



DIXIE RANGER

SOUTHERN FOREST SERVICE RETIREE ASSOCIATION

Suite 901 1720 Peachtree Road, N.W., Atlanta, GA 30367-9102

Editors: Bert and Betty Bray

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SEASON'S GREETINGS

Seems somewhat strange to be saying "Season's Greetings" this early in November, but when you receive this issue of the DIXIE RANGER it will be close to Thanksgiving and then the Christmas luncheon following the next week.

The old saying "It just wasn't meant to be" held true for our September picnic. Through a misunderstanding with the American Legion, they failed to reserve their facilities for our requested date, and time did not allow us to secure another location. I apologize - it's an event many of us look forward to - and we missed out on some good fun and fellowship.

I've enjoyed serving as your President this year. Special thanks to the officers, directors and you, the members, who give of your time and efforts to keep this organization active and growing - you are "First Class".

Support Tom Smith as he leads us in 1992. He is enthusiastic, energetic and will lead us well.

See you on December 5th at our Christmas luncheon.

Sincerely,

Helen

* * * *

25% Returns to States

By law, the Forest Service pays 25 percent of the revenues it collects from timber sales, grazing, recreation, minerals, and land uses to states in which national forest lands are located. The funds are used by states for schools and roads.

The states receive the money in two installments, an interim payment representing 75 percent of the estimated total in September and the balance in December when final figures for fiscal year 1991 are available.

INTERIM AND ESTIMATED TOTAL STATE PAYMENTS FOR NATIONAL FOREST RECEIPTS
(fiscal 1991)

	<u>Interim Payment</u>	<u>Estimated Total Payment</u>
ALABAMA	928,810.90	1,238,414.53
ALASKA	6,383,712.95	8,511,617.26
ARIZONA	3,091,757.66	4,122,343.55
ARKANSAS	3,151,719.80	4,202,293.07
CALIFORNIA*/	38,876,419.34	51,835,225.79
COLORADO	2,862,885.08	3,817,180.10
FLORIDA	1,105,500.00	1,474,000.00
GEORGIA	687,375.02	916,500.02
IDAHO	8,736,940.19	11,649,253.59
ILLINOIS	18,661.53	24,882.04
INDIANA	16,678.68	22,238.24
KENTUCKY	415,358.06	553,810.75
LOUISIANA	1,568,306.64	2,091,075.52
MAINE	25,809.80	34,413.06
MICHIGAN	1,399,326.97	1,865,769.29
MINNESOTA	1,550,743.83	2,067,658.44
MISSISSIPPI	3,704,408.11	4,939,210.81
MISSOURI	1,507,725.02	2,010,300.03
MONTANA	5,927,403.91	7,903,205.21
NEBRASKA	30,338.82	40,451.76
NEVADA	227,917.78	303,890.37
NEW HAMPSHIRE	377,850.56	503,800.74
NEW MEXICO	930,748.97	1,240,998.63
NEW YORK	6,644.85	8,859.80
NORTH CAROLINA	423,810.06	565,080.08
NORTH DAKOTA	48.56	64.75
OHIO	90,034.37	120,045.83
OKLAHOMA	349,875.29	466,500.39
OREGON*/	102,552,542.52	136,736,723.36
PENNSYLVANIA	2,939,780.98	3,919,707.97
SOUTH CAROLINA	764,848.04	1,019,797.38
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,372,164.49	1,829,552.65
TENNESSEE	295,725.59	394,300.79
TEXAS	1,635,018.81	2,180,025.08
UTAH	997,665.78	1,330,221.04
VERMONT	109,270.60	145,694.13
VIRGINIA	323,267.11	431,022.81
WASHINGTON*/	30,486,440.74	40,648,587.65
WEST VIRGINIA	796,992.59	1,062,656.78
WISCONSIN	600,847.33	801,129.77
WYOMING	1,150,040.94	1,533,387.92
PUERTO RICO	12,243.76	16,325.01
GRAND TOTAL	<u>\$228,433,662.03</u>	<u>\$304,578,215.99</u>

*/Interim payments to California, Oregon and Washington were computed under a provision of the Interior and Related Agencies 1991 Appropriations Act. Section 316 of that Act provides for payments to States for Fiscal year 1991 of not less than 90% of the three-year average payments for fiscal years 1988-90 for those national forests affected by decisions on the northern spotted owl. The interim payments to these states would be lower if based solely on actual receipts.

