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PROTECT OUR WOODS

Fall '89

Number 11

ORV VICTORY

Dale Robertson, Chief of the US Forest Service, has ruled that there will be no ORV trail areas on the Hoosier, and that ORVs will not be permitted on any trails. Congratulations, Protect Our Woods members, for standing your ground. We have not been able to confirm a rumor that ORV clubs plan a lawsuit to overturn this decision. It may not be over yet.

APPROPRIATE USE REPLACES MULTIPLE USE

An important national precedent was set in this decision: "The Forest Service has broad discretionary authority to determine the appropriate mix of resource uses on each National Forest." We have pointed out that grazing is also not recognized as an appropriate use of the Hoosier. Eventually we expect logging and mineral development also to be banned as inappropriate on this small Forest mingled with private land in a heavily deforested state.

Urgent Notice

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS ENDANGERED

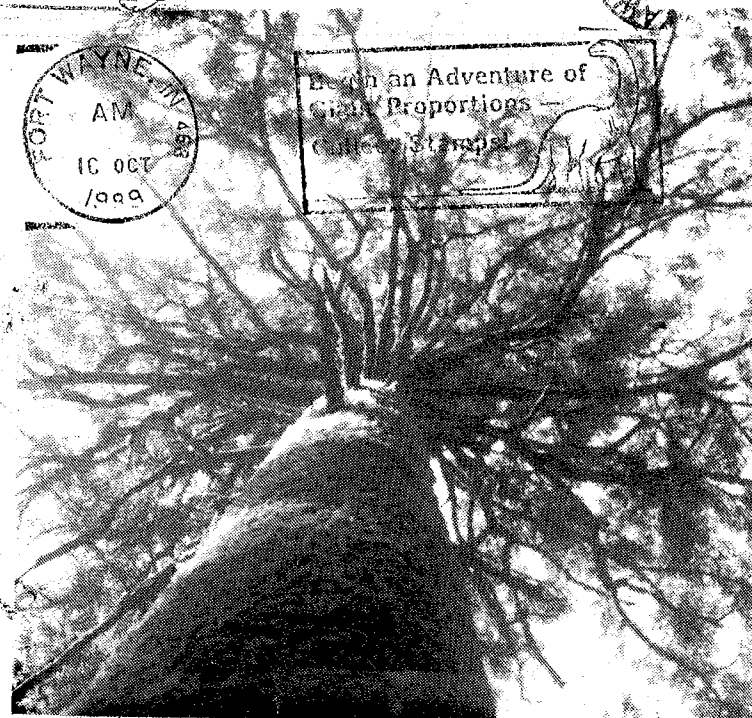
Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield has attached a rider to a Dept. of Interior budget bill that would require the cutting of ancient forests and would deny any legal review or appeal of the sales. A House/Senate Conference Committee is now meeting to determine the final language of the bill. The Hatfield rider, Section 317 of Interior Appropriations Bill HR 2788 must be defeated. PLEASE call or write your Congressman and Senators TODAY!

Senator _____
US Senate
Washington DC 20510

Congressman _____
US House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Our Ancient Forests

Five Protect Our Woods members recently saw for themselves the endangered old growth forests of the Pacific Northwest. Six of us were attending Randal O'Toole's National Forest Service Reform Conference in Oregon's Cascade Mountains (article, page 3). We climbed six miles, on switchback trails through ancient stands of douglas fir and western hemlock, to the small rocky summit of Whetstone Mountain. We looked down into the deep green virgin watershed of Opal Creek, an osprey looking down on us. Our feelings were more powerful for knowing that this great millennial forest may soon be gone.



