

LETTERS FROM THE WEST

JUNE 2, 2016 10:53 AM

# Ex-Forest Service chief Jack Ward Thomas taught us about ecological complexity

## HIGHLIGHTS

The native Texan died a week ago at 81 in Montana

He rose from elk researcher to Forest Service Chief

Thomas called the father of ecosystem management





BY ROCKY BARKER

[rbarker@idahostatesman.com](mailto:rbarker@idahostatesman.com)

No single person had more impact on public land management over the past 25 years than Jack Ward Thomas, who rose from elk researcher to become chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

The native Texan died May 26 in his home in Florence, Mont., after a long illness. He was 81.

Thomas also shifted firefighting policy to recognize the realities of wildfires in and around mushrooming communities throughout the West and raised the bar on firefighter safety.

After his drawling charm and straight talk at President Bill Clinton's Forest Summit in 1993 impressed the wonkish new president, he was picked to be the first biologist to head the Forest Service so he could put his plans into place. He told Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, timber executives, union leaders and environmentalists that day it wouldn't be easy.

“

**THE ECOSYSTEM IS NOT ONLY MORE COMPLEX THAN WE THINK, IT IS MORE COMPLEX THAN WE CAN THINK.**

Jack Ward Thomas, April 4, 1993

Thomas told me in 2004 that his wife had cancer and that he didn't want to leave her to go to Washington. She urged him to go after chatting with President Clinton herself. She died less than a year later.

The Northwest Forest Plan, which dramatically limited harvest of old-growth forests over three states and millions of acres that made up the habitat of owls and many other species, got the federal government out of a decadelong court battle. But it angered Northwest lawmakers from both parties and led to the closure of dozens of lumber mills and the loss of thousands of jobs, largely because the agency had cut too much timber for far too long.

But Thomas' willingness to fight for the timber industry in other areas, including in Southern Idaho when he supported salvage logging in the Boise National Forest, drew ire from environmentalists such as Jeffrey St. Clair.

"This concession to corporate America from the father of ecosystem management is the ecological equivalent of infanticide," St. Clair wrote.

Thomas was most beloved by sportsmen. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation gave him its highest award in 2015. A steadfast defender of public lands, Thomas told the Outdoor Writers of America in 1995 how he would respond to people who suggested disposing of public lands: "These lands are our lands — all the lands that most of us will ever own. These lands are ours today and our children's in years to come. Such a birthright stands alone in all the earth. Hell no!"

I met Thomas in 1988 at Old Faithful in the middle of the Yellowstone fires. He was a visiting biologist assessing the impact of the fires when he got caught up in the firestorm that engulfed the area that afternoon. I lost track of him in the chaos, but when I was catching up years later, he told me that he had been on the ground next to the Old Faithful Inn, covering his head and trying to survive.

Six years later he stood at the base of Storm King Mountain in Glenwood Springs, Colo., waiting for word on 14 firefighters, several under his command who were later found dead. As Forest Service chief he ordered his fire managers to stop putting firefighters in front of the growing conflagrations like he had seen at Old Faithful and to follow all the safety rules.

When one manager stood up and said such a limit would prevent them from fighting fires, Thomas told the man he was done fighting fires because he was going to take away his red card.

One man started clapping. Others joined in until Thomas had a standing ovation.

In one startling, public step, Thomas changed firefighting culture. Thomas had learned years before that managing wildlife was more about managing people than critters. Before he left he taught many of us that ecosystem and fire management are really about a willingness to accept change.

Thomas not only accepted change, he drove it.

*Rocky Barker: 208-377-6484, @RockyBarker*

## NMFSH Volunteer Time & Expense Report

Volunteer: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Report Period (Mark reporting period with an "X")

\_\_\_\_ January 1 to June 30, 2016

\_\_\_\_ July 1 to December 31, 2016

Volunteer Reports show prospective donors how the NMFSH achieves so much on a limited budget.

Summarize volunteer work weekly include estimate time and miles. Please, if possible complete your entries using a computer.

Week of	Hours	Miles	Expense	Activity

Email of Mail Reports to Museum office  
59806

[Office@forestservicemuseum.org](mailto:Office@forestservicemuseum.org) or PO Box 2772, Missoula, MT



**From:** FS-Office of the Chief  
**Sent:** Friday, May 27, 2016 10:58 AM  
**To:** FS-All FS <allfs@ms.fs.fed.us>  
**Subject:** MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF: Passing of Former Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas

I want to take a moment to reflect on the recent passing of a former leader of the Forest Service team, Jack Ward Thomas. Jack passed May 26 after battling cancer the last few years. Jack took on his last challenge just like he did everything: using science, being optimistic, and accepting reality, and being straightforward. I will miss Jack, not only for his dedication to science and his conservation leadership, but also for his stories. Even when he and I were in a lively debate, Jack would have me laughing before we were done. In addition to his many individual accomplishments and recognitions, Jack will be remembered as a dedicated scientist for -- through his work-- science was elevated and took its' rightful place, providing solutions to conservation challenges.

Jack was Forest Service Chief from 1993 to 1996. During his tenure and throughout the rest of his life, he provided invaluable contributions to forestry and conservation issues, leaving a lasting legacy of achievements. He was the epitome of leadership in "Caring for the land, and serving people" when he was with us.

Jack began his Forest Service career in 1966, in Morgantown, West Virginia as a research wildlife biologist. In the years that followed, he developed an amazing career as an agency scientist. He served in a variety of locations, culminating in his selection to lead the Forest Service.

During his tenure, Jack faced numerous challenges, including heavy conflict between the timber industry and the environmental community, particularly in the Pacific Northwest, and a controversial presidential forest plan for the spotted owl regions of the Pacific Northwest and northern California. Yet through it all, he managed to not only face those challenges, but also to develop a pioneering ecosystem management approach on the national forests and grasslands.

Throughout his life, Jack was a prolific writer, publishing over 250 books, chapters, and articles, primarily on elk, deer, and turkey biology, wildlife disease, wildlife habitat, songbird ecology, northern spotted owl management, and land use planning. He received multiple awards for his work including USDA Distinguished Service and Superior Service Awards; Elected Fellow, Society of American Foresters; National Wildlife Federation, Conservation Achievement Award for Science; The Aldo Leopold Medal, The Wildlife Society; General Chuck Yeager Award, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; and USDA FS Chief's Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer. In addition, he served as president of The Wildlife Society from 1976 to 1977.

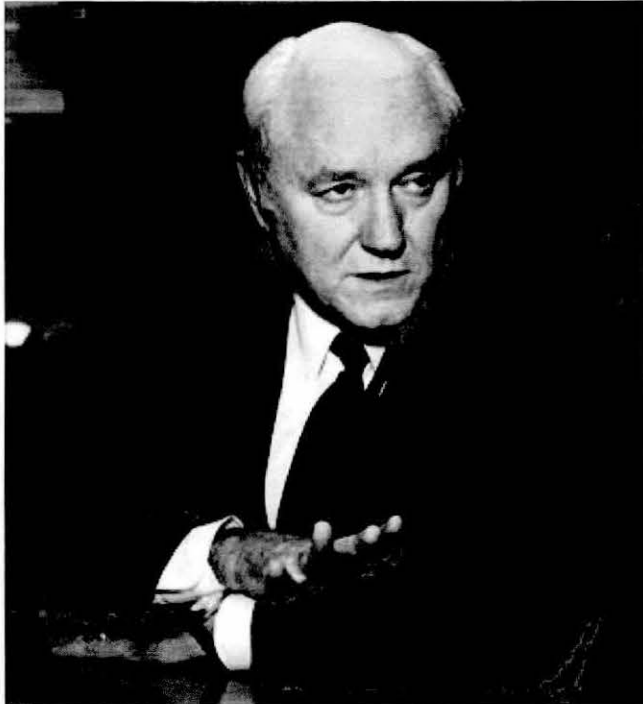
In short, Jack was an integral part of Forest Service and other forestry history. Not only did he shape our forest management philosophy, but he was also a mentor and friend to me and many of today's environmental conservation leaders, both inside and outside the U.S. Forest Service. He will be greatly missed.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Thomas family.

Chief Tidwell

SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2016, 6:19 P.M.

# RIP: Jack Ward Thomas left legacy in forest, wildlife management



**Jack Ward Thomas was selected by the Clinton administration in 1993 to head the U.S. Forest Service. (Associated Press)**

**PUBLIC LANDS --** Jack Ward Thomas, 81, passed away Thursday, May 26, at his home in Florence, Montana, of natural causes, bringing many hunters and conservationists to remember his leadership as a wildlife ecologist and 13th chief of the U.S. Forest Service.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation was probably aware of his declining health last year when the group bestowed JWT with its highest honor.

One of my favorite JWT observations came in 2001, five years after he'd left his

Forest Service post. He was urging conservation peace and progress after environmental groups had turned the tide on overcutting on the national forests.

“Fierce in battle, many of the eco-warriors have been unable to come to grips with the consequences of victory and are now reduced to wandering about the old battlefields ‘bayoneting the wounded.’ Their counterparts from the resource extraction community, likewise, cannot come to terms with defeat and hold ‘ghost dances’ to bring back the good old days when they were the undisputed Kings of the West.”

The talk about disposing of federal public lands isn’t new. JWT left no doubts about his position in a speech before the Outdoor Writers Association of America in 1995:

Rising to a defiant crescendo, Thomas declared, “Speaking for myself, I won’t stand for [making public lands private] for me and I won’t stand for it for my grandchildren and I won’t stand for it for their children yet unborn. This heritage is too precious and so unique in the world to be traded away for potage. These lands are *our* lands -- all the lands that most of us will ever own. These lands are ours today and our children’s in years to come. Such a birthright stands alone in all the earth. Hell no!”

Before dealing with the politics of managing public lands and wildlife, he was a leader in wildlife research including the elk and mule deer research in the Starkey Project in Oregon. Among other things, the project produced important science on the detrimental impact motorized vehicle use has on big game.

Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell reflected today on JWT’s passing.

I want to take a moment to reflect on the recent passing of a former leader of the Forest Service team, Jack Ward Thomas. Jack passed May 26 after battling cancer the last few years. Jack took on his last challenge just like he did everything:

Jack took on the toughest challenges just like he did every thing, using science, being optimistic, and accepting reality, and being straightforward. I will miss Jack, not only for his dedication to science and his conservation leadership, but also for his stories. Even when he and I were in a lively debate, Jack would have me laughing before we were done. In addition to his many individual accomplishments and recognitions, Jack will be remembered as a dedicated scientist for -- through his work-- science was elevated and took its' rightful place, providing solutions to conservation challenges.

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In short, Jack was an integral part of Forest Service and other forestry history. Not only did he shape our forest management philosophy, but he was also a mentor and friend to me and many of today's environmental conservation leaders, both inside and outside the U.S. Forest Service. He will be greatly missed.

POSTED MAY 29, 2016, 6:19 P.M. in: forest service, hunting, outdoors, wildlife

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## Chief Thomas' Retirement Announcement

10/10/96

This is my last Leadership conference. As the Good Book says, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." It has come the time for me to close out my Forest Service career and move on to a new life. I've always said, "When my professional and personal objectives for this job have been achieved, I will retire." Not to mention 40 years of service and turning 62 years. I have achieved those objectives. The sense of duty and honor that brought Margaret and me to Washington at a most inconvenient time has been fulfilled. So, now is the time for me to move on to new challenges and a new life and allow new leadership to step forward. Folks, it is simply time for me to head West. My heart is there. I have been away too long. I plan to move to Missoula and have accepted the Boone and Crockett Chair at the University of Montana. I have always had a hankering to be a teacher. I think I will be a good one and having a chance to help train the next wave of conservation leaders is another worthy quest.

These 3 years as Chief of the Forest Service have not always been easy. But even in moments of depression, I am glad that I did not step back from the challenge. And, I am proud, very proud of what we have achieved together in this most turbulent time. The team--YOU--currently leading the Forest Service in all of its endeavors--National Forest System; Administration; State and Private Forestry; International Forestry; and Research is unparalleled--in my totally unbiased opinion--in any other conservation organization, at any other time. You are the best conservation leaders that the Nation has ever had leading the Forest Service--the natural resources model for conservation leadership!

One of the things that I have learned while Chief is that our reputation and professional credibility are our most valuable asset. Obeying the law and telling the truth have served me, and all of us, well. Our direction and implementation of our mandates will either strengthen or erode our goal of "conservation leadership." Even as I "pass the baton" of Forest Service leadership to the 14th Chief, I want you to know that:

I am proud of the leadership legacy which you represent for the Forest Service.

No work force in the Forest Service's proud history has been so diverse, nor so committed to achieving our myriad of goals, objectives, and challenges to meet the needs of so many publics.

All the while, I'm proud to have maintained and maybe even enhanced the Forest Service reputation and professional dignity with those whom I interacted, including members of Congress, the Administration, our constituents, and most of all, with our employees!

I am working closely with Secretary Glickman and Under Secretary Lyons to assure a 14th Chief in the "long green line" that will suit our tradition. The plan is for me to continue as Chief until our new Chief is ready to take the reins. The transition will be carried out in a manner that you would approve. It is essential that you rally to the new Chief--quickly and visibly. We cannot stand any hesitancy.

I came to Washington nearly 3 years ago to honor my debt to the Forest Service that had been so very good to me. I want to believe that I have helped move

toward our collective vision, done my very best, made my contribution, and it is now time to move on--making way for new leadership for the Forest Service. Public Service, the natural resources professions, and the Forest Service have all been good to me. I have received honors that I could only have dreamed possible 40 years ago.

I asked in a paper once that "What more could we ask but to be here--at this place--at this time in history, with a chance to make a difference?"

I ask that again today. And, as I ask the question I know the answer--so do you. You will do well.

You are the right people, in the right place, and the right time in the history of conservation in this country--and in the world--to make a difference. Such is your heritage and such, I believe, is your destiny. I believe that! I know that! So do you.

Now, it is time to move on to a new chapter in my life, in a new place, in a new job. I am sad to leave--but, I am eager to go. Life is good. Life is precious. It should be lived with appreciation and with gusto. I have always done that. I will continue to do that. You do the same.

Keep the faith. I'll see you along the trail.



# NEWS

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Office of  
Public Affairs

News Division  
Room 404-A  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Release No. 0952.93

Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623

Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623

## USDA CHARTS NEW COURSE WITH CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP AT FOREST SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17--Today the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced new leadership at the U.S. Forest Service. Jack Ward Thomas, a world renowned wildlife biologist with a long and celebrated career at the agency will take over the helm as the 13th chief of the Forest Service.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy said, "Jack Ward Thomas has the scientific credentials, the dedication, and the professional integrity to guide the agency as we move toward the 21st Century."

According to Assistant Secretary James R. Lyons, "Thomas' strong research background, his demonstrated leadership skills, and his understanding of forest and rangeland ecosystem management principles make him the ideal individual for the job."

Earlier this year President Clinton intrusted Thomas with the important task of leading the Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team. Along with his outstanding contribution to the President's Forest Conference he led two other high-level scientific teams on northwestern forest ecosystem management.

"To be asked to serve as Chief of the Forest Service, my professional home for 27 years, is an honor. Our challenge and duty is to ensure that the Forest Service emerges from this period of great change and development to reaffirm its position as the world's finest natural resource management agency," said Jack Ward Thomas.

