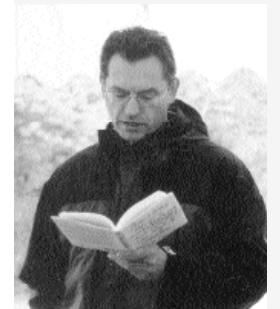


Guild's Tenth Annual Conference Draws a Crowd

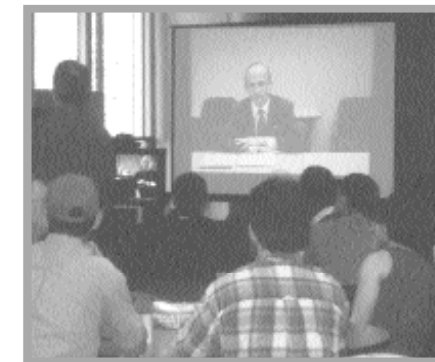
The 2004 Annual Conference, "Making Forestry Matter: Forging a New Forest Community," took place May 19-22, at the University of Maine - Orono. Foresters, landowners, loggers and associated professionals gathered in the heart of the most heavily forested state in the country.

The opening panel discussion took the "inventory" of the forestry profession's successes and failures over the last century, setting the stage for an exploration of pathways to build stronger collaborations for ecologically and economically responsible forestry. Presentations covered a wide range of subjects such as silvicultural techniques, forestry for land trusts, collaborative models of partnership between foresters, landowners and loggers, and fair compensation for sustainable forestry. Discussion groups explored the philosophical underpinnings of members' approaches to forestry. Field tours looked at every facet of the managed forest, from family tree farms to landscape-scale public and corporate operations. Diverse workshops provided technical information and tools to support better forestry, including "focus species management" for biodiversity, chainsaw techniques for creating habitat niches, assessment techniques for late-successional stand characteristics, adding value to forest products (material available on Guild's website), and biophysical monitoring.

The closing discussion identified ways the Guild can build relationships with other groups and individuals to create a broad "forest community." The discussion began with an exploration of how the Guild fits within a larger social movement that includes organic agriculture. Participants noted a wide range of "communities," ranging from local economic development councils to lake associations, that are natural supporters of long-term forestry.



Bob Perschel contributes a reading on building relationships with other groups and individuals in order to create a broad "forest community."



Governor of Maine Receives Award

At the 2004 Annual Conference, the Guild presented its first awards for Forestry Leadership to Maine Governor John Baldacci and Director of the Maine Forest Service and Guild member, Alec Giffen.

The Governor was cited for his initiative to promote sustainable forestry through green certification, and for his efforts to eliminate liquidation harvesting. The Guild hopes that the political leadership demonstrated by Governor Baldacci and Director Giffen will inspire their colleagues in other states.



Barrie Brusila presents a Forestry Leadership Award to Alec Giffen (third from left) for his role in turning the Governor's vision for forests into a reality, while Maine Forest Service employees Ken Laustsen and Don Mansius look on. (Photo Left) Governor Baldacci addresses the conference via live feed.



**Forest Guild Member
Don Handley**

is a consulting forester and, with his son Gary, runs Handley Forestry Services in Florence, South Carolina.



Though most of Handley's clients would like to have a regular continuing income, few realize that they can have this without depleting their forest.

IN THE FOREST

The Business, Art, and Science of Forestry in the South Carolina Coastal Plains

By Don Handley

Today, we frequently are reminded that approximately 75% of the commercial forestlands in the southern pine region and up the East Coast is held in private ownership. Thus, for the Forest Guild to make sure that good forestry is practiced on a significant part of the forests, member foresters must make systems available that appeal to the owners of small tracts of private forest land.

The need for scientific forestry was recognized in the eastern and southern states in the early years of the twentieth century, following the wholesale harvest of America's first forest. The demand for quality forest products grew and recognition of the regeneration potential in harvested forests spread. Early pioneers in the field of professional forestry began to emerge.

Les Pomeroy and Gene Conner, two former employees of the US Forest Service, were among the forestry pioneers of this period. These two young men with a vision established a small lumber company in Drew County Arkansas in 1925, called Ozark Badger Lumber Company. Their primary objective was to show that sustainable management of second growth stands could be highly profitable. The system of management they developed is now known as "uneven-age" management. The secret to their success was to maintain, through thinning, a stand density and competition control that resulted in periodic replenishment of a stand with young seedlings. To this end, the stands were thinned through timber sales every five to ten years, furnishing the landowner with a perpetual income.

This writer had the opportunity as a young lad to know Mr. Pomeroy, and to log on the lands of Ozark Badger. He also cherished the opportunity to hunt deer and quail in the beautiful, highly managed forest of Crossett Lumber Company.

Inspired by pioneers like these men, this writer decided to become a consulting forester specializing in management for small private landowners in the belief that uneven-age systems would appeal to this clientele. In designing and implementing uneven-age management systems for private landowners, we approach the practice of forestry as a three-legged stool, the legs being business, art, and science. Understanding and effectively linking these three legs is the key to restoring uneven-age systems to southern forestry.