The Forest Service has been trying to log Opal Creek for nine years now. From Whetstone Mountain we could see the clearcuts marching across the mountains toward this thousands of years old home of bear and spotted owl. Oregon's embattled forest preservationists have held off the final devastation here so far. Now, with Oregon's Congressional delegation all lined up against them, they need help from forest people nationwide.
(See Ancient Forests page 2)

join PROTECT OUR WOODS

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____
 (please send free bumper sticker _____)

Individual \$5 Household \$10 Organization \$25 Other _____

I own woods in _____ County.
 (optional)

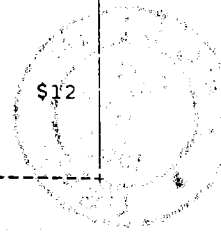
Your contribution makes
this newsletter possible!

Also Available

Bumper stickers \$1
 (free with membership)

Hoosier National Forest map \$4
 (free with \$30 donation)

PROTECT OUR WOODS 100% cotton t-shirt grn & brn on tan, white, or yellow \$12
 (free with \$100 donation)



Dear Friends,

The quality of our lives in our communities and on our planet faces unprecedented threats from environmental degradation. One threat that is both local and global is the wanton destruction of our forests for short term profit. PROTECT OUR WOODS was formed to educate, to organize and to agitate in defense of our forest communities.

We now number over 800 members and we continue to grow because our message is clear. It is also supported by detailed research and plain common sense: PROTECT OUR WOODS. We are not afraid to challenge those who profit from the destruction of the forests, or to take on the bureaucracy that aids and abets them as it squanders our taxes.

Our strength comes from you, and we ask your continued support, to protect and preserve the health of our forests; their air, water, and soil quality, and their native biological diversity. Only by promoting a healthy environment can we provide a sustainable basis for our shared economic future.

Please send your contribution to PROTECT OUR WOODS, along with newspaper articles, suggestions or words of encouragement. Since 1985, no other organization has been more effective in defense of the Hoosier National Forest.

OREGON'S ANCIENT FORESTS

(continued from page 1)

The Pacific slope forests feature 25 conifers, several found only here, including the world's largest and longest-lived trees. Just one ranger district of the Willamette National Forest cut 130 million board feet of timber in 1988, half a million board feet a day. For comparison, the cut on the Hoosier has never exceeded 12 million board feet a year. But this incredible productivity will not last. In less than 20 years the mills that process old growth timber will all close, even if no more forest is protected from logging. Except for a few preserves, the 140,000 square mile Pacific slope forest will have been practically exterminated by logging since 1820, more than half of it in the last 40 years. The douglas firs that dominate this forest average 750 years old. They will be replaced by a tree plantation harvested every 80 years. Northwest forest ecologist Chris Maser predicts these plantations will not survive beyond three rotations, 240 years. No tree plantation in history ever has. Productivity on Southern pine plantations is down as much as 15%. Nevertheless, Indiana is also turning toward tree plantations.

The timber industry is going down in Oregon, determined to take the last of the ancient forest with it. Industry officials try to blame environmentalists for this decline, which is only the inevitable result of 170 years of forest destruction driven by human greed. Employees wear yellow ribbons to show they are an endangered species. Billboards recommend barbecuing spotted owls. But more than spotted owls are threatened here. In fact, everywhere in the world the timber industry is going down and taking the forests with it. We wonder--how will this human forest species survive the destruction of its habitat? Public lands are our last hope for retaining ancient forests.

Reluctantly we trailed down between the mythic firs, through huckleberry brush and rhododendron down to a ritual plunge in icy Battleaxe Creek, the mining road from Jawbone Flats to Camp Cascade and supper and bureaucracy. A thin and scattered line of small exotic animals, trooping down through heavy shafts of ancient wood and light, only as doomed as the trees.

The sixth member of the Hoosier delegation was 5th District Congressman Jim Jontz. Jim probably understands and cares about forests and the people who depend on them more than anyone else in Congress today. He needs our support and encouragement to become spokesman in Congress for the forests of Indiana, Oregon, and the world. If we cannot save our remnant rainforest here at home, how will we save the larger tropical rainforests dying far away? Please write: Congressman Jim Jontz--US House of Representatives--Washington DC 20515.