Thomas holds degrees in wildlife management, wildlife science, and a doctorate in forestry. His professional career spans four decades and includes numerous national honors and awards, such as the Wildlife Society's Aldo Leopold award, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's "Chuck" Yeager award, and the USDA Superior Service award, the highest award granted by the Department. Thomas is also an elected Fellow in the Society of American Foresters and an Honorary Member of the Wildlife Society.

Espy also announced that David G. Unger, who has served as acting chief is being named as the new Associate Chief of the Forest Service, second in command to Thomas. "I want to personally thank Dave Unger for the leadership and guidance he provided as acting chief during this time of transition. As Associate Chief Unger will assist in leading the Forest Service to fully implementing its ecological approach to managing the nation's forest and rangeland resources," Espy said.

-more-

Before taking on his role as acting chief, Unger was associate deputy chief for National Forest System with emphasis in the area of conservation. He most recently led a national initiative to implement and coordinate efforts to protect endangered fisheries habitat.

Lyons added, "Unger's experience in leadership positions with both the Soil Conservation Service and other agencies at USDA, will help accelerate our efforts to foster a closer working relationship between the Department's premier natural resource agencies."

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MESSAGE DISPLAY FOR JERRY WILLIAMS

To SP Staff

From: Theresa C. Aledo Host: R06A  
Acting for: Harold T. Nygren  
Postmark: Mar 21,96 12:54 PM Delivered: Mar 21,96 12:54 PM

Subject: Forwarded: Status report on Jack Ward Thomas

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Comments:

From: Theresa C. Aledo:R6/PNW acting for Harold T. Nygren  
Date: Mar 21,96 12:54 PM

Previous comments:

From: Janet M. Newberg:R6/PNW  
Date: Mar 21,96 12:19 PM  
Update on the Chief.

Message:

From: Mary Davis:WO  
Date: Mar 21,96 3:05 PM

As most of you know, Chief Jack Ward Thomas went into the hospital today for a test known as a heart catheterization, a procedure in which a tube is inserted to determine blockages in the arteries leading to the heart. Jack had an allergic reaction to one of the drugs used for the test, so the procedure was halted. He is spending the night in the hospital so that the test can be done with different drugs in the morning. He is in good spirits and has talked with several folks from the WO. We know that all of you are concerned about Jack; if you wish to send him a card, address it to him at the office. The cards will be gathered up and delivered to Jack. And, of course, we will keep you posted. RF&D's: please share this information with your employees. Mary Davis

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VITAE

JACK WARD THOMAS

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Name

Jack Ward Thomas

Address

Office - Forestry and Range Sciences Laboratory  
USDA Forest Service  
1401 Gekeler Lane  
La Grande, OR 97850  
Phone: 503 963-7122  
FAX: 503 962-6504

Home - 206 Main Avenue  
La Grande, OR 97850  
Phone: 503 963-4739

Academic Training

B.S. Texas A&M University; Wildlife Management  
M.S. West Virginia University 1969; Wildlife Ecology  
Ph.D. University of Massachusetts 1972; Forestry  
(Natural Resources Planning Option)

Work Experience

1957-1960	Wildlife Biologist and Assistant Project Leader, Texas Game and Fish Commission, Sonora, TX
1960-1966	Research Wildlife Biologist and Project Leader, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Llano, TX
1966-1969	Research Wildlife Biologist (GS-12), Forest Wildlife Relationships Research, USDA Forest Service, Morgantown, W. VA
1969-1974	Research Wildlife Biologist (GS-13), Urban Forestry and Wildlife Research, USDA Forest Service, Amhurst, MA
1974-1993	Chief Research Wildlife Biologist and Project Leader (GS-14, 15, 16, 17), Range and Wildlife Habitat Research, USDA Forest Service, La Grande, OR

### Publications

Approximately 250. Primarily in elk, deer, and turkey biology, wildlife disease, wildlife habitat, songbird ecology, northern spotted owl management, and land-use planning. Includes several award winning books including "The Elk of North America - Ecology and Management," "Wildlife Habitats in Managed Forests--The Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washington," "Wildlife Habitats in Managed Rangelands--The Great Basin of Southeastern Oregon," and "A Conservation Strategy for the Northern Spotted Owl."

### Presentations

Approximately 230 technical presentations to symposia, technical meetings, training sessions, etc. and 225 non-technical presentations to "lay" audiences on natural resource management. There have been an additional 74 presentations to academic audiences including such prestigious lectureships as the Starker Lectureship, Oregon State University; the Albright Lectureship, University of California at Berkeley; Distinguished Lecturer Series, Texas A&M University; Distinguished Lecturer at Rutgers, Utah State, University of Arizona, West Virginia University, Eastern Oregon State College, University of Toronto, University of British Columbia, Forestry Institute of India, University of Washington, University of Warsaw, University of New Brunswick, University of Calgary, Wildlife Institute of India, Colorado State University, Washington State University, University of Montana, and others.

### Editorships

Editorial Board, Journal of Forestry, 1980-1984  
Associate Editor, Western Journal of Forestry, 1985-1991  
Associate Editor, Landscape and Urban Planning, 1990-1992

### Academic Appointments

1966-1970	Adjunct Professor, West Virginia University
1970-1973	Adjunct Faculty, University of Massachusetts
1973-Present	Adjunct Professor, Eastern Oregon State College
1974-Present	Adjunct Professor, Oregon State University
1975-Present	Adjunct Professor, Washington State University
1976-Present	Adjunct Professor, University of Idaho

### International Experience

1974-1978	Cooperating Scientist on Big Game Studies in Pakistan
1980	Workshop on Wildlife Techniques (Faculty), Wildlife Institute of India
1990	Workshop on Bio-Diversity, Wildlife Institute

1974-1992 of India, Dehru Dun and Pachmarchi, India  
Numerous Consulting and Speaking Visits to  
Canada

Awards Include

1957	Alpha Zeta, Agricultural Honorary
1969	Sigma Xi - Research Honorary
1973	Xi Sigma Pi, Forestry Honorary
1976	Bicentennial Award. U.S. Bicentennial Commission
1976 & 1983	Publications Awards, The Wildlife Society
1979	Oregon Wildlife Society Award
1981	Einarsen Award, NW Section, The Wildlife Society
1983	Gulf Oil Conservation Award
1983	Special Recognition Service Award, The Wildlife Society
1983	Outstanding Publication of the Year for <u>Elk</u> <u>of North America</u> , <u>Choice Magazine</u>
1984	Natural Resource Employee of the Year, Oregon Wildlife Federation
1985	Distinguished Service Award, USDA
1985	Elected Fellow, Society of American Foresters
1985	Earle A. Childs Award, High Desert Museum, Bend, OR (\$5,000)
1986	Distinguished Citizen Award, Eastern Oregon State College
1990	Superior Service Award, USDA
1991	Honorary Membership, The Wildlife Society
1991	Group Achievement Award, The Wildlife Society
1991	National Wildlife Federation, Conservation Achievement Award for Science
1991	Oregon Academy of Sciences, Outstanding Achievement Award
1991	Society for Conservation Biology, Outstanding Achievement Award
1991	Giraffe Award, The Giraffe Society
1991	The Aldo Leopold Medal, The Wildlife Society
1992	General Chuck Yeager Award, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (\$15,000)
1992	Conservationist of the Year, Pacific Rivers Council
1992	Pacific Northwest Region Award for Achievements in Technology Transfer (\$1,000)
1992	Stickleback Award, <u>Fly Rod and Reel Magazine</u>
1992	USDA Forest Service Chief's Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer (\$1,000)

Elected Offices

President, Texas Chapter, The Wildlife Society, 1966-1967  
President, The Wildlife Society, 1976-1977  
Regional Representative, The Wildlife Society, 1975-1976

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Washington  
Office

14th & Independence SW  
P.O. Box 96090  
Washington, DC 20090-6090

Reply to: 6130

Date: November 17, 1993

Subject: Announcement of new Chief and Associate Chief

To: All Forest Service Employees

I am pleased to take this opportunity to personally inform all Forest Service personnel that Dr. Jack Ward Thomas has been named the new Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. The selection of Dr. Thomas, a senior scientist and a 27-year veteran of the Agency, upholds my commitment to maintaining professional leadership in the Forest Service. Dr. Thomas, who comes from the ranks of the Agency, who has been a career civil servant, and who has the highest professional standing, will start his assignment in Washington on December 1, 1993.

I am also happy to announce that Dave Unger will be the new Associate Chief. Mr. Unger will remain Acting Chief until December 1. We are grateful for Mr. Unger's assistance and guidance during this transitional period.

Dr. Thomas possesses the necessary leadership experience, scientific background, and professional integrity to lead us in addressing the many challenges we will face. He brings to the position of Chief a high degree of credibility and respect. In addition, he has considerable experience with long-range and strategic planning.

Working with Dr. Thomas and the Forest Service, I have three overriding goals I will see accomplished during my tenure as Assistant Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment. These include: increasing the credibility of the Forest Service; reinvesting in the professional resource managers who constitute the Forest Service; and moving forward with an ecosystem management approach that is scientifically sound and best meets the complex and diverse needs of our customers. I believe that accomplishing these goals is essential to establish the foundation necessary to meet the challenges before us. In addition, before I leave office, the position of Forest Service Chief will return to career status.

The Forest Service has reached an historical crossroads for natural resource management. We face the immediate challenge of managing forest resources in an integrated and coordinated manner, that is scientifically sound and ecologically-based, linking all elements of the forest landscape to meet the ever-changing demands of human beings, under ever-changing natural conditions. Additionally, we must restore public confidence, respond to an increasingly diverse clientele often with divergent values and goals, and to diversify our workforce to better reflect the culturally diverse citizenry we serve. In this period of shrinking budgets we must do more with less, becoming more efficient and responsive to meeting our customer's needs.



Confronting these challenges will require teamwork and a clear, shared vision. Our combined energy, imagination, ambition, and resourcefulness will enable us to achieve our aims and benefit from the many opportunities we shall encounter. I am excited and energized to work with Dr. Thomas and with all of you in charting a positive and productive future.

As Assistant Secretary, I am pleased with the opportunity to work with the two premier natural resource management agencies in the world. I look forward to working with you, and I thank you for your support and patience during this period of transition.

/s/ James R. Lyons

James R. Lyons  
Assistant Secretary  
Natural Resources and Environment

Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623

Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623

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"To be asked to serve as Chief of the Forest Service, my professional home for 27 years, is an honor. Our challenge and duty is to ensure that the Forest Service emerges from this period of great change and development to reaffirm its position as the world's finest natural resource management agency," said Jack Ward Thomas.

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## BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH

JACK WARD THOMAS

Born: Fort Worth, Texas  
September 7, 1934  
Married; wife, Margaret  
2 sons  
Home - LaGrande, OR

### Military Service

U.S. Naval Reserve  
1952-1956

U.S. Air Force Reserve  
1957-1969

### Education

1957 BS in Wildlife Management, Texas A&M  
1969 MS in Wildlife Biology, West Virginia University  
1972 Ph.D. in Forestry (Natural Resources Planning Option), University of  
Massachusetts

### Work Experience

1957-  
1966 Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and wildlife Department at the  
following locations: Sonora and Llano, Texas  
  
1966-  
1974 Research Wildlife Biologist, USDA Forest Service, Morgantown,  
West Virginia; Amherst, Massachusetts  
  
1974-  
Present Chief Research Wildlife Biologist and Project Leader (GS-14, 15,  
16), Range and Wildlife Habitat Research, USDA Forest Service,  
La Grande, OR

### Awards and Honors Include

1957 Alpha Zeta - Agricultural Honorary  
1969 Sigma Xi (directly elected full-member) - Research Honorary  
1973 Xi Sigma Pi - Forestry Honorary  
1974 Selected for "Who's Who in America"  
1974 Named in American Men & Women of Science, Jaques Cattell Press  
1983 Special Recognition Service Award, The Wildlife Society

1985 Distinguished Service Award, USDA  
1986 Distinguished Citizen Award, Eastern Oregon State College  
1990 Superior Service Award, USDA  
1991 National Wildlife Federation, Conservation Achievement Award  
1991 Society for Conservation Biology, Outstanding Achievement Award  
1991 Giraffe Award, The Giraffe Society  
1992 Conservationist of the Year, Pacific Rivers Council

#### Academic Appointments

1966- Adjunct Professor, West Virginia University  
1970  
1970- Adjunct Faculty, University of Massachusetts  
1973  
1973- Adjunct Professor, Eastern Oregon State College  
Present  
1974- Adjunct Professor, Oregon State University  
Present  
1975- Adjunct Professor, Washington State University  
Present  
1976- Adjunct Professor, University of Idaho  
Present

#### Professional Societies

Society of American Foresters  
American Society of Mammalogists  
Wilson Ornithological Society  
American Ornithological Union  
Co-chairman, Northeast Deer Study Group, 1966-73  
Northeast Turkey Workers Group, 1966-73  
Society of Range Management  
The Wildlife Society

Conservationist took

**Forest Service Chief**  
The administration yesterday named a wildlife biologist with a strong record as a conservationist to head the U.S. Forest Service, signaling a fundamental shift in philosophy at the troubled land management agency.

Jack Ward Thomas, a 27-year veteran of the agency who helped develop the White House strategy for resolving the long dispute over the northern spotted owl and the old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest, will become the 13th chief of the Forest Service. He replaces F. Dale Robertson, who was ousted as chief by the administration several weeks ago.

"Jack Ward Thomas has the scientific credentials, the dedication and the professional integrity to guide the agency as we move toward the 21st century," Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy said in announcing the appointment.

David G. Unger, who has served as acting chief since Robertson's departure, was named yesterday as the associate chief directly under Thomas.

Thomas's appointment was supported by many environmental organizations and a dissident Forest Service group, the Association of Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics. They have accused Forest Service management of stifling internal dissent, harming fish and wildlife by overemphasizing timber cutting, abetting widespread timber theft and manipulating data to drive up timber harvests.

Assistant Agriculture Secretary James R. Lyons said Thomas's appointment sends a message of new commitment to "scientifically sound, professionally oriented resource management" of the agency's 191 million acres. Lyons said a more thorough housecleaning, as urged by some environmental groups, would be up to Thomas and Unger.

Because Thomas does not have a Senior Executive Service rating, the position, for the first time in the agency's history, will not be a career slot. Congress and the agency resisted that change.

Washington Post

1993

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# Forestry Research News

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service

Thomas Jack Ward

Pacific Northwest  
Forest and Range  
Experiment Station

P.O. Box 3890  
Portland, OR 97208  
503/231-2078

News Contact: L. Mastrantonio  
6/28/85, No. 98

## FOREST SERVICE WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST GET USDA AWARD

Jack Ward Thomas, Project Leader for range and wildlife habitat research at the Forestry and Range Sciences Laboratory in La Grande, Oregon, has received the Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor given by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to outstanding Federal employees. The laboratory is a research facility of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, USDA Forest Service.

The award is in recognition of Thomas's contributions to the development of new knowledge and concepts in wildlife management and technical leadership in integrating the management of all wildlife species with timber production, grazing, and other land uses. He played a major role in writing and editing two books that have greatly influenced wildlife management: "Wildlife Habitats in Managed Forests--the Blue mountains of Oregon and Washington," published by the Experiment Station in 1979, and "Elk of North America," a Wildlife Management Institute Book published by Stackpole Books in 1982. He has also written numerous reports for scientific journals and made presentations on wildlife topics to many technical and non-technical audiences.