The Business of Forestry

Business is the fuel that will motivate a landowner to practice good management. Our company, Handley Forestry Services, has a few clients who tell us they own their land for recreation. They want a pretty stand of trees to walk in or a good place to hunt and fish. Other clients look at the forest as an investment to meet some future objective, such as retirement or sending a child to college. Most of our clients would like to have a regular continuing income, either annually or every three to five years. Few of them realize that they can have this without depleting their forest. They have been told repeatedly that when a stand has been thinned one or two times it must be clearcut and replanted. When we tell them that they may have a timber sale every two or three years, while always having as much timber as they start with, they find it hard to believe. When our firm began offering uneven-age management alternatives, we could only ask our clients to trust that the results would be pleasing. Today we are happy that we have case files and forest tracts to look at that demonstrate these pleasing results.

South Carolina Coastal Plains, continued on page 9

The Art of Forestry

Maintaining a continuous stream of products and income, while keeping a beautiful forest, requires "art." Unfortunately, a great deal of the art went out of forestry in the South in the 1960s with a prevailing, one-size-fits-all system of short-term even-age management.

Short-term even-age management will without a doubt produce a maximum amount of fiber. However, even-age management is not as attractive to the private landowner who wants a steady income from his or her forest. Also, for many landowners, even-age management affords one major pulse of income in a lifetime, much of which has to be spent on reforestation or the ground is just left bare.

As foresters we determine the client's objective and develop a plan to manage the forest to meet that objective. The art of forestry is working the landowner's objectives and the starting condition of the forest into a place of beauty and productivity that can be enjoyed for generations. Yet, no matter how simple we make it sound, the art cannot be accomplished without a full knowledge of the science of the forest that is being managed.

The Science of Forestry

Simply stated, the science of forestry requires a full knowledge of the plants and animals that make up a forest, and how each responds to the environment. Our clients sometimes request that we develop a stand with a given species, although it may be apparent that the site is not suited to that species. Landowners are often convinced that a stand will not regenerate naturally because effort after effort has been made with no results. When we look at the effort, we can usually find the reason. The site was wrong for the species, fire was used to prepare a seed bed at the wrong time, or seedlings were established but died because no effort was made to control competition.

Insects are a growing concern to southern forest owners. A variety of insects may attack a forest—some cause mortality, some don't. They respond quite differently to treatments.

This is only a brief statement of the science that a manager must master in order to practice the art that makes forestry a profitable business.

An Example

The uneven-age system of management was developed by early pioneers of forestry because they wanted to maximize the production of large high quality southern yellow pine. Today's forest managers who use short-term "even-age" systems are trying to produce more wood fiber at a lower cost. Yet who is rewarded for the growth? Only a landowner who also owns a mill to utilize fiber. The owners of small private tracts in northeast South Carolina are wising up to the fact that wood fiber in the form of pulpwood sells for only 20% to 25% of the price of high-quality sawtimber they could be producing with uneven-age management.

One of the landowners we asked to "trust us" now has a stand that illustrates the results of the business, art and science of uneven-age management. The stand consists of 45 acres that was even-age and was first thinned for pulpwood in 1988. Following the second thinning in 1993, a heavy stand of seedlings was established in the understory. These seedlings are now approaching pulpwood size and will be used to replace stock trees as they are cut in the future. The stand has been cut four times since 1988 (see table right). It is still carrying approximately 7,000 board feet of sawtimber plus a small volume of pulpwood per acre and a heavy stand of pre-merchantable replacement stock. It will continue to be logged approximately every five years to remove a volume equal to what has grown since the last thinning.

We expect the stocked stands to produce in excess of \$150 per acre annually without ever being clearcut. The numbers are quite appealing to private landowners. This landowner now looks at forest land as part of an ongoing business, rather than a savings account to be cashed in only once in a lifetime. The landowner also likes the art of a pleasing forest. Our job is to seamlessly integrate the science, art and business. ■



“Our job is to seamlessly integrate the science, art and business of forestry.”

The Results:

1988		
First pulpwood thinning		\$15,188
1993		
Timber sale, 2nd thinning		35,167
1997		
Timber sale, 3rd thinning		49,148
1998		
Herbicide application to release seedlings		-4,320
2003		
Timber sale, 4th thinning		40,650
	Net	\$144,474

“The proposed new process does not provide any certainty that roadless areas will be protected.”



FOREST POLICY

Roadless Areas Conservation Measures Undone

By Mike Anderson

Mike Anderson
is a senior analyst at the Wilderness Society's northwest office.

Three years after the Forest Service adopted the Roadless Area Conservation Rule, the Bush Administration is undoing the policy. A series of lawsuits and regulatory actions have undermined the Roadless Rule and now a new policy has been unveiled that will allow commercial logging and road building to resume on millions of acres of undeveloped national forest land.

When the Forest Service finalized the Roadless Rule in January 2001, public comments overwhelmingly favored adoption of a strong national policy to protect the remaining 58.5 million acres of national forest roadless areas. The final rule generally prohibited road construction and logging in roadless areas, with exceptions to protect public safety and values, such as thinning small diameter trees to reduce fire risk.