LETTERS FROM OUR MEMBERS



Pete Hanlon, Fairview, NC

Every issue of the D.R. hits a new high. It was a treat to hear indirectly from so many friends and colleagues; Phil Briegleb, Hal Bush, Sid McLaughlin and others. Phil was a student instructor at the N.Y. State College of Forestry and also at the '29 Summer Camp, Cranberry Lake in the Adirondacks - a mighty good instructor and a good war canoe pilot. He guided us through a terrific storm back to camp on Saturday night.

Great to hear from Hal Bush. We started out together on the Allegheny and had adjoining Ranger Districts on the Monogahela back in the 40's. I bet he remembers August 15, 1945. I enjoyed Hal's good letter. I had read it in the publication of National Woodland Owners Association, an organization headed up by Keith Argow. Stay with it, Hal. It's sad that some of our colleagues are literally prostituting their profession.

Had hoped to see more retirees at the Cradle on Forest Festival Day. It was a great occasion, an estimated 2,500 crowd. Enjoyed talking to Helen Thomas, Gail DeBord, and the Barrs. Called Jim Vessey hoping he could come but his travels are restricted. He sounded good. Sorry to report that Lew Mielke is again on the recovery list.

The obituaries always bring back fond and grateful memories. Bless Wally Prater and John Tom Koen.

Now gotta go and relocate a raccoon. This is the fourth one - a compliment to the Hanlon '91 crop of sweet corn!

Paul W. Sundheimer, Green Valley, AZ

After 33 years on the Daniel Boone, Jefferson, and Allegheny National Forests, I transferred to an assignment with US Aid in Bogota, Columbia, for another 6 years in my career. That assignment included duties similar to my Forest Service work except I functioned in an advisory capacity rather than with administrative or staff powers. I came to know Columbia well from spending much time in the field throughout the country, except the heart of the Amazon. I got acquainted with rain forests, tropical deciduous zones, temperate zones, islands of deserts, some of the cold wind-blown alpine regions, and the vast savannas of the northeastern part of the country.

I retired in 1973, then travelled for four months in western and parts of central Europe in a Winnebago Brave. Then my wife and I settled in Guadalajara, Mexico, for the next 8 years. We have been in the Tuscon-Green Valley area since 1982.

Our lives have been anything but dull. We have travelled widely and have enjoyed good health and keep active as volunteers in various community projects. My major project is being director of a local food bank that provides food assistance to needy families. About 75 volunteers are involved in raising money, food donations and collecting salvage foods from local supermarkets. We hope we can continue to be active in our community and, also, make more trips to new places.

Here is my tale to tell from an experience on the Jefferson around 1950. I choose to entitle this tale:

Zero Times a Quantity is Still Zero But Sometimes Means
Something Very Human

Around the early years of this century a Patrick Hagan accumulated considerable wild-land acreage on part of the Norton District of the Jefferson. By this time the District perhaps has another name. At any rate, in due time Patrick Hagan framed a will to be sure his children and grandchildren were cared for in a certain manner.

In one location of his estate, Mr. Hagan designed a 1,000-acre tract for a son. An adjacent 400 acre tract was allocated to another child. A 60-acre tract adjoining the 400 acre tract was set up for a grandchild.

Around the late 1930's the Forest Service optioned the 1,000 and 400 acre tracts for purchase. It was thereafter found in a land survey that the surveyor who helped to carry out Mr. Hagan's wishes made some very serious errors. He described the 1,000 tract to include the 400 acre tract and the 60 acre tract. The metes and bounds for the 400 acre tract included the 60 acre tract. Sounds crazy, but it happened! The mess became legalized in deeds and court records. While the Forest Service optioned the larger tracts, the 60 acre tract was sold to a Mr. Bailey.

Mr. Bailey settled in a 10 acre clearing located on the 400 acre tract and adjoining the 60 acre tract. Mr. Bailey was lead to believe that the 10 acre clearing was on the 60 acres he bought. He could neither read nor write and never bothered to have someone check out the true description of his property. Needless to say, the Forest Service had to go through condemnation proceedings to clean up the whole mess.

Mr. Bailey was summoned to appear in Federal Court to present his claim for the 10 acres on which he lived. Mr. Bailey did not appear in court. The Federal Court decided the 10 acres in question belonged to the 400 acre tract optioned to the Forest Service. But, the Court ruled that Mr. Bailey should be paid for the 10 acres. Mr. Bailey's answer to this was "I don't want your damed money, I want my land." US Marshals attempted to deliver the money awarded to Mr. Bailey. They were never successful in their mission. The money remained in the Federal Court for some time and was finally returned to the Treasury.