-more-



Thomas attended the award ceremonies in Washington, D. C., June 17-19. Secretary of Agriculture John Block presented the Distinguished Service Award to 14 individuals and three groups. He presented the second highest award--the Superior Service Award--to 71 individuals and 11 groups.

Thomas has received many honors for his work from professional societies and in 1983 received the Gulf Oil Conservation Award. He has been a research leader at the La Grande Laboratory since 1974. Before coming to La Grande, he served 7 years as research wildlife biologist at the Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Morgantown, West Virginia, a research facility of the Northeastern Forest Experiment Station. Earlier he spent several years as a wildlife biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Sonora and Llano.

Thomas is a native of Texas. He did his undergraduate work at Texas A&M, earned an M.S. degree in wildlife management at Western Virginia University in 1969, and completed a Ph.D. in forestry at University of Massachusetts in 1972.

#

Distribution: Internal; Limited

# PNW NEWS

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service

Pacific Northwest  
Forest and Range  
Experiment Station

July 1, 1985

## Long-Term Cooperative Study Begun

A study with a planned duration of 200 years has begun on the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest. Its purpose is to document natural decay process in the logs and snags of coniferous forests. The study is partially supported by PNW under a supplement to the cooperative research agreement with Oregon State University.

Plans for the study include placing logs of specified ages, sizes, and species at six locations on the Experimental Forest, in an attempt to standardize initial log conditions and natural processes. A specific objective during the first 5 years is to characterize and quantify the roles of insects in the colonization of logs by decay organisms, such as fungi and bacteria. This will be accomplished by screening a selected set of logs to keep insects out.

Mark Harmon, a research associate at OSU, is principal investigator for the initial phase of the study (1985-1990), but PNW and university scientists from several disciplines will be involved. PNW has provided \$6,800 for construction of the insect exclosures. Additional support is provided through a timber sale on the Experimental Forest and by funds from the National Science Foundation, which supports the Experimental Forest as a Long-Term Ecological Research Site.

According to Jerry Franklin, PNW coordinator, the long-term study will be relatively secure because it is located at a site dedicated to research and is supported by several institutions. Further protection is provided by the six replications scattered over the Experimental Forest. There are also plans to publicize the study with an early report of progress.

## New Posters on Display at Directors Office

The display of posters prepared for scientific meetings at the Station Director's conference room at the Multnomah Building in Portland has been changed. The two now on view include one on product recovery from live and dead lodgepole pine prepared by Tom Fahey, Tom Snellgrove, and Marlin Plank (Portland) and one on the use of forest residue in interior Alaska for residential firelogs by George Sampson (Fairbanks).

## Personnel Changes at Region 6

Dick Ferraro, who has been Director of Program Development and Budget at Region 6, is the new Deputy Regional Forester for Administration. He replaces Claude Elton, who retired recently.

## Thomas Receives USDA Award



Jack Thomas

Project Leader Jack Thomas, La Grande, has received the Distinguished Service Award—the highest award given by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The award was based on Thomas' extensive work on wildlife habitat, particularly his role in writing and editing two books that have greatly influenced wildlife management: "Wildlife Habitats in Managed Forests—the Blue Mountains of Oregon and Washington," published by PNW in 1979, and "Elk of North America," a Wildlife Management Institute Book published in 1982. In addition, Thomas has written extensively for scientific journals and made many presentations to technical and non-technical groups.

Thomas participated in an award ceremony in Washington, D.C., June 17-19, at which Agriculture Secretary John Block presented the Distinguished Service Award to 14 individuals and three groups. The second highest award—the Superior Service Award, went to 71 individuals and 11 groups.

## Forestry Research West Wins Award

Forestry Research West, the magazine published by the four western FS Experiment Stations, primarily for land managers, won third place in the periodicals division of the 1984 Blue Pencil Competition. The annual competition is sponsored by the National Association of Government Communicators to recognize outstanding government publications. The award is based on editorial content, layout, design, and cost-effectiveness. There were more than 800 entries in all divisions of the 1984 competition.

The magazine is edited by Rick Fletcher at Rocky Mountain Station for the four western Stations. Writer-editor Dorothy Bergstrom writes the articles about PNW research.

## Personnel Changes in the WO

Robert Nelson has been named Director of the Wildlife and Fisheries Staff, succeeding Dale Jones, who has retired.

John Leasure, assistant to the Deputy Chief for Programs and Legislation, will succeed William Rice as Director of Program Development and Budget.

## New Publications

Request from Publications, Portland (FTS 429-6756), by distribution number in parentheses.

van Hees, Willem W.S. Timber resource statistics for the Yakataga inventory unit, Alaska, 1976.

Resource Bulletin PNW-124, 1985. (84-171)

van Hees, Willem W.S. Land ownership patterns in the Tanana River Basin, Alaska, 1984. Research Paper PNW-335, 1985. (84-217)

The following publications are not available from Publications but reprints may be obtained from staff members as indicated.

Ching Y. Li and Earl E. Nelson. Persistence of benomyl and captan and their effects on microbial activity in field soils. *Bull. Environ. Contam. Toxicol.* 34: 533-540, 1985. (Li, Corvallis)

Wickstrom, Mark L., Charles T. Robbins, Thomas A. Hanley, and others. Food intake and foraging energetics of elk and mule deer. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 48(4): 1285-1301, 1984. (Hanley, Juneau)

Youngs, Lorna C. and Robert W. Campbell. Ants preying on pupae of the western spruce budworm, *Choristoneura occidentalis* (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae), in eastern Oregon and western Montana. *The Canadian Entomologist* 116: 1665-1669, 1984. (Martha Brookes, Corvallis)

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Published by Information Services, Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, P.O. Box 3890, Portland, Oregon 97208. Dorothy Bergstrom, editor, telephone 503/231-2092 or FTS 429-2092.

## University Cooperative Research Agreements

Recently signed supplements to PNW's cooperative research agreements with universities provide for the following studies:

- Regeneration of white spruce after timber harvest: assessment of early seedling establishment and survival 14 years after harvest. Stanton Cook, University of Oregon, is principal investigator for the 10-month, \$7,363 study. John Zasada is PNW coordinator.

- Measure food intake of tame deer and develop a methodology for incorporating the diet selection process into a model of carrying capacity of deer habitat in southeast Alaska. Charles Robbins, Washington State University, is principal investigator for the 20-month, \$35,000 study. Tom Hanley is PNW coordinator.

- Conduct a problem analysis of the habitat relationships of marten and fisher in late successional Douglas-fir forests in Washington and determine whether the concept of indicator species is useful in managing to protect associated species. Keith Aubry and Stephen West, University of Washington, are principal investigators. Len Ruggerio is PNW coordinator.

- Prepare manuscripts on studies of sequential sampling for western spruce budworm. Douglas Allen, State University of New York, will conduct the short-term, \$5,600 project. Boyd Wickman is PNW coordinator.

- Determine appropriate biomass equations for the dominant species in six forested plant communities of southeast Alaska. John Yarie, University of Alaska, is principal investigator for the 30-month, \$24,958 study. Fred Larson is PNW coordinator.

- Maintain the organization of the Alaska Ecological Reserves Council, prepare establishment reports for 17 proposed Research Natural Areas, and support the third year of a study of the effects of the Rosie Creek Fire in the Bonanza Creek Experimental Forest. Glenn Juday, University of Alaska, will carry out the 1-year, \$26,500 plan of work. Ken Wright is PNW coordinator.

# Forestry Research News

Pacific Northwest  
Forest and Range Experiment Station  
P.O. Box 3141, Portland, Oregon 97208  
503/234-3361, Ext. 4971



News Contact: Louise Parker, Information Officer

39/9-3-73

## LA GRANDE LABORATORY GETS NEW LEADER



*Jack W. Thomas*

Dr. Jack W. Thomas, a research wildlife biologist, has been named to head U.S. Forest Service research at the Range and Wildlife Habitat Laboratory in La Grande, Oregon. He will direct the current research program on cattle grazing and deer and elk habitat, and initiate new studies on nongame species and the aesthetic aspects of wildlife, according to Dr. Robert E. Buckman, Director of the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station in Portland.

Thomas comes to La Grande from a position as research wildlife biologist for the Environmental Forestry Research Unit at the Forest Service's Northeast Experiment Station in Amherst, Mass. His job there was to seek ways to improve the quality of urban environments by enhancement of vegetation and wildlife in densely populated areas.

Before joining the Forest Service, Thomas was on the research staff of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Game and Fish Commission. He was studying the habitat requirements of deer, wild turkeys, squirrels, and grouse, and the effects of timber management on wildlife.

Buckman said the research program in La Grande is being redirected to include study of the complex interrelationships of wildlife, including birds and small mammals, with their environment, and the possibilities for enhancing nongame uses of wildlife. Scientists will be concerned with the aesthetic aspects of wildlife, such as wildlife viewing areas, rather than solely with big game production. Range ecosystem research, long established at La Grande, will continue to be an important part of the program.

In La Grande, Thomas replaces George Garrison, who is now at the Experiment Station headquarters in Portland as Assistant to the Station Director for Research Planning and Application.

A native Texan, Thomas did his undergraduate work at Texas A&M, earned an M.S. degree in wildlife management at West Virginia University, and recently completed a Ph.D. at University of Massachusetts. He is author of many scientific reports.

Thomas, his wife, and two sons will live in La Grande.

-30-

Distribution: 101 Portland, La Grande  
102-103, 105-107  
Internal



*Thomas*

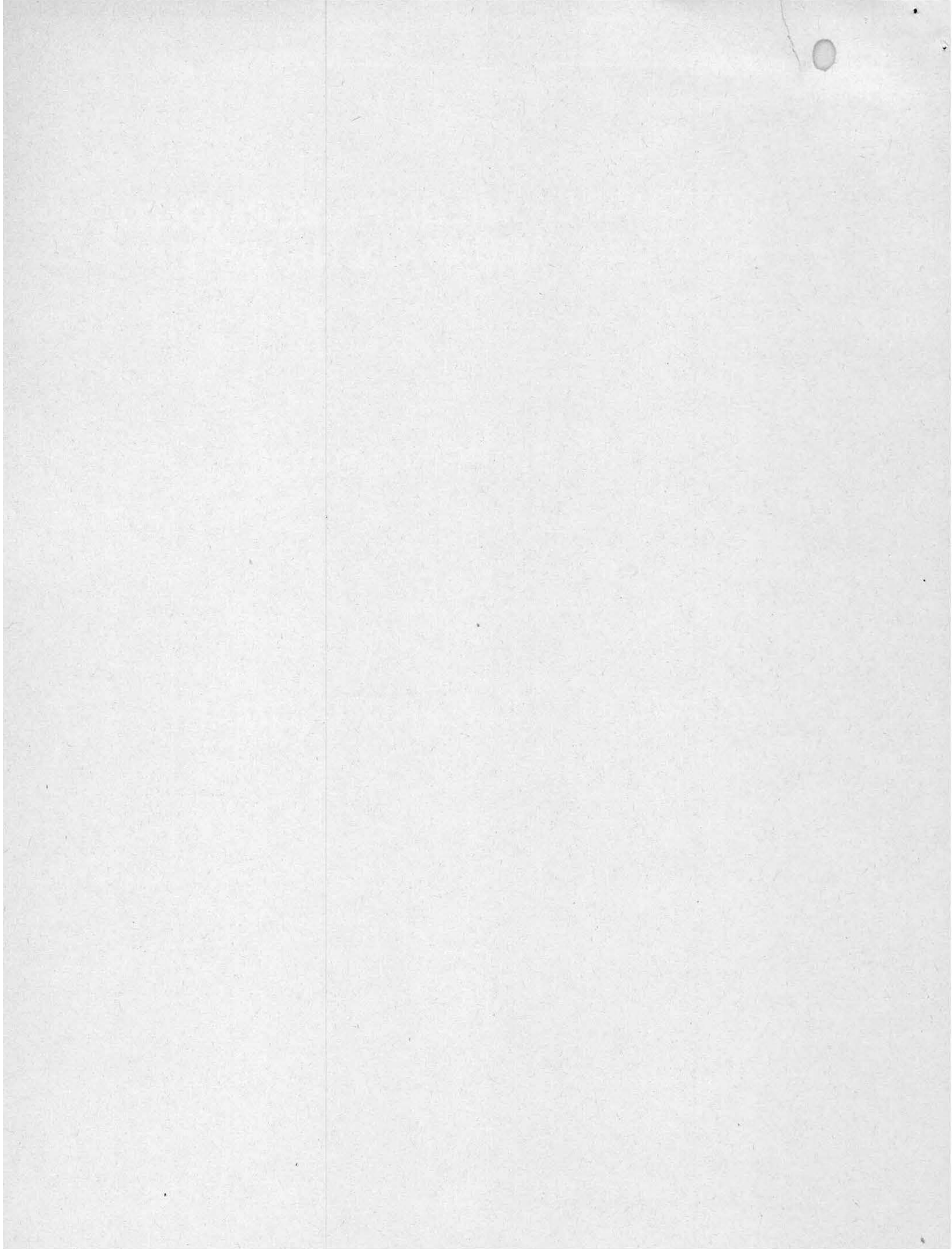
**WATCHABLE WILDLIFE/VERMONT/  
GREEN MOUNTAIN NF VISIT**

**TRIP BRIEFING BOOK**

**FOR**

**CHIEF JACK WARD THOMAS**







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**The contents of this Briefing Book will be updated on an as-needed-basis to keep it current.**

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FEC8Eastern Region  
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WATCHABLE WILDLIFE CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 28-29, 1994  
BURLINGTON, VT

Security Contact: Anne Walsten, Special Agent, Green Mnt NF  
Communication Coordinators: Cindy Swanson, Wildlife Economist, Wildlife,  
Fish & Rare Plants, WO; Mary Jeanne Packer, PAO and Planner, Green Mnt NF

FRIDAY OCTOBER 28

6:50 am	Depart from National, Delta Flight 528
8:11 am	Arrive Boston, MA
9:00 am	Depart Boston, Delta Flight 4324
10:05 am	Arrive at Burlington Airport. Escorts: Bob Nelson, Director, Wildlife, Fish & Rare Plants, WO; Cindy Swanson
10:20 am	Arrive Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center, Burlington, VT. Confirmation 4928119; (800) 677.6576; Fax: (802) 865.6670
11:00 am	Briefing with Cindy Swanson and Mary Jeanne Packer
11:30 am	Photos with "Eyes on Wildlife" Award Recipients; (Host Cindy Swanson)
12:00 pm	No Host Lunch with "Eyes on Wildlife" Award Recipients & Guests: Bob Nelson; Cindy Swanson; Mary Jeanne Packer; Laura Mitchell, Acting National Nature Watch Coordinator, Cherokee NF, TN; Deborah Richie, R1 Nature Watch Coordinator, Missoula, MT; Charlie Vandemoer, Wildlife Biologist, Mt Baker-Snoqualmie NF, WA; Elizabeth Milliman, Wildlife Biologist, Hood Canal RD, Olympic NF, WA; Nigel Blakley, Pilchuk and Black Hills Audubon Societies, WA; Connie Chaney, District Ranger, Mio RD, Huron-Manistee NF, MI; Bob Hess, Michigan DNR; Naomi Edelson, Wildlife Diversity Coordinator, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
1:00 pm	Visit Watchable Wildlife Sessions to prepare for closing comments; (Host Cindy Swanson)
3:30 pm	Participate in Conference Closing Session
	3:35 pm: Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) live via satellite;
	3:55 pm: Dr. Allan Egbert, Executive Director, Florida Game & Fresh Water Fish Commission
	4:15 pm: Chief Thomas
	4:35 pm: Hank Fischer, Northern Rockies Representative, Defenders of Wildlife
	4:55 pm: Colorado Video