Cascade Holistic Economic Consultants kicked off Randal O'Toole's National Forest Service reform campaign in Oregon this August. O'Toole's plan to reform the forest service starts with the ecology of bureaucracy. Public agencies do whatever they get away with to increase the budget and cash flow through their department. Through a natural selection process, power in the agency flows toward whoever brings in the most money for the agency. People whose policies bring in the most money end up running the show because most employees owe their jobs to those policies that have made the agency grow.

The Forest Service is devoted to timber production because timber brings in the most money. Timber is sold below cost because the Forest Service is funded out of gross income (total receipts) rather than out of net income (profits). The fact that the US Treasury loses money on timber sales means that Congressional appropriations of tax revenues must be used to keep the Forest Service operating. Many recreational uses of the forest bring in no income because Congress decrees that public forest land be open to free public access. The result is that the timber lobby is more powerful than the recreation lobby in influencing forest service decisions. You get the power you pay for. If public timber were given away free, The Forest Service would sell less timber, since timber sales wouldn't bring money into the agency to create jobs for foresters.

What can be done to get bureaucracies to make the decisions we want? We have to give them ways of maximizing their budget by doing what we want them to. If the Forest Service were funded solely out of net income, below cost sales would end because they would subtract rather than add money to the agency budget. Since most timber sales are below cost, much less timber would be cut. If the Forest Service were allowed to charge market value for all uses, including recreational uses of the forest, recreation would bring in more money than timber. As a result, forest supervisors would listen to how the recreational forest users wanted the forest managed.

Everybody likes O'Toole's plan to eliminate budget deficits and below cost timber sales. Recreational user fees are more controversial. What are some objections? More next issue.



We have always had underground allies in the Forest Service, even on the Hoosier. Now a group has surfaced to reform the Service from within: THE ASSOCIATION OF FOREST SERVICE EMPLOYEES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS. Over 1,000 strong, they began publishing a newspaper this summer, INNER VOICE.

INNER VOICE tells how two FS employees, a wildlife biologist and a timber sale planner, started this movement out of frustration:

The frustration over the agency's resource exploitation and its resulting contribution to world-wide environmental degradation and loss of bio-diversity.... Frustration at the agency's continued denial that we are doing anything wrong, despite the public outcry.... Frustration at the agency's attitude that our main mission is to supply raw wood products at any environmental cost to an industry that has already depleted its own resources in the quest for a fast buck.

These professionals understand how ecological forestry is the only hope for the future of the timber industry and probably essential to human survival. They call for the Forest Service to "become the leader in the quest for a new resource ethic based on an economically and ecologically sustainable future for the 21st century."

These are the people we want in control of the Forest Service. The best way we can help them is by continuing our struggle against the bad old Forest Service. AFSEEE will prove to be decisive in our struggle to save the forests and the humans. Together we will win.

WARNING: SOME CONSERVATION GROUPS MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR FOREST!

INDIANA WILDLIFE FEDERATION (IWF) (affiliate of National Wildlife Federation) advocates clearcutting in the HNF, and favors Tillery Hill development.

PATOKA PARTNERS' Jim Fowler self-styled environmentalist of TV's Wild Kingdom, would replace native wildlife habitat on Tillery Hill with a theme park and golf courses.

AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION'S Indiana representative favors condemnation, supported ORV trails, supports timber industry proposal for the HNF, and referred to opponents of clearcutting as eco-terrorists.

INDIANA FORESTRY and WOODLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION (IFWOA) supports intensive management of the HNF for timber, even though below cost timber is sold in direct competition with woodland owners timber.

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY (TWS), SPORTSMEN'S ROUNTABLE, NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION (NRA) et al: support extensive clearcutting.

INDIANA FARM BUREAU supports extensive clearcutting despite opposition from local chapters.

If you're a member of any of these organizations, please let your leaders know you oppose these policies.