Title to the 10 acres passed to the United States as part of the 400 acres. Shortly after this event, the local District Ranger began pressuring Mr. Bailey to move or consent to a special use. Mr. Bailey rejected both alternatives. This was the beginning of a long running feud between four District Rangers and Mr. Bailey. In due time George Mullins, Karl McNasser, Eddie Wolcott and Bill Ward were run off each time either of them tried to convince Mr. Bailey to accept a special use. Each encounter resulted in a higher level of indignation in Mr. Bailey.

Finally, this seemingly impossible situation was submitted to Wayne Mong, a fine land lawyer assigned to the Forest Service. He believed a satisfactory solution could be found, especially since Mr. Bailey never received any money for the 10 acres. The end result of Wayne's efforts was a quit claim deed from the Secretary of Agriculture.

The quit claim deed was a most impressive document. The first page included a 2-inch gold seal of the Secretary and 2-inch bright green ribbon draped diagonally across the page.

I went with Bill Ward to deliver this impressive document. We drove up to Mr. Bailey's rustic house in a green Forest Service sedan delivery. Mr. Bailey came forth with fire in his eyes. Bill got out of the car and said "Mr. Bailey, we came to give you your land back." Bill handed the deed to Mr. Bailey. Mr. Bailey's demeanor changed to speechless awe and disbelief. He looked at the deed and then at Bill. He struggled to make conversation, but words failed him. Bill tried to make conversation, but failed. Bill returned to the sedan delivery and started to move the car. It was then that Mr. Bailey came alive. He hailed Bill, came forward to the car and leaned on the door and said, "Ranger, I want you to know I think again as much of you as I did before."

Every forest officer before this event was a zero to Mr. Bailey. Zero times two is zero but this time Bill and I understood otherwise. We were indeed touched and felt pretty good how things turned out.

Harold H. Bush, Harrisonburg, VA

Many thanks for printing the stuff I sent.

Marge and I just got yellow fever shots preparatory to our next planned trip. This one is 1000 miles up the Amazon with Special Expeditions. Last time we crossed the equator we did parts of that river's source in Ecuador.

Just got word that James N. (Jeff) Jefferson's knee replacement done at Roanoke Orthopaedic Center took much longer than expected, but he is stable. Maybe now he'll throw away his cane and his electric buggy. Best wishes.

Leonard McNeal, Morehead, KY

I am sorry that I got behind in my dues. I surely do not want to miss any of your "Dixie Rangers". I enjoy it more than any other mail that we get. You do a super job.

Marlin H. Bruner, Clemson, S. C.

The August Dixie Ranger, indeed, brought back many memories of foresters with whom I was associated, one time or another, for over 50 years.

For example (listed as they appear on the publication): S. R. Broadbent, Paul A. Swarthout (now deceased), and A. A. Grumbine - all forest supervisors.

Then there was listed: Karl F. Wenger, Brooke Davis, Nettie and Bruce Alter, Alex Setser, Bob Campbell, John Barber, Hob Howard, Don Morriss, Harry Rossoll.

And IN MEMORIAM - sorry to learn of these: Karl Rodney Mayer, a classmate at Penn State; George K. Schaeffer, also a Penn Stater; and Herb E. Oschner, forest supervisor.

Erma E. Miller, Marietta, Georgia

The enclosed check is to pay for 5 years dues for the Dixie Ranger. I thoroughly enjoy reading all the letters and news. I don't think I am being overly optimistic in sending 5 years dues at one time. I never have been called a pessimist either.

(continued next page)

Marietta is a long way on the fast track from the luncheons and since I don't drive the fast track at any time or even any track except at the slow periods of the day or never at night, the Dixie Ranger is my one contact with the Forest Service friends of so many years.

Don't let the seeming indifference of your customers discourage you. We are all out here and breathlessly awaiting every edition. The fact is that 60 and 70 year olds are the teens of today and the 80 and 90 year olds are the Mature Adults. They all have time and inclination to enjoy hobbies, travel and all sorts of time consuming goodies and so the time just "whizzes" by. We mean well. We promise to do better. The May edition is great and the Directory a super help and a time saver in many ways.