5:05 pm Media Session, Q&A; (Host Renee Vandlik, PAO, R9-RO)

5:45 pm Vermont Viewing Guide Reception; (Host Terry Hoffman, FS, Green Mtn NF)  
 5:45 pm: Bill Schneider, Publisher, Falcon Press  
 5:50 pm: Sara Vickerman, Director of State Conservation  
                   Programs, Defenders of Wildlife (intro of Fed Partners, Chief Thomas)  
 6:00 pm: Al Elser, Commissioner, VT Dept. Fish & Wildlife

6:20 pm Formal Program Ends

7:30 pm No Host Dinner at the Sheraton: Larry Payne; Terry Hoffman; Joe Michaels, S&PF; Rich Guldin, Research; Jane Difley, Executive Director, VT Natural Resources Council; Barbara Ripley, Secretary, VT Agency of Natural Resources; (alt Al Elser, Commissioner, VT Dept of Fish & Wildlife); Larry Forcier, Dean, University of VT School of Natural Resources; Roberta Borland, Executive Director, VT Forest Products Association (alt Bill Sayre, Chair VT Timber Policy Task Force); Dennis Shafer, Executive Director, Green Mountain Club (alt Kevin Peterson, Appalachian Trail Conference); Richard Carbonetti, Consulting Forester, member Northern Forest Lands Council (alt Brendan Whittaker, member NFLC); Brian Keefe, Aide of Senator Jeffords; Bob Paquin, Aide of Senator Leahy; Rick Cables, FS, White Mountain NF; Monty Fisher, Chair Governor's Committee on the Environment and New England Rep, National Wildlife Federation

9:00 pm End of Scheduled Events



**SATURDAY OCTOBER 29**

6:30 am No Host Breakfast Buffet at Sheraton.  
Discussion item, Legacy Program. Larry Payne;  
Terry Hoffman; Rick Cables; Dick Ackerman,  
Lands and Legacy, Green Mtn NF; Joe Michaels;  
VT Governor Howard Dean, MD; Conrad "Connie"  
Motyka, Commissioner, VT Dept of Forests, Parks  
and Recreation; Warren Archey, State Forester,  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts; Tom Dokes,  
Office of State Forester, Maine; Wendall Sapp,  
VP, Champion International

8:00 am Leave Sheraton for Burlington Airport.  
Escort: Terry Hoffman

8:30 am Fly via charter aircraft over Legacy Tracts,  
northern forest VT and NH lands, & Sugarbush  
Ski Area. Dick Ackerman; Joe Michaels;  
Governor Howard Dean; Conrad "Connie" Motyka;  
Warren Archey; Tom Dokes; Wendall Sapp

11:30 pm Return to Burlington Airport

11:45 pm Lunch near airpor; (Host Terry Hoffman)

1:15 pm Depart Burlington, Delta Flight 4327

2:20 pm Arrive Boston, MA

3:20 pm Depart Boston, MA, Delta Flight 1271

4:59 pm Arrive Washington National

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REC6 Eastern Region

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Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF)

Issue Briefs

October 1994

VERMONT

**Animal Rights Protests Anticipated at Watchable Wildlife Conference (WWC) --**  
CASH the Committee to Abolish Sport Hunting recently applied to be an exhibitor and purchase ad space in the program, but was refused due to its role which is counter to the purpose of the conference. As a result, CASH has threatened legal action. Anne Muller, president of CASH, and a representative for the Fund for Animals, plans to attend the conference. Conference organizers are developing a crisis plan to respond to any demonstrations.

In other developments, animal rights groups, Fund for Animals, Inc. and Green Mountain Animal Defenders, filed suit 10/14 to block Vermont's two-day moose hunt scheduled for 10/17 & 18. The Fund for Animals is a 200,000 member national group dedicated to banning all sports hunting. They plan protests at moose reporting stations. Named in the suit: Bruce Babbit, Mollie Beattie, and the Vermont Commissioner of Fish & Wildlife. Michael Markarian, Campaign Coordinator, claims that because US Fish & Wildlife Service allocated money to the State to "study" the moose herd (including the hunt), NEPA should have been done, and all of the effects of the hunt disclosed. Their plans, if any, to participate in the conference are unknown.

**Stakeholders:**

Al Elser -- Commissioner of Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife -- (and his "boss" Barbara Ripley -- Secretary, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources) -- is being sued; supports hunt to control moose population; estimates population to be between 1,700 - 1,800, and growing at 10 percent annually. The first year of the season was 1993, with 25 permits. Forty permits were issued this year.

Governor Howard Dean -- has confidence in the Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife, and supports its position.

Monty Fischer -- NE Representative of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) -- hasn't stated a position on moose hunting; avoids discussing, because of political pressures (some members are anti-hunting and others/political contacts are pro-hunting); NWF is one of the national partners in Watchable Wildlife.

Max Peterson/Naomi Edelson -- International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies -- wrote to Anne Muller, CASH, on 9/26, and stated that a CASH advertisement or exhibit at the conference would be inappropriate, given the conference purpose; IAFWA is one of the national Watchable Wildlife partners, and handles all finances associated with the 1994 conference.

**Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative** -- (The Chief was briefed on this topic by staff from the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) in preparation for his meeting with the Society of Environmental Journalists earlier this month. In addition to this briefing, those materials would be helpful.) The Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative is a mechanism for generating adequate and dependable sources of funds specifically earmarked for the conservation and enjoyment of watchable wildlife. It is the most far-reaching wildlife conservation initiative in more than half a century. The IAFWA says that the "Initiative is an ingenious way of investing in the future by giving Americans the opportunity to contribute to conserving the fish and wildlife they care so deeply about."

The proposal put forth by the IAFWA is to add a modest surcharge onto outdoor recreational equipment, similar to those surcharges hunters and anglers have long paid on their equipment and accessories under the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Acts. By modeling the initiative after programs already in place, IAFWA can insure that administrative costs would be low, and that all funds would be earmarked for state-based wildlife conservation, education, and recreation. Funds would emphasize wildlife conservation, but would also enhance hiking, canoeing and nature trails, wildlife viewing blinds and towers, and nature centers, and the availability of on-site naturalists, brochures, viewing guides and other educational materials.

**Stakeholders:**

Max Peterson/Naomi Edelson -- International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies -- is spearheading the Initiative, and represents public fish and wildlife agencies in all fifty states and elsewhere in North America.

Seven other national conservation organizations have joined as a steering committee for the Initiative: World Wildlife Fund, National Wildlife Federation, National Audubon Society, Wildlife Management Institute, American Fisheries Society, the Wildlife Society, and Defenders of Wildlife.

**Capitol Tree Project** -- The GMNF will supply the US Capitol Christmas Tree this holiday season. The 60' balsam fir, to be felled on NFS lands in Windham County, represents a partnership between the FS and VT Department of Agriculture, local chambers of commerce and national businesses. It will be delivered on an antique Mac Truck, and en route used to promote VT Christmas trees, products, and tourism opportunities throughout VT, MA, CT, PA and MD. A lighting ceremony is scheduled for 5 pm on December 14th. This is the third time that the GMNF has been selected to provide the Capitol Christmas Tree.

**Stakeholders:**

Senator Leahy -- (Aide Bob Paquin) -- member of the Capitol Tree partnership -- is raising funds to send VT school children, who are responsible for tree decorations, to DC for the lighting ceremony.

Governor Dean -- supports the project and views it as an excellent opportunity to promote VT and its products; will also receive the tree for the People of VT from the FS at a ceremony in Bennington on December 1st.



**Sugarbush Ski Area EIS and Pending Sale** -- The FS is preparing an EIS for a proposal to withdraw water from the Mad River and expand snowmaking at the Sugarbush Ski Resort. Due to the economic importance of the ski industry in VT and the precedent-setting nature of this study, there is high interest in the EIS. Recently, Leslie B. Otten, owner of Sunday River Ski Resort in ME and recent purchaser of the Attitash Ski Resort in NH (White Mtn NF), announced that he intends to purchase Sugarbush-- contingent upon completion of the EIS and decision to authorize snowmaking by May 1995 which is necessary to expand snowmaking abilities for the 1995-1996 season. Otten also wants assurance that a 40-year permit will be issued concurrent with closing.

The pending purchase has elevated pressure to accelerate the EIS schedule. The FS and cooperating federal agencies (Corps, EPA, FWS) agree that an optimistic schedule will produce a decision in late summer 1995, too late for construction next season. Time is needed for agency and public review of documents, comment periods, and agreement on basic assumptions and procedures for the analysis (such as range of alternatives and validation of volume of water needed). The FS response to Otten has been that Sugarbush is a FS high priority. The FS is working diligently on the EIS and special use permit, but cannot assure him that it will meet his desired schedule.

**Stakeholders:**

Governor Howard Dean -- pro skiing; supports expanded snowmaking; believes all major issues were resolved through an earlier state permitting process; wants the FS to meet Otten's schedule.

Senators Leahy and Jeffords (Aides Bob Paquin and Brian Keefe) -- support the Snowmaking project; are informed of the schedule concern, but have not put pressure on to accelerate the schedule to date.

Barbara Ripley -- Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) -- issued state permits after reaching a mediated settlement of water withdrawal issues with Vermont Natural Resources Commission, Sierra Club, TU and Vt Federation of Sportsman's Clubs. An ANR hydrologist recently requested more active participation in completion of the EIS study.

Jane Difley -- Vermont Natural Resource Commission -- views Sugarbush as precedent-setting for other water withdrawal proposal in VT; wants active participation in the study of water needs and storage/source alternatives.

Lew Milford -- Conservation Law Foundation -- signed an agreement with Sugarbush to request that the FS prepare an EIS for this project; views this EIS as precedent-setting for future snowmaking proposals.

**Lamb Brook Lawsuit** -- Projects in the the Lamb Brook area include two timber sales totalling about 3 million board feet, other non-commercial timber activities designed to benefit wildlife, construction of 1.3 miles of low-standard road, reconstruction of another 1.7 miles of road, and relocation of several miles of snowmobile trails including some new construction. After extensive scientific/technical review and public involvement, FS employees released a state-of-the-art Environmental Assessment in January 1993. Comments following that release were included in the Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact, issued in February 1993 by the Manchester District Ranger.



Appeals were filed, but the decision was upheld at both first- and second-level appeals by the Forest Supervisor and the Regional Forester.

In August 1994, a lawsuit was filed by eight environmental groups and five individuals, including two appellants whose requests were denied [James M. Northup, former Green Mountain National Forest Planning Officer, and Preserve Appalachian Wilderness (PAW)/ Mathew Jacobson]. Other litigants include the Conservation Law Foundation Inc., National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, Green Mountain Forest Watch (a frequent appellant of other projects on the Forest), and RESTORE: The North Woods (a frequent appellant on the White Mountain National Forest). Issues include classification of the 5,500-acre project area as a Roadless Area, impacts to neotropical migratory songbirds, and effects of road construction and use on black bear habitat.

The Forest and the litigants likely will enter negotiations for settlement of this case. The FS offered a set a ground rules to the plaintiffs for the negotiation. These are being reviewed and debated currently. It is not public information that there may be negotiations. This should not be released by the chief.

A wind power electric generating facility proposed by Green Mountain Power as a special use for a parcel of the land involved in the suit will be postponed until negotiations with the litigants are completed.

**Stakeholders:**

Vermont Governor Dean (D), Senator Leahy (D-VT), and Senator Jeffords (R-VT) -- have made public statements encouraging the resolution outside court. However, there are considerable differences among the politicians as to how the negotiations should proceed and what a desired outcome would be.

Roberta Borland -- Executive Director of the Vermont Forest Product Association -- Bill Sayre, Rich Carbonetti, and others timber interests -- are concerned that we would consider negotiations, support going to court immediately, fighting and winning.

Connie Motyka -- Commissioner, VT Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation -- is with the industry on this and would like to see the wood available now. There is also concern that this will jeopardize the land acquisition program and legacy efforts.

Barbara Ripley -- Executive Director, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, and Al Elser -- Commissioner, VT Department of Fish and Wildlife -- are concerned about the impacts of the proposed road building on bear habitat.

Other Congressionals -- D.Boren (D-OK) -- has introduced legislation to protect special areas from logging. The legislation lists Lamb Brook as one of only two areas in VT that would qualify. This is at the urging of the plaintiffs -- primarily Mathew Jacobson of Green Mountain Forest Watch and Preserve Appalachian Wilderness (PAW). Local media attention about the proposed legislation is in favor of its passage.

**General Strategy** for Forest Public relations work - Showcase the GMNF as a home to competent, highly trained, and reasonable professionals who have been empowered by the Regional Office to make decisions about this National Forest. Portray GMNF employees as friends and neighbors (not faceless bureaucrats) who are just trying to do their job: in this case, implement this project -- as part of the overall Forest Plan -- that is opposed by a vocal minority. Be cautious about selling the final Lamb Brook decision, as negotiations could change that. Emphasize the importance of the process we use to make decisions and Conservation Leadership: listening and valuing all opinions and always open to better ideas or new information. Keep all key audiences, including the media, as informed about the process as possible.

**Green Mountain Power (GMP) Wind-Power EIS** -- GMP applied for a special use permit two years ago to construct and operate approximately 75 wind turbines on the GMNF-- to be the first commercial application of wind power in VT and on NFS lands, nation-wide. In order to evaluate effects, the FS planned to conduct an EIS, and was prepared to hire a consultant. A portion of the proposed area for installation of the wind turbines, however, is within the Lamb Brook area. Due to a recent lawsuit in response to a planned timber harvest in the Lamb Brook area, and based upon the advice of OGC, the FS has deferred the Wind Power EIS for at least 90 days. During this time, the FS and Lamb Brook plaintiffs will enter into discussions to seek resolution of the issues raised in the Lamb Brook lawsuit.

**Stakeholders:**

GMP -- wants to begin the EIS now; received a \$3 million grant last summer through the Department of Energy and the Electric Power Research Institute; is concerned it will lose this money if the project is delayed.

Senator Leahy -- (aide Bob Paquin) -- supportive of wind-power project, although has not stated so publicly.

Lew Milford -- Conservation Law Foundation -- is a plaintiff in the Lamb Brook lawsuit, yet very supportive of windpower.

**Long Trail NST Designation** -- In September, the Board of Directors of the Green Mountain Club (GMC) approved a recommendation by the Club's Land Protection Committee to seek an amendment to the National Trail System Act, and designate the Long Trail System a National Scenic Trail. Under the amendment, the Secretary of Interior, through NPS would be given overall responsibility for administration of the system. Administration of the trail would be transferred to the Forest Service; trail and corridor management would be delegated to the Green Mountain Club.