The Bush Administration announced in May 2001 that it would amend the Roadless Rule to address concerns raised by critics of the policy. The Forest Service unveiled a new roadless area protection rule for national forests in the lower 48 states in July 2004. The essence of

these proposed regulations is to replace the Roadless Area Conservation Rule with a new state petition process.

Impact of the Proposed Rule

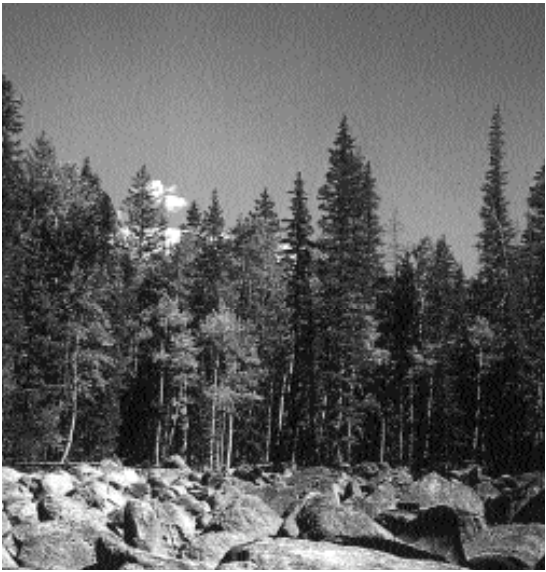
The draft rule would entirely eliminate the protections provided by the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Without the Roadless Rule's restrictions, management of roadless areas will revert to the management direction contained in local forest management plans. Nationwide, forest plans allow road building in about 59 percent of the 58.5 million acres of inventoried roadless areas. Thus, once the draft regulations are finalized, most roadless areas will become vulnerable to new road construction for logging, energy development, and other commodity uses.

Proposed Rule Has a State Petition Process

The draft rule would establish an optional two-step state petition and rulemaking process for roadless area management. First, the Governor of any state with national forest inventoried roadless areas could petition the Secretary of Agriculture to adopt regulations

for management of any roadless areas in the state. Petitions would have to be submitted within 18 months after the rule was finalized; after that, petitions could still be submitted through the USDA's general petitioning process. Second, if the Secretary accepts the Governor's petition, the Forest Service would then initiate a state-specific rulemaking.

The proposed new process does not provide any certainty that roadless areas will be protected. The draft regulations make clear that any petition submitted by a Governor would not necessarily be accepted. The draft regulations state that the Secretary of Agriculture "shall accept or deny" a Governor's petition for rulemaking. The Federal Register notice emphasizes that "a State's petition represents solely the views of the petitioner and do [sic] not prejudge or reflect the views of the Forest Service or Secretary." Even if a petition is accepted, the outcome of the subsequent state-specific rulemaking will still be left up to the Administration.



The proposed petition process will impose considerable burdens on the states. The draft regulations require that the petitions address numerous issues that opponents of the Roadless Rule have consistently raised, such as property access, wildlife habitat management, and fire hazards. The petition will also have to

show how the state involved the public, local governments, and resource experts in developing the petition, and the Secretary could demand that the state provide additional information before taking action.

A state will also have to make a "commitment" to participate as a "cooperating agency" in any environmental analysis of the subsequent state-specific rulemaking. States could be required to allocate agency personnel, funds, equipment, and other resources to assist the Forest Service in preparing environmental documents required by NEPA. However, even with the state as a cooperating agency, the Forest Service will retain decision-making authority as the lead agency over all key aspects of the environmental analysis.

The draft regulations provide little incentive for Governors to engage in the proposed petition and rulemaking process. A Governor would be faced with burdensome requirements to develop the petition and help prepare the subsequent environmental analysis, with no certainty that the Administration will accept the request.

The Governors of the 50 states have widely differing views on protecting roadless areas. For example, New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson has publicly expressed support for the Roadless Area Conservation Rule and expressed concerns about the Administration's proposed replacement. However, in some states like Idaho and Utah, the governors are more interested in increasing state discretion to utilize natural resources on public lands. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

The Forest Guild's comments on the proposed regulations can be viewed on our website, www.forestguild.org. The proposed regulation is posted on <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/>. Public comment on the proposed rule will be accepted until November 15, 2004.



The Forest Guild supports the Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

The Guild has published several opinion editorials in favor of protection for roadless areas and individual members have spoken out about the important role of roadless areas in sound forest management. Guild members have also pointed to the fact that timber from national forests competes with wood from private land, and that stumpage rates have increased for private landowners as the accessibility and availability of public timber from roadless has declined.

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In thinking about the name of this newsletter, Ross Morgan reminded me that wisdom is not something that can be found by searching or "doing." We cannot strive for personal wisdom. At a certain point in our lives, it may wrap itself around us – or not. Nonetheless, many Guild members believe that the natural forest expresses a wisdom that can be studied and, with luck, emulated. These foresters base their practice on close observation of the substances, patterns and processes of the forest. This newsletter is dedicated to the search for "forest wisdom."

- Henry Carey