Edwin Manchester, Murphy, NC

I look forward to reading the Ranger. Thanks for your efforts.

I'm sorry to report my Mother died in late August. She was Clara Manchester, wife of retiree Edwin M. Manchester. My father is 92 and in the Methodist Retirement Home in Charlotte, N. C. He was Ranger on the Unicoi, French Broad, Croatan, Grandfather, and Cheoah Districts.

Dad and I together logged 74 years with USFS during the period 1920-1990.

Bob Larkey, Winchester, KY

Here are my dues for 1992. I am sending it early since Jane and I will be in the Philippines for the next 6 months. We will be teaching in a small Bible school.

We had an interesting and enjoyable visit in October to the Bayou Ranger District, Ozark NF, where I was the Ranger from 1961 to 1965. I have always liked history and while there I felt like I was history. Ranger Frank Lewis and his "large" staff gave me an interesting overview on what was going on and the many changes taking place.

Ralph and Edith Crandford (retired District clerk) had us for lunch, and we got to see Olus Story, who looked the same. They told us about the "old timers" who were still around.

In Russellville we had a good visit with the retired S.O. ladies group who were having breakfast at Shoney's. It was good to see Juanita Moore, Irene Smith and Mary (?) after being gone for 24 years. I called George Cabaniss who sounded good. He filled me in on Jack Hambrick, Ed Edgette, and others.

Keep up the good work with the Dixie Ranger.

RETIREMENT PARTY FOR KEITH GREST

Keith Grest, Director of Soil, Water and Air, will be retiring on January 3, 1992, after 30+ years with the Forest Service. The Regional Office is planning a retirement party for Keith on December 19 from 1 to 3 p.m. in Room 197. You're invited and they hope to see you there.

* * * *

Here are some changes to the Directory that you may want to note in your copy:

John F. Beal
8031 Laurel Oaks Lane
Manora Estates
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405

John B. Spring
2080 Marann Drive
Atlanta, GA 30345

W. M. Irby, Jr.
115 S. E. Sinclair St.
Port Charlotte, FL 33952

Keith Utz
771 Oak Road
Lawrenceville. GA 30244

Ed Manchester
141 Ranger Road
Murphy, N. C. 28906

Edward J. Wenner
397 Housley Point
Hot Springs, AR 71913

Mrs. P.F.W. Prater
C-8 Halcyon Terrace
1555 Taylor Road
Montgomery, AL 36117

T. A. Schlapfer
5010 S. W. Hergert Rd.
Cornelius, OR 97113

Junius L. Beaver
308 Oak St.
Madison, NC 27025

* * * *

OUACHITA RETIREES REUNITE

Over 70 Forest Service retirees, families and friends gathered at Ouachita National Forest's Camp Clearfork Sunday afternoon September 15th.

The party began with much reacquaintance chatter and the usual relating of past times together and events since. Some fished in Lake Clearfork while others pitched horseshoes or played softball.

Representing RO retirees were Paul Hooper and his wife from Little Rock and Harold Bergman and his wife who live in Waldron. Russ and Mary Dahl were thankful they were here rather than Washington. Joel and Irene Nitz (who live in Hot Springs) represented the Kisatchie National Forest.

Also attending were Dave and Nancy Urbston, Jim and Doris Wenner, Bob and Mary Ann Wiese and Dick Brown all retired from the Ouachita Supervisor's Office. Buddy and Ann Crossett managed to leave the Waldron Golf Club long enough to represent the Ouachita Ranger's Union. Bob and Nancy Laval left their new house in Heavener, OK long enough to be with us. The attendee list goes on and on; everyone there had a great time because each participated to the fullest.

Thanks to Al Munz and Melinda Allen from the SO for coordinating the event and also thanks to Ranger Bob Raines, Steve Cole and others from the Wamble District for being such gracious hosts at Camp Clearfork.

Supervisor Mike Curran and Leslee were on hand to welcome these people of leisure while Bob and Peggy Daley, Bill and Mary Walker, John and Roxie Long and other active Forest Service folks told about today's routine Forest Service activities such as the selection system of timber management, goat herding, administrative appeals and lawsuits.

Dinner was a wonderful potluck that only Forest Service wives could put together (they must have used the R-8 cookbook!).

Don Woods entertained the group with tales and slides of his trek on the Appalachian Trail. Don started with his son in June 1990 on the summit of Maine's mile-high Mt. Katahdin. Some 1700 miles and six months later time ran out for Don at the North Carolina border.