Lands purchased under the program would be with state and federal funding, and jointly owned by the state and federal governments. Partial funding for administration of the land acquisition and management programs would come through a National Park Service-Green Mountain Club cooperative agreement. The Green Mountain Club would lead the acquisition program working closely with state and federal acquisition staffs.

**Stakeholders:**



Governor Howard Dean -- believes the Long Trail is a national treasure worthy of protection; supports further public land acquisition; is concerned how long the State of Vermont can continue to financially support Long Trail Acquisition.

Senator Leahy -- (aide Bob Paquin) -- supports protection of the Long Trail and legislation to that effect along with Senator Jim Jeffords and Representative Bernard Sanders.

Dennis Shaffer -- Executive Director of the Green Mountain Club -- is proposing the legislation; believes the trail is a national treasure which the population as a whole should support; believes trail and corridor management responsibilities should be handled by the GMC; is very comfortable working with the FS as a management partner.

**Moosalamoo Ecotourism Partnership** -- State and federal natural resource and land managers, as well as private corporations, conservation groups and ski touring center operators make the conservation of natural areas a priority in the Moosalamoo area. Explicitly linking the concepts of conservation and tourism together, however, is a new approach for providing visitor information and marketing of the area. The recent founding of the Moosalamoo Ecotourism Partnership offers the opportunity for specialists in tourism and conservation to learn from each other, and to develop an initiative for the conservation of Moosalamoo's natural resources. The partnership's purpose is to provide a framework for cooperative activities: to develop a logo and interpretive messages; to develop a comprehensive map using Geographic Information System technology; to print and distribute a map and brochure; and to design and install consistent interpretive and information signage throughout the area.

The Moosalamoo Ecotourism Partnership brings together many different groups, agencies, and businesses including: the GMNF; Branbury State Park; Green Mountain National Forest; Blueberry Hill Inn & Ski Touring Center; Keewaydin Foundation - Environmental education; Green Mountain Club - Hiking; Vermont Association of Snow Travelers - Snowmobiling; Catamount Trail Association - Cross-country skiing; Churchill House Inn; Middlebury College Snow Bowl - Downhill skiing; University of Vermont, School of Natural Resources; Vermont Natural Resources Council; Otter Creek Audubon Society; Brandon Chamber of Commerce; Central Vermont Public Service Corporation

#### **Forest Legacy Program**

Forest Legacy is a federal acquisition program whereby the US purchases tracts of land or conservation easements, in areas identified by states, to protect environmentally important forested areas from conversion to non-forest uses. To date, four cases have been closed-- two in VT, one in MN, one in NH. All parties involved would like more acquisitions, and the obligation of the approximately \$26 million available for purchasing land. Reasons for delay in implementation of the program include: usual start-up concerns related to new programs; staffing levels; differing views on acquisition priorities and goals as well as interpretations of the law (as between States and FS, landowners and FS, NFS and S&PF, OGC and FS); and the negotiation discussions which develop conservation easement stipulations, tailoring each transaction to meet the landowner's wishes. The FS is addressing these issues with ongoing discussions and increased staffing.

**Stakeholders:**

National Association of State Foresters -- has "lobbied" Senator Leahy's staff on the issue, and perhaps contacted the Chief's office as well. The Senator's staff will be supportive, but, will want to have answers to progress.

Governor Dean (and other Saturday 10/29 breakfast participants) -- very supportive, but interested in speeding acquisitions up.

**Green Mountain NF Land Acquisition Program**

Senator Leahy strongly supports GMNF land acquisition, and annually finances \$2 to \$3 million for it. He is, however, concerned that the current annual appropriation for land acquisition is not adequate or sufficient to acquire all the lands which are presently available and which are needed for addition to the Green Mountain National Forest. Years ago the GMNF initiated a procedure where it would seek consent from the Town Selectboard, before it acquired land within that Town. This procedure reflected certain provisions of Vermont statutes, however, OGC took the position that those statutory provisions were not binding upon the US and that such Town consent was not legally necessary for FS acquisitions. Recently, two Towns unsuccessfully brought suit against the US, challenging a FS acquisition for which Town consent had not been obtained. With the issuance of this favorable court decision, it is believed that this is an opportune time to change GMNF acquisition procedures to conform to OGC advice, and the position advocated by the US in court, that Town consent is not necessary. The GMNF still desires some form of interactions with Towns and is currently preparing to contact all Towns within the GMNF to discuss future acquisition procedures. In the interim, rangers have a total of 30 to 40 new offers for sale of land which are in abeyance until town contacts are completed.

**Stakeholders**

Senator Leahy -- (aide Bob Paquin) -- very interested in the program, and in increasing the pace.

Governor Dean -- very interested in the program, and increasing the pace of acquisition; an ardent supporter of public acquisition.

**Final Report of the Northern Lands Council**

The Northern Forest Lands Council recently made recommendations to reinforce traditional patterns of land ownership and use in New England. Their recommendations include: fostering stewardship of private land; protecting exceptional resources; strengthening economies of rural communities; and promoting more informed decisions. Some groups are fearful that these recommendations will directly affect property rights and lead to wholesale federal acquisition, while most others are favorably impressed.

**Stakeholders**

Senator Leahy -- (aide Bob Paquin) -- interested in the projected direction.

Governor Dean -- interested in the projected direction.

**Purchase of the Manchester Ranger District Office**



The GMNF received an allocation of \$800 thousand in FY 95 to acquire land for the construction of a new office. A second allocation of \$800 thousand in FY 96 is anticipated. General community support exists for this project. Forest lands personnel are beginning the acquisition process.

#### **Stakeholders**

Senator Leahy -- (aide Bob Paquin) -- was instrumental in getting the funding for this work; is likely interested in how we will implement the project.

Governor Dean -- may have a peripheral interest.

#### **Vermont Youth Forest Camp (AmeriCorps)**

As a part of the National Service Initiative, the GMNF and the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps (VYCC) have entered a partnership to provide a Vermont AmeriCorps project. The project was originally proposed in April of 1994 and was approved for implementation in FY 95. The scheduled starting date for corpsmembers is January 1, 1995.

The project will provide for a twenty-person residential camp, located as closely as possible to project sites on the GMNF. VYCC will administer the camp, complete all recruitment and supervise the crews. The GMNF will provide coordination and develop projects to be completed. Funding comes primarily from the Forest Service, with smaller amounts from non-federal matching funds, and other partners. The GMNF and VYCC have full-time coordinators working to meet the project start-up date. Current emphasis is directed toward the confirmation of camp location, recruitment of corpsmembers and crew supervisors, and identification and scheduling of projects.

#### **Stakeholders:**

Senator Leahy -- (aide Bob Paquin) -- very interested in this Vermont AmeriCorps project and extremely influential in the process used to select the NFS AmeriCorps sites.

Tom Hark -- Director of the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps -- is a primary developer of project proposal; has expended much time and energy in supporting project; is committed to making it a success. A valuable partner in many other areas, including trail work, campground administration and other duties as a part of the regular GMNF program.

Dennis Shaffer -- Executive Director of the Green Mountain Club (GMC) -- is supportive of the project but has expressed concern that a large project of this kind could affect traditional relationships and work programs for the GMC and other groups. The GMNF hopes to manage his concerns by involving the GMC in training and project coordination.

**Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) Study** -- Congressional line item funding for three years (FY 93-95) was given to the GMNF to initiate a study of ASQ, and to develop an ecological database using GIS. The Spatial Analysis Lab at the University of Vermont is conducting the study, under a cooperative agreement through the National Biological Survey, USDI.

During the first two years of study, existing layers or coverages of forest resource data were digitized, including ecological land type maps and heritage

resources site maps for the entire GMNF. Compartment and stand vegetation maps for the entire north half of the GMNF were also digitized. Map coverages for other layers were obtained from other sources: coverage for roads and trails purchased from the Vermont Center for Geographic Information; coverage for rivers and streams acquired from the state-wide database; topographic features obtained from the digital elevation model; where available, maps of soil units obtained from original source agencies.

Districts have made many requests for map products using portions of the developing GIS database. During the latter part of FY 94, a trail analysis was done using the combined coverages of the two northern Districts to display lands currently available for timber harvest under existing Forest Plan criteria. Based upon current projections, the database will be completed by June 1995.

**Stakeholders:**

Larry Forcier -- Dean of the School of Natural Resources -- Professor David Capen is project team leader; appreciates partnership in terms of both funding and learning experience for staff and students.

Senator Leahy -- Aide Bob Paquin -- supports GIS as a tool in offering answers to public demands placed on NFS lands.

Roberta Borland -- Executive Director of the Vermont Forest Product Association -- has "lobbied" an annual sell at the ASQ level; believes that the standards and guidelines are too restrictive.

**Clearcutting private lands in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont** -- Clearcutting on both large corporate and private individual lands in northeast VT is accelerating and becoming a major issue within the state. The catalyst has been large, visually disastrous clearcuts along US Highway 2 over the past several years. Concern has intensified as a result of the Vermont Natural Resources Council's (VNRC) examination of lands across northeastern VT, known as the Northeast Kingdom. Their survey shows up to one-half of some towns have been clearcut in the last 14 years, raising the question of VT's economic sustainability. VNRC is now the primary advocate of enacting a State Practices Act-- an act which will be hotly debated.

**Stakeholders:**

Vermont Natural Resources Council -- Brendon Whittaker -- is a close personal friend of Regional Forester Marita, and is an advocate of passing a State Practices Act.

Roberta Borland -- Executive Director of the Vermont Forest Product Association -- is against government controls.

Conrad "Connie" Motyka -- Commissioner of VT Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation -- is caught in the middle.

**Reinventing the Forest Service** -- Approximately 40-people participated in a reinvention townhall meeting last May sponsored by the Green Mountain NF in Burlington, VT. Attempts to demonstrate by Earth First! were thwarted by a large contingent of south Burlington Police. Current interest in FS



reinvention revolves around the fate of Northeastern Area of State and Private.

**Stakeholders:**

Conrad "Connie" Motyka -- Commissioner of VT Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation -- wants Northeastern Area to remain independent from the Forest Service.

**Eastern Cougar (Catamount) Sightings** -- In April, three cougars were reportedly seen in the NE Kingdom of VT. In September, State Fish and Wildlife Biologists reported that evidence of cougars in Vt had been substantiated. However, the origin of these animals is yet undetermined. Neither the state nor the US Fish and Wildlife Service believe that these are natural occurring, but rather have wandered into the state from some other area, or were released by somebody. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is of the opinion that "the eastern cougar is gone [from the northeast]".

Eastern cougars have been extirpated from VT since 1881. They are federally listed as an endangered species. There is no public agreement regarding the appropriateness of residential cougars in Vermont. In fact, there is some concern by the general public that if these animals are present in the state, livestock and perhaps people could be injured. On the other hand, environmental groups like Preserve Appalachian Wilderness think the return is great news and "are proceeding with efforts to protect it and its habitat." They state that Green Mountain NF is "one crucial area that [they] must secure if the Catamount is going to make it to the next generation." By secure, PAW means no forest management should be allowed and human presence should be limited to off trail, non-motorized use.

**Stakeholders:**

VT Agency of Natural Resources -- Dept. of Fish and Wildlife -- under pressure to "do something" but still trying to decide what.

Media -- this is the kind of wildlife excitement they are always looking for. Will be interested to hear what the Chief has planned to protect the Forest habitat for Catamounts. Recommended response is to say that any comment at this time would be speculative or premature until further direction from US Fish and Wildlife Service, who are the lead in Endangered Species activities, is provided.

**Rural Development: White River Collaborative Planning Group** -- The White River is an important part of efforts to reintroduce Atlantic Salmon to the Connecticut River system. Habitat restoration efforts have begun on federal land along the White River, but this represents a small portion of total ownership along it. The FS would like to use this watershed as a demonstration area for ecosystem management across a variety of ownerships. In September, the FS sponsored a team to attend the Collaborative Planning Workshop in Ogden, Utah-- comprised of NFS and Research, Resource Conservation & Development (SCS), Windsor County Forester (State of VT), and Vermont Technical College (private). This team will now lead the charge to develop a management plan for the White River watershed that can be implemented by all the various landowners.

NEW YORK



**Finger Lakes NF Personnel Actions** -- Based upon on a whistle-blower complaint filed by a seasonal-employee, the five permanent employees of the Finger Lakes NF were investigated for violations of ethics and conduct. Investigations did reveal violations which have resulted in the resignation of four employees and the transfer of the other to another unit. Three of the employees had over 20 years of experience on this District and are well known in the local community. Some cooperators and local publics are upset with the resignation of these respected employees and with the fact that the unit is being managed by detailers, pending the restaffing of the unit. Public relations efforts have been hampered by the FS desire to protect the privacy of the individuals involved.

#### NEW ENGLAND

**Atlantic Salmon Restoration on the GMNF and establishment of a new Fisheries Research Station in New England** -- A primary focus of the fisheries program on the GMNF is Atlantic salmon restoration in streams within the Connecticut River Basin. GMNF is a cooperating partner with many other Federal and State Agencies and private organizations in restoring this regionally important species. Currently, the GMNF is contributing to meeting restoration goals by conducting salmon habitat inventories and assessment in forest streams, reintroducing juvenile salmon fry into historic nursery and rearing habitat, providing information and education to the public regarding the restoration efforts in the GMNF, and acquiring land along key streams for protection and improvement of salmon habitat. In addition, the GMNF has provided significant information to the Restoration Program on the success of salmon reintroduction through its monitoring program. This information has included information on survival of stocked salmon fry and assessments of parr and smolt production, factors critical to the success of the restoration program.

The GMNF is demonstrating its conservation leadership role in New England by pioneering habitat restoration work in numerous watersheds. These projects have generated significant interest throughout the region as more emphasis is placed on the health of our aquatic ecosystems to produce "wild" salmon rather than hatchery reared smolts. Last December, an environmental group, based in New England, filed a petition to list Atlantic salmon as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. A ruling by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service is pending.

The ecosystem restoration and enhancement program for salmon and trout begun by the New England National Forests (GMNF and WMNF) have lacked research support until 1994 when the Deputy Chief's Office for ecosystem management research provided \$350,000 to initiate the creation of a new research work unit in New England. Its mission is to build the scientific basis for managing aquatic habitat, riparian areas and adjacent forest lands to restore native salmon and trout habitats. This ecologically based approach to salmon restoration will be an exciting new addition to the restoration program and will compliment the extensive work in salmon culture done in the past. In FY 94, the NE Forest Experiment Station awarded grants to cooperating research institutions to begin this research. Currently, the location of the unit has not been determined however many sites were considered in NH, VT, and MA, including jointly housing the new unit with other agencies such as USFWS, NBS, and the Corps of Engineers Cold Regions Research (CRREL) group and local universities. Front-runner

locations are the University of Vermont and a co-location at Dartmouth College and CRREL in Hanover, NH. The Vermont location has strong political interest while the NH location offers the best logical location. A decision is pending. In FY 96, the scientific staff at the work unit is expected to consist of 3 scientists and several support staff.

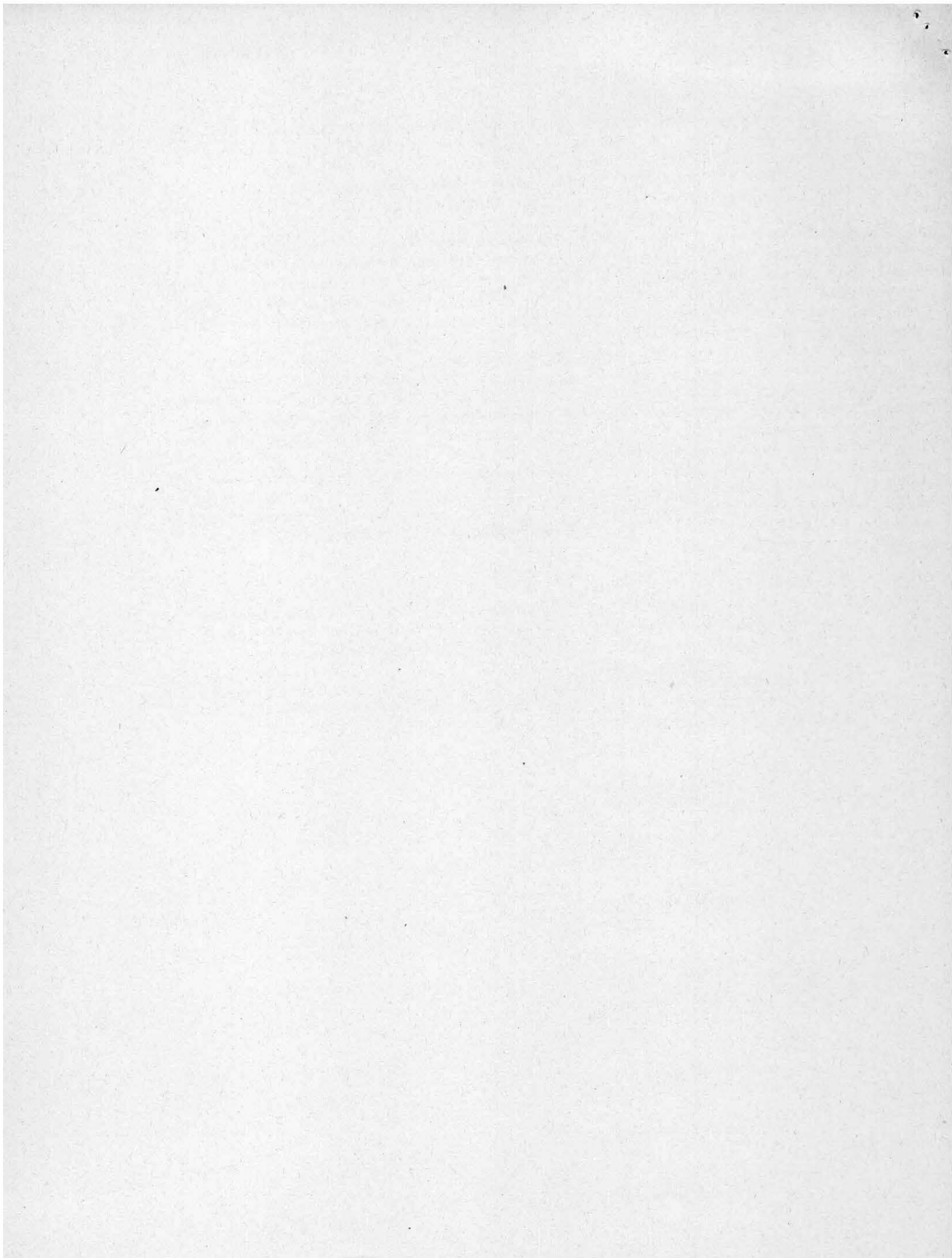
**White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) Timber Volume Issue--** The initial FY 95 budget advice for the WMNF projected a reduced timber harvest level from a traditional 29mmmbf annually to 9.6 in FY 95. This is a 67% reduction from the Forest's previous year harvest level. The entire Eastern Region experienced a reduction, with the allocation distributed to forests based on their own budget submissions. The reduction significantly affected the WMNF program and generated considerable public outcry. Timber harvest is an integral part of the Forest Plan; a reduction in harvest affects other multiple use resources. Extensive cooperation and consensus with numerous groups and agencies built the Plan. These groups expect multiple use implementation and see a reduction in timber harvest as a threat to multiple use management. Additionally, the groups view the FS as having violated its contract with the people by not producing timber at the Plan level. The WMNF has stated that the Forest could offer 15-17mmmbf if funded, but does not have the staffing to offer 29-30mmmbf due to buyout reductions. As of today, there is local, unconfirmed information that the New Hampshire Delegation has introduced a bill which would restore the harvest levels to 29-30mmmbf.

**Stakeholder:**

New Hampshire Congressional Delegation, Governor's Office, Industry and Multiple Use representatives -- want the volume of timber to be offered to be returned to 29-30mmmbf as has been traditional.

Local communities and industries -- extremely concerned that timber harvest reductions will have severe negative impacts on the economy of northern New Hampshire and Maine.

###





**SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY  
ASSOCIATION/SEFES & NF'S**

**TRIP BRIEFING BOOK**

**FOR**

**CHIEF JACK WARD THOMAS**



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10/26/94

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- 5. Backgrounders**
- 6. Current Issues**
- 7. Cooperator/Partner Recognition and FS Participants (11/3 Greenville, SC)**
- 8. Recent News Clips**

**The contents of this Briefing Book will be updated on an as-needed-basis to keep it current.**

**ITINERARY FOR USDA FOREST SERVICE CHIEF  
JACK WARD THOMAS'  
VISIT TO THE CAROLINAS**

**WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, NOV. 2-4, 1994**

**\*We have enclosed the final itinerary for the Chief's visit to South Carolina. It includes the Chief's itinerary and briefings for agenda items. Please let us know if you need additional information.**

**DRAFT ITINERARY FOR  
CHIEF JACK WARD THOMAS'  
VISIT TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA**

Francis Marion and Sumter  
National Forests  
NF's in North Carolina  
Security Needs

Contact: Angela Coleman (803) 561-4091  
Contact: Terry Seyden, (704) 257-4202  
Spec. Agent Andy Sadler, (803) 561-4090

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1994**

**2:30 P.M.**

**WHEELS DOWN:** (Washington D.C. - Greenville, S.C.)  
Francis Marion and Sumter Forest Supervisor David Wilson and/or Public Affairs Officer Angela Coleman will pick up Chief Thomas at Greenville Spartanburg Airport. U.S. Air Flight 577.

**Flight Schedule:**

Lv: National-12 Noon-USAir 925  
Ar: Charlotte-1:14 p.m.  
Lv: Charlotte-1:50 p.m.-SAir 577  
Ar: Greenville, SC-2:26 p.m.

**3:00 p.m.**

**Check-In Embassy Suites:** Phone (803) 676-9090  
**LODGING:** Embassy Suites; Confirmation: 82864569  
Sandy Jennings, SCFA, handled reservation

**3:30 p.m.**

\*Editorial Session with the Alan Bowie, Greenville News; Kathleen Stoehl, Anderson Independent; Gary Henderson, Spartanburg Herald and Mike Livingston, the State of Columbia, and Allen Adams, Seneca News Journal. The meeting will take place in Greenville at Embassy Suites. (See Attachments for samples of news stories from interviewing reporters)

**5:30 p.m.**

South Carolina Forestry Association SCFA Reception, Embassy Suites Atrium (See Briefing on South Carolina Forestry Association)

**7:15 p.m.**

Depart hotel en route to John Paul Armadillos restaurant. Forest Supervisor David Wilson or Angela Coleman will transport Chief to restaurant.

**7:30 p.m.**

Informal dinner at John Paul Amadillos, downtown Greenville, with Sumter National Forest Frontliners, Managers, Southeastern Forest Experiment Station and Partners of the National Forests in South Carolina. Phone: (803) 288-8607

(See attachment for dinner participants. Price Range \$10-15 average)



9:30 p.m.

Dave Wilson will transport Chief to Embassy Suites for the night.

\*Editorial Session can be adjusted to accommodate airplane arrival and hotel check in.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1994**

6:30 a.m. - 7 a.m.

Buffet Breakfast with South Carolina Forestry Association and Forest Service Representatives, Atrium Embassy Suites.

9:00 - 9:20 a.m.

Chief's Speech (Questions and Answers Session. See briefing attachment on key South Carolina issues on the Francis Marion and Sumter).

1:30 p.m.

South Carolina Forestry Association Meeting and Luncheon, Embassy Ballroom, Embassy Suites.

2:00 p.m.

**Forest Leadership Team Meeting, Greenville S.C. Embassy Suites. Palmetto Room; (See Attached for attendees and agenda)**

Managers, key specialists and frontliners of the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests will meet in Greenville, along with partners and cooperators and other natural resource management leaders, to discuss primary objectives in natural resource management for the upcoming year. The forest will also present special awards to individual and group achievement in forest cooperative initiatives. (See attachment for list of cooperators in attendance.)

4:00 p.m.

Depart Greenville for Asheville North Carolina  
Dave Wilson will escort Chief to Asheville

6:30 p.m.

**Asheville Reception:** Blue Spiral One Gallery (Biltmore Avenue, 704/251-0202) - Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy reception to celebrate the dedication of the 377-acre Stan Murray Memorial Tract adjacent to the Appalachian Trail on Hump Mountain, Pisgah NF and to commemorate the Conservancy's 20-year partnership with the FS. (See Attachment for background on the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy)

8:30 p.m.

National Forests in North Carolina Supervisor Randy Phillips will transport Chief to Hotel for Check-in

Hotel Check-In at Radisson Hotel, downtown Asheville (704) 352-8211. Reservations are confirmed No: 57292

9:00 p.m. (Cafe on the Square, 1 Biltmore Ave., 704/251-5565) with Randy Phillips, John Ramey, Lynn Cox, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, Exec. Dir. and Jim Martin, Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy

10:30 p.m. Forest Supervisor Randy Phillips will transport Chief to dinner back to the Hotel.

#### **FRIDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 4**

7:00-8:00 a.m. Breakfast (Radisson) with Randy Phillips, Morgan Sommerville and Sara Davis of the Appalachian Trail Conference

8:00-8:20 a.m. Chief checks out of motel

8:20-8:30 a.m. Forest Supervisor Randy Phillips will escort Chief to the Southeastern Forest Station.

8:30-9:30 a.m. Joint Family Meeting, Conference Room (Supervisor's Office and Research Station will provide refreshments

9:30-10:30 a.m. Phillips will escort Chief to Cradle of Forestry via Blue Ridge Parkway

10:30-11:30 a.m. Cradle of Forestry - review current expansion District Ranger: Art Rowe; Cradle Director: Michael Gryson)

11:30-12:30 p.m. Potluck lunch at Cradle (grilled chicken w/side dishes provided by Pisgah District employees and other Forest employees

12:30-12:45 p.m. Supervisor Phillips will escort Chief to Schenck Job Corps Center

12:45-1:30 p.m. Tour Schenck Job Corps Center (Center Director: John Henry Young)

1:30-2:10 p.m. Supervisor Phillips will escort Chief to Asheville airport

#### **WHEELS UP: Asheville Flight Schedule**

Lv: Asheville-2:55 p.m.-USAir 938

Ar: Charlotte-3:30 p.m.

Lv: Charlotte-4:40 p.m.-USAir 879

Ar: National-5:51 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

**WHEELS DOWN:**  
Arrive National Airport, D.C. (stop in Charlotte)

# CONVENTION AT A GLANCE



Embassy Suites, Greenville, SC

## Wednesday, November 2, 1994

10:00 a.m.	Registration	Hotel Prefunction Area
10:30 a.m.	Golf Tournament	Verdae Greens Golf Course
11:00 a.m.	SC Tree Farm Silent Auction	Hotel Prefunction Area
1:30 p.m.	Tennis Matches	Greenville Racquet Club
1:30 p.m.	Sporting Clays	Red Fox Games/Spartanburg, SC
5:30 p.m.	Welcome Reception	Atrium
7:00 p.m.	Dinner on your own	Bus departs hotel entrance Shuttle bus will run to 3 designated restaurants

## Thursday, November 3, 1994

6:30 a.m.	Buffet Breakfast	Atrium
(Buffet lines open from 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.)		
7:00 a.m.	Registration	Hotel Prefunction Area
7:30 a.m.	SCFA Board Breakfast	Cafe Verdae
9:00 a.m.	Opening General Session	Embassy Ballroom
	Welcome and Opening Remarks:	
	Bruce Sahlman, SCFA Chairman	
	Antitrust Statement:	
	Michael "Toddy" Smith, Gottlieb & Smith, P. A.	
	Speaker Introduction:	
	David Wilson, SC Forest Supervisor, US Forest Service	
	Keynote Address:	
	Jack Ward Thomas, Chief, US Forest Service	
	Question/Answer Session	
10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:30 a.m.	First General Session	Embassy Ballroom
	AF&PA's "Sustainable Forestry Principles & Implementation Guidelines"	

Speaker:

Richard L. Porterfield, Champion International

11:00 a.m. Question/Answer Session

12:00 noon Annual Business Luncheon

Embassy Ballroom

2:00 p.m. Breakout Sessions

(Attendees may select any two of the four breakout sessions)

- **Communications** Charleston  
Moderator: Thomas D "Tom" Jewell, Westva
- **Government Affairs** Columbia  
Moderator: Wm. Edward Twilley, Jr., Westva
- **Environmental** Florence  
Moderator: Edward R. Drayton, Sonoco
- **Timber Harvesting  
And Transportation** Spartanburg  
Moderator:  
Curtis D. "Pat" Smith, International Paper Co.

3:00 p.m. Break

3:20 p.m. Repeat of Breakout Sessions

5:30 p.m. Chairman's Reception

Atrium

7:00 p.m. Fifties Dinner and Dance

Embassy Ballroom

Entertainment by:

The Penny Loafers and The Rhondels

## Friday, November 4, 1994

6:30 a.m.	Buffet Breakfast	Atrium
(Buffet lines open from 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.)		
8:45 a.m.	Awards & Recognition Ceremony	Embassy Ballroom
	Inspirational music by: The Penny Loafers	
	Presentation of Awards	
	Announcement of New Officers and Directors	
	Speaker: Gary L. Bauer, Family Research Council	
10:15 a.m.	Gavel exchange and adjourn	

## Thursday, Nov. 3, 1994 SPOUSE PROGRAM

10:30 a.m.	Spouse Program	Palmetto Room
	Speaker:	
	Deborah Baker, Southern Timber Purchasers Council	
11:15 a.m.	Nippon Center Yagoto Tour and Lunch	
	Shuttle bus departs hotel entrance	
1:30 p.m.	Afternoon open for individual shopping	
	Shuttle bus will run to 3 designated shopping areas	
	Shuttle bus departs hotel entrance	



FRANCIS MARION AND SUMTER NATIONAL FOREST  
LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

Thursday-Friday, November 3-4,  
Embassy Suites Hotel  
Greenville, S.C.