All who attended this retirees' outing agreed to make it an annual event. Some even wanted to expand by gathering with retirees from nearby National Forests, kind of a party for field people "out West" who cannot attend the Atlanta events.

So you retirees from Kisatchie, Texas, Mississippi, Ozark-St. Francis, would you like a western R8 get-together? If so, let Melinda Allen at the SO know (PO Box 1270, Hot Springs, AR 71902). As a starter we'll invite you to next year's Ouachita reunion (camping can be made available). And if you have events like ours, invite us. R8's a lot more than Atlanta and we all need to stay in contact.

Also, the Ouachita is now publishing a quarterly newsletter. If you would like to receive it, tell Melinda Allen.

Submitted by Jim Wenner, Hot Springs, AR.

Note - Jim, when you know the date of the next get-together, please send it in for the Dixie Ranger. We'll be glad to publish the date and time and perhaps some of our traveling retirees may be in your area and would like to attend. We publish the Dixie Ranger in February, May, August and November. - Betty

* * * *

IN MEMORIAM

Sam Horne, 80, of Paris, Arkansas, passed away April 16, 1991. He is survived by his wife, Artlie, and four daughters: Jane Stevens of Benton; Gwendolyn Doss, Delight; Sandra Morris, Harrison; and Deborah Sartain, Fairfield County.

Mrs. Horne writes "He looked forward to receiving the Dixie Ranger to catch up on every one he knew. However, a lot of the names were not familiar to him. Sam retired from the Forest Service on June 30, 1978 after 38 years of service.

His first job with the Forest Service was water jack - when he was 12 years old - when the Forest Service was building a bridge on the Womble Silver Road across Montgomery Creek.

He left a host of friends in Norman and Paris, Arkansas."

Our condolences to you and your daughters, Mrs. Horne. Thanks so much for writing.

Two well-known gentlemen to Forest Service retirees recently died. Mr. Ben Meadows, 74, of Alpharetta, GA., died in October. Mr. Meadows was a retired forester and businessman who founded the Ben Meadows Company, a forestry and engineering supply mail-order business in Atlanta in 1956. He retired as Chairman of the Board in 1989.

Mr. Meadows was a graduate of the University of Georgia in 1938 with a degree in Forestry. He served as national president of the Society of American Foresters and President of the Georgia Forestry Association. He was a member of Forest Farmers Association, Association of Consulting Foresters, Soil Conservation Society of America and American Society of Photogrammetry.

He is survived by his wife, Faye, and four daughters.

James W. "Jim" Craig of Jackson, MS, died in July at the age of 79. He was the founder and owner of Forestry Suppliers, Inc.

Mr. Craig received his B.S. in forestry from Purdue University in 1936 and his M.S. in forestry from the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University in 1938. After serving in the U.S. Army in WWII, he returned to Mississippi where he served as assistant chief, and later chief, of forest fire control for the Mississippi Forestry Commission. In July 1948, he became the first consulting forester in the central Mississippi area. During this time he became aware of the urgent need for a firm to supply tools and equipment to foresters. In May 1949 he formed Jim Craig Supply Service, the forerunner to Forestry Suppliers, Inc.

In June 1991 the Association of Consulting Foresters presented Mr. Craig with a plaque in recognition of his role in pioneering consulting forestry in Mississippi and in appreciation of his unfailing support of the forestry profession.

* * * *

MONOTONY

Monotony makes dull the human mind.
Our brains are geared to always seek to find
solutions to our problems, to create
things never dreamed of in the mental state
of smug and stolid, plodding humankind

whose lack of inspiration makes them blind
to opportunities, keeps them behind
the eight ball, chains them to the fate
Monotony.

But those whose bent to curiosity inclines
their thoughts to dream of images, designs
that lift them up out of their low estate,
will nevermore consent to relegate
themselves to deadly, dulling grind,

Monotony.

1/22/90

From POEMS OF AN OCTOGENARIAN, James Bliss Cartwright

At the age of 80, James B. Cartwright, retiree from US Forest Service, was invited to join the Writers Group of the South Carolina Poetry Society and to attend workshops by Constance Pultz. Jim Cartwright published his poems under the title "Poems of an Octogenarian" in September 1991. Copies are available from Mr. Cartwright, 42 Edinburgh Road, Charleston, S. C. 29407 for \$8.75 which includes postage and handling.