Thursday, November 3

PARTNERSHIP APPRECIATION CEREMONY

1:45-2:15 p.m.	Reception	
2:15 p.m.	Welcome and Introductions	Dave Wilson Forest Supervisor Francis Marion and Sumter National Forest
2:30 p.m.	Presentation of USDA Chief Jack Ward Thomas	Dave Wilson
	Increasing Partnership Role in National Forest Decisionmaking	Chief Thomas
	Special Presentation	National Wild Turkey Federation
3:15 p.m.	Partnership Appreciation Awards	Dave Wilson Staff Officers/Rangers
3:45 p.m.	The Re-signing of the Memorandum of Understanding USDA Forest Service and South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources	Brock Conrad Dave Wilson
4 p.m.	Break	
4:15 p.m.	Round Robin Staff Officers/ Rangers	Moderator Skip Starkey
5 p.m.	Adjourn	
6:30 p.m.	Dinner On Your Own	

Friday, November 4

8:00 a.m.	1994 Budget Session Forest/District Needs Assessment	Phyllis Burnette Rangers Presentations
9:30 a.m.	Health and Safety The Human Resource"	Bill Hayes
10:30 a.m.	Restructuring Update Priorities for Filling Key Forest Positions	Lucy Nix
11:00	Priorities of FY 1994 State of the State	Dave Wilson
12:00	Adjourn	

## **BRIEFINGS AND BACKGROUNDS**

**South Carolina Forestry Association  
Issues of the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests  
The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy  
Issues of the National Forests in North Carolina**



## PROFILE ON THE SOUTH CAROLINA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

**MISSION:** Organized in 1968 and based in Columbia, the South Carolina Forestry Association is a private group that fosters conservation and the wise use of the South Carolina's forest resources. They provide a unified voice for South Carolina Forestry and have been quite influential in the state's political arena.

**MEMBERSHIP:** The Association's membership is comprised primarily of lumber, paper and pulp mills, wood processors and forestry equipment dealers. Significant membership also includes professional foresters, landowners, conservationists, educators and sportsmen.

**WHO'S WHO IN THE ORGANIZATION:** Bob Scott serves as President; Joe Young is past Chairman; Bruce Salmon is current Chairman. Other key leaders include Ed Muckenfuss, Marion Burnside, Edward Drayton, Corkey Lee, and Don Brown.

Key companies and interests: Westvaco, Weyerhaeuser, Georgia Pacific, Association of Consulting Forestry, Milliken Forestry, Union Pacific, The Timber Purchaser Council.

**BRIEF HISTORY:** The 26-year-old organization was founded December 13, 1968 in Columbia with more than 60 founding members. Bringing together all forestry interests, the organization actively confronts forestry issues throughout the state. They successfully helped to restructure the tax system for private landowners and drafted voluntary forest practice guidelines to preclude stiff federal regulation. In 1980, the Association formed the South Carolina Forestry Foundation to advance Forestry Education and Research. The Association also urged the Environmental Protection Agency to retain prescribed burning practices. In 1993, they played a key role in the reorganization of state government. Their efforts resulted in maintaining the State Forestry Commission as an independent agency. A long-time partner of the Forest Service, the Association has presented recommendations for forest management during land management planning revisions. They have also voiced their positions on issues ranging from private property rights to clearcutting and timber harvest.

### KEY CONCERNS/ISSUES

**FRANCIS MARION AND SUMTER PLANS** - Working with Deborah Baker and the Timber Purchasers Council, the Association has played a key role in the revision of the Francis Marion plan, which was released last August. It is among one of the first plans to codify ecosystem management. The Association has voiced concerns over the potential use of the draft as a model for institutionalizing an ecological approach to management, especially as it relates to reductions in timber harvest. Their concerns also focus on restrictions for protecting the red-cockaded woodpecker. They are also gearing up for strong involvement in the Sumter plan revision, scheduled to begin next year.

**PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS** - The group is concerned with the impacts of the Endangered Species Act, Coastal Zone Management and Wetlands regulations on private property. With the advent of ecosystem management as the agency's land ethic, the Association has voiced concerns on what an "ecological approach" means to private land owners.

**REDUCTIONS IN TIMBER HARVEST VOLUMES** - Timber production continues to be a key concern for the Association which has advocated intense management on forested lands.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES ON THE FRANCIS MARION AND SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS

**FOREST OVERVIEW:** The Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests are comprised of more than 600,000 acres stretching from the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains to the Atlantic Ocean. The forest serves as the home to the National Wild and Scenic Chattooga River and one of the country's largest colonies of the red-cockaded woodpecker.

The Francis Marion National Forest has received much public attention for efforts to recover the forest after 1989's Hurricane Hugo. Efforts include a comprehensive management strategy to restore the fire-dependent longleaf pine ecosystem.

The Sumter National Forest encompasses one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the South, namely the Chattooga Basin. The basin is the site for a three-year Forest Service effort to implement ecosystem management strategy within the 180,000 acre watershed.

**THE REVISION OF THE FRANCIS MARION LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN** – The Francis Marion National Forest unveiled its proposed land and resource management plan Aug. 1. The plan comes five years after Hurricane Hugo destroyed more than half the Forest's trees and displaced the country's largest colony of the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. The proposal aims to restore native ecosystems, re-establish Hugo-damaged timber resources and improve habitat for the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. Despite smaller timber volumes, the forest will remain a support for rural economies and developing tourism industries.

Since its release, officials have scheduled more than 50 personal contacts with key interest groups and citizens and provided numerous briefings, including the South Carolina Forestry Association. The Forest will host an open house in October. The Forestry Association has voiced concerns for the reduction of timber program and provisions for the red-cockaded woodpecker. The comment period ends Nov. 15.

**SUMTER NATIONAL FOREST TORNADO-DAMAGED TIMBER SALVAGE** – The Sumter National Forest issued a decision last August to salvage timber from tornado-damaged areas of the Andrew Pickens Ranger District. With more than 1,000 acres of damage on the Forest, the decision calls for the salvage of more than half the downed trees. The process for salvaging the timber was accelerated after Chief Thomas granted an exemption that allowed operations to begin before the appeal period ended. The salvage effort came under criticism from the South Carolina Forestry Association which wanted a complete exemption from the National Environmental Policy Act procedures. They believed the trees' worth diminished significantly because of the lengthy process. In a May 6 letter, the Forestry Association asked Congressman Butler Derrick to contact Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas and urge him to waive the four-month NEPA process so the agency could speed up salvage sales.

**REVISION OF THE SUMTER LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN** – Several key environmental and land use organizations have geared up for the revision of the Sumter Land Management Plan, which is scheduled to begin this year. The Forest has already distributed a detailed report on the Forest's current management situation for public comment. Much of the revision process will be heavily influenced by the outcome of the Sub Appalachian Regional Assessment which is now under way. The Sumter Forest includes about 70,000 acres of the Appalachian Region. Issues that will be raised in the revision process include management of the National Wild and Scenic Chattooga River, the reduction of timber supplies, and recreation demands.

**SUB APPALACHIAN REGIONAL ASSESSMENT** – National Forests in the Southern Appalachians are part of the Southern Region's effort to assess Forest management in the Appalachian Mountains. The study, which includes 70,000 acres of the Sumter National Forest, aims to facilitate ecosystem management in the Southern Appalachians by providing comprehensive, interagency, ecological, social and economic data as a foundation for natural resource management. It will be a broad-scale, interagency analysis and sharing of existing information relative to the natural and human resources of the Southern Appalachians. The



results of the study will drive the plan revisions for the National Forests in Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina. The study is scheduled for completion in 1996.

**THE CHATTOOGA ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT PROJECT** - In its third year, the Chattooga Ecosystem Management Project is designed to provide a long-term, consistent strategy for managing the 120,000 acre Chattooga Watershed Ecosystem, home to the National Wild and Scenic Chattooga River. The information gathered in the project will be incorporated within the land management plans of the Sumter, Chattahoochee-Oconee, and Nantahala National Forests. It provides the framework for consistency in addressing Forest issues across ranger district boundaries. The project has attracted much public attention. It includes a public values study led by Dr. Lynn Maguire of Duke University. Several other grassroots organizations have evolved during the project, including the Chattooga Watershed Coalition. The project is scheduled for completion in 1995.

**RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER DEIS OF THE SOUTHERN REGION** - Timber interests have raised concerns about the Southern Region's proposed long-term strategy to manage the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. Before Hurricane Hugo, the Francis Marion National Forest was the home for the country's largest population of the bird. The draft Environmental Impact Statement will further restrict management options on the Forest. The comment period of the proposed strategy ended last summer. The Region expects to issue a final decision on the proposal this fall.

**NATIONAL WILDERNESS SOCIETY PRODUCES PUBLICATION ON SOUTH CAROLINA WILDLANDS** -In the second of a series of publications aimed at increasing the number of specially-protected wild areas in the Appalachian National Forests, the National Wilderness Society has produced South Carolina's Mountain Treasures. This 25-page publication analyzes 10 "wild" areas of the Sumter National Forest's Andrew Pickens Ranger District. The report is calling for special designations or wilderness management for each of these areas. About nine conservation groups helped to compile the report, said Peter Kirby of the Wilderness Society. The publication comes a few months prior to the official start of the Sumter National Forest Land Plan's revision. Forest officials expect the publication to have significant impact on the planning process. The Wilderness Society plans to produce similar reports for each of the Appalachian National Forests.

## *The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy*

**The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy is a non-profit, charitable organization founded in 1974 to preserve critical areas of the Southern Appalachian region for public benefit.**

**- Governed by a Board of Trustees from North Carolina and Tennessee, the Conservancy is one of the country's oldest and most respected land trusts.**

**- Approximately 1575 members from across the United States and 5 foreign countries support the Conservancy's ongoing mission of conserving land and other natural resources, managing lands already protected, and promoting environmental education and scientific study.**

**- Since its inception, the Conservancy has helped to ensure the protection of 24,000 acres of the Highlands of Roan in Tennessee and North Carolina with the cooperation of the U.S. Forest Service, the Nature Conservancy, the State of Tennessee, and the Trust for Public Land. More than 8000 acres of the Roan Highlands remain vulnerable.**

**- The Conservancy has embarked upon a regional initiative to foster the use of conservation easements and other land preservation techniques by landowners throughout the mountain region, where increasing development pressure threatens the loss of scenic, historic, or environmentally important lands.**

**- The Conservancy purchases land and maintains it with donated funds, works with landowners in creating conservation alternatives, and builds partnerships with state and federal agencies to facilitate land preservation in the region.**

**- Volunteers contribute around 4600 hours of service annually, supplementing the work of the paid staff: an Executive Director, a Development and Public Relations Director, an Administrator, and a part time Stewardship Director and Seasonal Ecologist.**

**- Operating costs are funded by membership dues and special gifts.**

(over)



**The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy  
Board of Trustees, June 1994**

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Mary J. Williams Board Member.

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Wayne Williams, Ph.D.

Board Member. Associate Professor of Recreation Management, Appalachian State University. Consultant, researcher, and planner. Actively involved in trail construction for the North Carolina Recreation and Park Society, and the National Recreation and Park Association. Served as community developer and grant specialist in city government. Special interest include natural resource management, park planning and interpretation.

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## **CURRENT ISSUES**

### **HIGHLANDS OF THE ROAN CHEROKEE AND PISGAH NATIONAL FORESTS, NORTH CAROLINA October, 1994**

#### ***Background:***

The Highlands of the Roan (Roan) is located along the border of Tennessee and North Carolina and includes 13,000 acres of the Pisgah and Cherokee National Forests in Mitchell County, NC and Carter County, TN. The Nature Conservancy, Roan Mountain State Park and the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy also own and manage portions of the Highlands of the Roan.

The Roan Highlands generally follows an elevation contour level of 4000 feet and above and includes a magnificent group of mountain peaks. The Appalachian Trail traverses for 17 miles along the TN/NC border. The Roan has one of the most unique and diverse biotic communities in the Southern Appalachians. This includes red spruce/Fraser fir forest, grassy balds, heath balds, green alder bald, high elevation rocky summit, boulderfield forest, high elevation seep, northern hardwood forest, high elevation red oak forest, rich cove forest and acidic cove forest.

Seventy-five recognized rare plant species occur on the Roan massif - 13 nationally significant and 62 of regional significance. Four plant species are federally listed as Threatened or Endangered. At least seven state and federally listed mammals occur here. According to zoologists, the diversity level for small mammals at and above the 4500 feet elevation is higher than any other single area in the Southern Appalachians. The most significant population of federally listed endangered northern flying squirrels is found in the Roan's spruce-fir forest.

#### ***Forest Service Planning History:***

The Roan Massif has two main areas, that of the Balds and the other forested. In 1991 a Decision Notice was signed for restoration and maintenance of the Balds. Restoration is mainly eliminating blackberries and some woody species. The key tools being used are mechanical mowing and grazing (goats). We are now experimenting on a small scale with herbicides. The Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy was a major partner in writing this document.

We are now addressing the management of the forested area (Roan High Knob) with an Area Analysis. This analysis will describe the Desired Future Condition and propose actions to reach the DFC. In addition to SAHC and scientific community involvement, interest from local communities has been heavy. The Forest Service will be publishing a list of possible management actions for additional public comment in the near future. Major issues include conflicts between recreationist desires for more facilities on the Roan, with the need manage the area to preserve its unique ecosystem and collection of sensitive plant and animal communities.

### *Land Acquisition / Recreation Facilities Issue:*

Land acquisition goals are to secure tracts of land for protection against development and to continue management of the Roan to accommodate non-destructive scientific, educational, and recreational use while protecting biological and physical features. It is estimated that 50 parcels of land could be acquired during the next five years with funding of \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 per year.

Not unlike other unique areas, the Roan has its share of controversy. In the late 1980's, legislation was introduced to designate the Roan as a National Recreation Area. This action created considerable controversy with local land owners, primarily in North Carolina, who were concerned about condemnation of their land. As a result, the legislation died.

Various individuals and groups have expressed concern regarding the present condition of the area. Many would like to see the access road to the area paved, flush toilets installed and other improvements made.

The President's 1995 proposed budget would have allocated \$1 million of Land and Water Conservation Funds to acquire private land in the Roan. Although this proposed acquisition funding had considerable support, it also drew opposition, and was dropped in the final 1995 budget. Those opposing the proposal expressed concern about land condemnation and the perceived need to maintain and improve recreation facilities on the portion of the Roan already under national forest ownership. Mitchell County Commission passed a resolution opposing additional land acquisition unless it was made explicit that condemnation could not be used, and that the Forest Service were appropriated enough funds to maintain the current land base and recreation opportunities /facilities on the Roan. Congressman Cass Ballenger also opposed further land acquisition, in deference to the Mitchell County Commission position.

National Forest in North Carolina staff are working with Mitchell County officials , Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, and Congressman Ballenger's office to better explain Forest Service intent, clear up misunderstandings and restore local political support for continued land acquisition on the Roan in fiscal year 1996 and beyond.

**FRANCIS MARION AND SUMTER NATIONAL FORESTS  
LEADERSHIP MEETING PARTICIPANTS**



**COOPERATORS/PARTNERS' RECOGNITION**  
**NOVEMBER 3, 1994 - GREENVILLE, SC**

\*Each of the following Partners and cooperators have been invited to the recognition ceremony Thursday Nov. 3. They will be recognized for their outstanding and long-standing cooperation in Francis Marion and Sumter Decision-making.