* * * *

Resolve to laugh often and much, to win the respect of intelligent people and affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you lived. This is to have succeeded.

-- Ralph Waldo Emerson

* * * *

Our counterparts in Missoula, Montana, - the Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Association - sent us the following letter expressing concerns of their organization. The letter speaks to a problem that has surfaced before but not to the extent witnessed recently.

"Letter sent to Senators Burns and Baucus (Montana); Craig and Symms (Idaho) and Representatives Marlenee and Williams (Montana)

This year, 1991, marks the 100th anniversary of our National Forests. These public forests are a unique National treasure. They are part of our birthright as U. S. citizens, and a precious gift to our children and grandchildren as well.

In part, we must all feel grateful to the organization that so diligently and professionally protected and managed the forests over most of these 100 years. The Forest Service excelled in this job because the citizenry, through concerned Congressional delegations, encouraged and protected dedicated professionals and supported their efforts to do a professional job of forest stewardship.

Now this same year, 1991, may also mark the beginning of the end of the Forest Service as an agency characterized by professional managers. This also means the end of the National Forests as a national treasure.

Judging from recent occurrences, such as the "premature" retirement of Regional Forester John Mumma, one could easily conclude that professionalism in forestry has been prematurely retired as well.

It comes as no surprise to us to find out that the greedier segments of the timber industry wanted John Mumma "sacked" because he wasn't getting the timber quota out! These folks reportedly went to the Congressional delegations of Montana and Idaho, putting pressure on Congressman Craig of Idaho and Congressmen Marlenee and Burns of Montana to have the new Secretary of Agriculture remove Regional Forester Mumma from the job.

Last week the Secretary of Agriculture gave John Mumma his orders; he was removed as Regional Forester and assigned to a desk job in the USDA Building in Washington, D.C.

John Mumma stood on the principles and traditions of forestry professionalism and elected to resign as Regional Forester instead. (He's only 51 years in age, and at the prime of his effectiveness as a career executive).

This letter is not to defend or support John Mumma. As they say out in the corral, "He's a big boy and can take care of himself!" What this letter is about is the defense and protection of the professional traditions of leadership in the Forest Service, so that people can continue to feel secure that these National Forests will be maintained throughout the coming generations in the public interest and not "sold off" to the biggest PAC contributor or most influential special interest group via the political influence route.

From the point of view of the majority of the membership of our organization, we believe that as a Regional Forester, John Mumma did an excellent job of balancing the resources and protecting the environment under some extremely difficult conditions. In our judgement, over-cutting roaded lands to make up for volume that should come from unroaded land, as he was being pressured to do, would have been illegal and unethical. We commend Mr. Mumma for his leadership, stewardship and courage.

The fact that professionals are not elected and are not politically appointed unqualified bureaucrats is the greatest protection the lands and the Service has to continue the sustained production of wood and other values.

As a group, we are disappointed that Congressmen Williams, Baucus and Symms did not support a Regional Forester doing his job. We feel betrayed that Congressmen Craig, Marlenee and Burns actively participated in his removal. We are likewise disappointed that Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson could not or would not protect Forest Service employees doing their job in the public interest from political pressure and repercussions.

We challenge the members of our Congressional delegations to get out on the National Forests, see for themselves what's going on, talk to the folks in the field and find out the real reason the timber quotas aren't being met. It's simple: IT'S NOT AVAILABLE! And it won't be available unless and until Congress resolves the roadless issue and recognizes the impact of land abuse on private lands, and that effect on the total watershed and adjacent National Forests.

This "horse" is on the Congress, by their own legislation. Firing Regional Foresters won't change that one bit!

By this letter, we invite you to be our guests in looking at the National Forest issues. Within our membership of 300 Forest Service retirees we have thousands of years of forestry related experience which we'd be most pleased to share with you on the ground.

The National Forests need your protection!

Sincerely,

NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN RETIREE ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

/s/ Gerhart Nelson

Gerhart Nelson, President"

In his letter to our organization, President Nelson says "The potential for further undue political action is very great; therefore, we encourage you to keep your membership informed of these activities and take any action you feel is appropriate."

He also asked and would appreciate any advice or guidance we might have.

On September 24 (?) John Mumma told his side of the story to a special congressional hearing before the House Subcommittee on Civil Service, chaired by Rep. Gerry Sikorski, D-Minn, ally of the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (AFSEEE). Jeff DeBonis, Director of AFSEEE, alerted Congress to Mumma's ouster and asked for an investigation. DeBonis says Sikorski's subcommittee is worried "because they don't want to see political pressure being brought to bear on professional land managers," and that Congress wants them free to do their job as professionals. (F.S. Daily News Digest, 9-9-91).

The following quote appeared in The Atlanta Journal (September 24?) -

SAY IT AGAIN "I'm here today with a heavy heart, a heart that's in shock at what's happening in the national forests of this country. I am extremely disappointed that the political pressures I have dealt with in the last few years in my region have now apparently resulted in the decision to remove me from the region." --John Mumma, former chief forester in the Rockies, who says he was ordered transferred for failing to meet controversial logging quotas in national forests and resisting pressure to disregard environmental laws.

Read on. The following page contains an article from THE ATLANTA JOURNAL editorial section on September 28th.

Should any of you have any comments or suggestions for Gerhart Nelson, you may write to him at Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Association, P. O. Box 20186, Missoula, MT 59801.

* * * *

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Christine L. Martin
1386 Wenlock Edge Cove
Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Christine worked in the Engineering Unit, RO.

The Atlanta Journal

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

Today's editorial page is prepared by the editorial board of The Atlanta Constitution.

Jay Smith
Publisher

Dennis Berry
President

Ron Martin
Editor

John W. Walter Jr.
Managing Editor

Tom Teepen
Editorial Page Editor

James M. Cox, Chairman 1950-57 — James M. Cox Jr., Chairman 1957-74

Whose forests are they, anyway?

For years, the credo of the professional forester has been "sustained yield," an ethic that calls for cutting only as much timber each year as can be replaced. That way, the loggers will always have jobs, the sawmills will always have timber, the deer and bear will always have forests and watersheds will always be protected. Conducted on that basis, timber-cutting is an industry that can be sustained economically, environmentally, politically and morally.

However, during the go-go '80s, sustained-yield theories were largely abandoned as national lumber production soared from 31.8 billion board feet in 1981 to 49 billion board feet in 1989, figures that don't include millions of raw logs shipped overseas. In Montana in particular, companies such as Plum Creek and Champion International actually stripped their huge tracts of privately held timberland clean of vegetation. They didn't worry about the future because they fully expected that when the time came and their own timber was exhausted, they could use their considerable political influence to pry open public lands.

Now the time has come, and the pressure is being applied. Western timber companies are demanding that the U.S. Forest Service accelerate the cut on public forests, and they aren't taking no for an answer.

John Mumma told them no, for a while anyway. Mr. Mumma, the regional forest supervisor for Montana, Idaho and North and South Dakota, refused to accede to industry demands because doing so would require him to break environmental protection laws. For



John Sununu

his courage, the Forest Service bureaucracy ordered him transferred to a desk job in Washington, D.C. Mr. Mumma chose to retire instead, he told a congressional committee this week.

Lorraine Mintzmeyer, Rocky Mountain regional director for the National Park Service, told the committee a similar tale. Together with Mr. Mumma and other federal officials, she had helped compile a 60-page draft report recommending specific ways to protect Yellowstone National Park from encroaching commercial and resource development, including timber. But when the group's final report emerged, it had been shrunk to a 10-page document that was stripped of specifics and that embraced business as usual around Yellowstone. The change, she testified, was produced by political pressure from White House Chief of Staff John Sununu.

Ms. Mintzmeyer, by the way, was recently transferred to Philadelphia, a move she has reluctantly accepted.

The White House, not surprisingly, denies any connection to the transfers of Mr. Mumma and Ms. Mintzmeyer. No doubt it is the Yellowstone angle that has them most concerned. In the past Mr. Sununu has been implicated in gutting environmental policy on wetlands protection and global warming, with little political damage. Most people consider those issues too complicated to get upset about.

But Yellowstone is different. If there is a piece of land that symbolizes the romantic link between Americans and the land, Yellowstone is it. Republicans do not want to see a Democratic presidential candidate standing in front of Old Faithful, explaining how the Bush White House sold out Yellowstone to development interests.

Yet that is apparently what happened.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



December 5 at the Petite Auberge Restaurant, Toco Hills Shopping Center. Call in reservation on Tuesday before luncheon on Thursday to Andrea at 347-4178. Hope to see you there. Gather at 11 a.m. lunch at noon.

Note Board of Directors - meeting at 10 a.m. on above date at Harry Rossoll's studio in Executive Park.

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