Dr. Bruce E. Rippeteau  
State Archaeologist  
SC Institute of Arch. & Anthropol.  
1321 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29208-0071

Brock Conrad  
SC Department of Natural Resources  
Rembert C. Dennis Bldg.  
1000 Assembly Street  
Columbia, SC 29202

Bob Scott, President  
SC Forestry Association  
Post Office Box 21303  
Columbia, SC 29221

Gilbert Brown  
SC Forestry Commission  
Post Office Box 21707  
Columbia, SC 29221

Frank Paul, Chairman  
SC Council of Trout Unlimited  
2932 No. Bayshore Drive  
Seneca, SC 29678

John Edwards,  
Terry Lecroy  
National Wild Turkey Federation.  
Post Office Box 530  
Edgefield, SC 29824

Buzz Williams, Executive Director  
Chattooga River Watershed Coalition  
Rt. 1, Box 103  
Mountain Rest, SC 29664



COOPERATORS/PARTNERS' RECOGNITION

Page 2

Mr. Tommy Strange  
Santee Coastal Reserve  
Post Office Box 37  
McClellanville, SC 29458

Grace G. McKown, Executive Director  
SC Department of Parks, Rec. & Tourism  
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Edgar A. Brown Bldg. - Suite 110  
Columbia, SC 29201

Ray Evans, Executive Vice-President  
Quail Unlimited  
Post Office Box 610  
Edgefield, SC 29824-0610

Mr. George Garris  
Cape Romain Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge  
5801 North Highway 17  
Awendaw, SC 29429

Dana Beach, Executive Director  
SC Coastal Conservation League  
Post Office Box 1765  
Charleston, SC 29402

Dave Gordon - Ducks Unlimited  
Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research  
Star Route 1, Box 226  
Georgetown, SC 29440

Dr. Tom Lloyd  
Southeastern Forest Experiment Stations  
Clemson South Carolina

Chattooga River Outfitters  
Dave Perrin  
Jack Wise  
Walhalla, S.C.

FOREST SERVICE ATTENDEES  
COOPERATORS' RECOGNITION/LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING  
NOVEMBER 3-4, 1994

DAVE WILSON, FOREST SUPERVISOR  
JEANNE LEOEUF, FOREST SECRETARY

ANGELA COLEMAN, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFF.  
BARBARA RICHBURG, INFORMATION ASSISTANT

JERRY HENDERSON, TIMBER/SW&A STAFF  
IVAN CUPP, FIRE&LANDS STAFF  
SKIP STARKEY, ACTG. PLANNING STAFF (NEPA/APPEALS COORDINATOR)  
KELLY RUSSELL, ACTG. WILDLIFE STAFF (FISHERIES BIOLOGIST)  
PHYLLIS BURNETTE, ADMINISTRATIVE (B&F OFFICER)  
BILL HAYES, ENGINEERING/RECREATION STAFF

LUCY NIX, PERSONNEL OFFICER  
RICHARD SHELFER, PLNG. TEAM LEADER  
LAUREN KINDRED, FORSTR. (NEPA DETAIL)

RANDY BURGESS, ACTING DISTRICT RANGER (NEPA COORD.)  
JOEL GARDNER, DISTRICT RANGER  
JIM BROTHERTON, DISTRICT RANGER  
ERIN BRONK, OTHER RESOURCES ASSISTANT (ORA)  
GREG BORGAN, ACTING DISTRICT RANGER (ORA)

ALICE BENNETT, MAC CHAIRMAN - REP. DISTRICT RANGER (SILVICULTURE)  
KEN TITUS, BEPM (PERS. MGMT. SPECIALIST)  
ANNE KISER, FWPM (SILVICULTURIST)  
ROBERT MORGAN, NATIVE AMERICAN SEPM (ARCHAEOLOGIST)

ALVIN FELTMAN, ORA  
MARY MORRISON, FORESTER  
MARTIN KINDRED, ORA  
PAUL BURRIS, SILVICULTURIST

DAVE CAWRSE, CHATTOOGA PROJECT COORDINATOR AT CLEMSON

DR. TOM LLOYD, SEFES AT CLEMSON

TOM SMITH, ASST. FOREST MANAGER, SAVANNAH RIVER FOREST STATION

JOHN EDWARDS, FS NWTF LIAISON

**NEWS CLIPPINGS  
FROM SOUTH CAROLINA REPORTERS**



*Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests - Public Affairs Office*

# 900 acres eyed near Chattooga

## Federal protection, money sought for river corridor

By Allen Bowie

Oconee Bureau

**MOUNTAIN REST** — Conservation groups and the U.S. Forest Service scored a recent victory in their push to pull more land within the boundaries of the national forests.

A U.S. House-Senate committee agreed last week to fund \$7.7 million in South Carolina projects, including one to protect land adjacent to the Chattooga River in northwestern Oconee County.

The committee approved \$2.75 million to buy more than 900 acres of private land in Sumter National Forest's Chattooga Wild and Scenic River Corridor, according to U.S. Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., Senate Appropriations Committee member.

Obtaining private tracts adjacent to the Chattooga corridor continues to play an integral part in the forest's future management plans there, said Tom Berchem, realty specialist with Sumter and Francis Marion national forests.

The corridor is a 40-mile span encompassed by Sumter National Forest, the Nantahala National Forest in North Carolina and the Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia.

Land near the federally protected corridor that benefits forest health, the habitat and water quality is being identified as part of a joint study being conducted

by the forest service. The three national forests are participating.

The Chattooga River Project, as it is known, is a fact-finding study in its second year aimed at integrating management practices in the three forests and taking state boundaries out of the management equation.

The national forests own 68 percent of the land in the Chattooga River basin, which includes the river corridor and land around tributaries in the three states, said Beth Merz, Sumter's Andrew Pickens district ranger.

Encroaching development, which can add to soil erosion and endanger river quality, are the main thrusts behind the land purchases, Berchem said.

More people are buying property adjacent to the river and the national forests for building second homes, said Buzz Williams, executive director of the Chattooga Watershed Coalition, an environmental group that pushed for the Chattooga project.

"To protect the biological diversity, what's really needed is forests that are not fragmented," he said.

The appropriations bill that includes the Chattooga land acquisition has to get final approval by Congress before it goes to the President to be signed into law. But the measure is not expected to be opposed, said Debra Anderson, a spokeswoman in Hollings' office.

## Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests - Public Affairs Office

*Five years after winds walloped 40 percent of South Carolina's forests, the wounds are healing.*



TIM DOMINICK/THE STATE

**1994** Glen Stapleton, a ranger at Francis Marion National Forest, stands among the longleaf and loblolly pines that have been planted to replace the ones destroyed by Hurricane Hugo. The storm also affected numerous animals that made the forest their home.

# Nature rebuilding what it destroyed

By MIKE LIVINGSTON  
Staff Writer

**H**urricane Hugo's romp through 23 of South Carolina's 46 counties damaged or destroyed nearly 40 percent of the state's timberlands, which tallied up to nearly 7 billion board feet valued at \$1.04 billion.

Moreover, the right quadrant of the storm, the most powerful section of the fist that was Hugo, crashed into a state treasure: the Francis Marion National Forest.

That was lucky for population areas, but devastating to the 250,000-acre ecosystem. Nearly three-fourths of the forest's pines were flattened and many of the large, nut-bearing hardwoods were blown down.

Nature will require time to

forest stewards have not been idle. A new forest management plan promises major restoration, especially of the classic longleaf pine-grasslands ecosystem, more recreational facilities, and the continued recovery of the red-cockaded woodpecker — an endangered species.

The U.S. Forest Service will continue to sell timber off the forest, but a new social consciousness about ecosystem protection is changing sales patterns.

"Certainly we recognize the ecological significance of the new 10-year plan, but we have not turned our backs on timber sales," said David Wilson, the Forest Service's South Carolina supervisor. "However, the sales will not be at pre-Hugo levels.



FILE PHOTO BY TIM DOMINICK/THE STATE

**1989** Nearly 40 percent of the state's timberlands were damaged or destroyed during the hurricane. One of the heaviest hit forests was



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City, State COLUMBIA, S.C.

Date 8-15-94

## Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests - Public Affairs Office

"There is a lot of flexibility in the plan, which allows for decisions at the project level based on local conditions. We are looking at the inter-connectiveness of habitats and how the forest fits in with other landscapes on a regional scale."

A major effort will be to restore the longleaf pines in the forest. The trees, in which red-cockaded woodpeckers nest, once dominated the Southern landscape. Nowadays, there is only about 5 percent of the original acreage left. The Forest Service plans to add 8,000 new acres to the current 37,000 acres.

Hugo's winds snapped many of the mature trees in half, just at the weak point in the trunk where the woodpeckers make their nesting cavities. The hapless birds — 60 percent of the Francis Marion population — were ripped out of their homes and into the tornadoic night.

Under the new plan, management will be focused in an area containing about 120,000 acres of suit-

able woodpecker habitat. The emphasis will be on thinning, prescribed burning and other management tools to mimic conditions in which the birds evolved.

"The woodpeckers have recovered to about 250 nesting pairs, which is a viable population which we intend to maintain," Wilson said. "Before Hugo there were about 300 or so pairs."

Wilson said one aim of the plan is to lure more tourists into the forest. A new 10,000-square-foot, \$2.5 million visitors center is to be built on U.S. 17; other new amenities will be three campgrounds, two boat ramps, five canoe-launching sites; and 60 new miles of hiking, bicycle, horse and off-road vehicle trails.

In other parts of the state, forest scientists took the hurricane opportunity to create living laboratories to gauge the recovery of trees hit by the storm. These are 20- by 100-meter plots in various forest types along the path of the storm, which have been monitored since.

The ongoing work by the Baruch Forest Science Institute of Clemson

University shows that nature is recovering quickly, but there have been some landscape changes.

"What we are seeing is that in wetland areas inundated by salt water, we are seeing a species shift," said Baruch researcher Dr. C.A. Gresham. "The cypress were killed, and a lot of herbaceous flowering plants and some pines are invading these former cypress swamps."

"There are no seed-producing trees left in some places, and nature is filling in all the holes."

In areas where hardwood stands were heavily damaged, the pushed-over trunks are resprouting. Where the hardwood tops were taken off, new canopies are regenerating from the remaining stems. In areas where pines were down, vigorous regeneration has taken place from seeds.

In all the study areas, there has been little change in species composition, except for inundated cypress swamps.

"Nature is really filling in," Gresham said. "She is revegetating everything very quickly."

## Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests - Public Affairs Office



A helicopter carries water while a retardant bomber flies over an Oregon blaze.

AP PHOTO

# Union firefighters stand ready to help battle Western fires

By GARY HENDERSON  
Staff Writer

UNION — In the Western United States, it's been a summer of fires. Forests have burned from Mexico to Canada. More than 2 million acres of timber have been destroyed.

And it's not over yet — 25 major fires still burn.

Two thousand miles from the flames firefighters at the Tyger Ranger Station in Union keep a wary eye westward — wondering if they will be on the fire lines again.

"If they'll let me, I'll go back," said Al Schenck. The 41-year-old forest ranger is a 20-year veteran with the U.S. Forest Service. His two fire team members seated with him shake their heads in agreement.

"We're trained and ready," said 34-year-old Alice Ross of Union. She and Schenck have fought the fires side by side in the canyons and mountains of Idaho.

Their fellow ranger, 43-year-old Cliff Hickson of Newberry, was sent to fight the fires in Washington.

"It gets scary sometimes," said Hickson. "It gets so hot the gases in the forest explode."

The three forest rangers said it doesn't matter that they are fighting fires so far from home. It's the natural resources

'It gets scary sometimes. It gets so hot the gases in the forest explode.'

CLIFF HICKSON

they want to protect.

Since June, Region 8 of the U.S. Forest Service has sent 141 crews to help with the fires in the Western United States. That's almost 3,000 people. Region 8 is made up of several Southeastern states.

The teams work the fire lines for a three-week period before they return to their regular duty station for rest. They carry MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) in their packs to the lines. Drinking water is dropped to them by Forest Service helicopters or brought in by pack mules. The Southern fire teams assemble in Knoxville and are flown on charter flights to the fires in the West.

"Our largest fire in South Carolina was about 1,500 acres back in the early '60s," said Hickson. "There's a real difference in the size of these fires in the West.

More than 500,000 acres have burned this summer in the Great Basin area of the Rocky Mountain states alone. One fire can require more than 5,000 firefighters to bring it under control.

Randy Burgess, acting chief ranger at the Tyger Ranger District, said South Carolina's forest fire season will begin with the turning of the leaves this fall and continue through the winter months.

Hickson said Western forest fires are harder to fight.

"The fuels are different," Hickson said. "Sometimes the fires will burn above you through the tops of the fir and spruce trees."

Hickson said that it requires a military approach to fight the Western fires.

"They're attacked from the air and ground at the same time," said Hickson.

It's likely these rangers from Tyger Station will head west again before the fires are out. When they do, they'll be suited out in 40 pounds of fire fighting gear and they'll be on the fire line 24 hours after they leave their station in Union.

"It's tough to get use to the elevation at first," said Ross. "Being surrounded by smoke at 8,000 to 10,000 feet elevation doesn't make it any easier."

Hickson said the work is very physical. In some locations the fire teams must hike four or five miles to reach the lines. Once they're there, they may not return to a base camp for two days.

"You fight the fires in rough, steep terrain," said Hickson. "Sometimes, you are fighting fire on a 60 to 70 percent slope."

But that's not all. The women

and men who fight these fires are keenly aware that 19 of their colleagues have died in the Western fires this summer.

"These fires are a living, breathing thing," Schenck said. "You never know what they will do."

Earlier this summer, Schenck was waiting to go on a fire line in New Mexico when they learned of the deaths of 13 firefighters.

"We're like family out there," Schenck said. "We have to depend on each other."

"That's always on my mind," said Ross.

Hickson said there's another reason to help the people out West.

"It could happen to us as easily as them."



## *Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests - Public Affairs Office*

# Timber from tornado's path to be retrieved

By Kathleen Stolle  
Oconee-Pickens Bureau

WALHALLA - Fueled by fire hazards and economics, the U.S. Forest Service has opted for an aggressive timber salvage plan for tornado-torn portions of Sumter National Forest.

Timber from about 1,250 of nearly 1,750 acres of national forest damaged by a March 27 tornado will be salvaged. And some extensively damaged areas will be reforested, according to the plan.

The storm ripped an eight-mile path through the forest, varying in width from one-quarter of a mile to almost a mile.

District Ranger Beth Merz said an emergency exemption from the standard 45-day appeal period will allow officials to implement the plan now. It will begin with appraising the value of the damaged timber and physically flagging the forest for salvage operations.

One of the top goals of the plan is to deter future wildfires by cleaning out the felled trees, Mrs. Merz said.

Forestry officials say tornados create ripe conditions for future fires.

The plan also aims to capture the commercial value of the damaged timber, which has lost marketability with time.

Helicopters will be used to extract timber from places where conventional logging equipment can't go. About 1.5 miles of temporary roads for logging trucks and 20 acres of helicopter landing sites will be constructed.

Those areas would be planted with an herb cover once the salvaging was finished.

Restoration of the indigenous forest structure is another focus of the plan. It calls for reforestation to 430 acres, with the planting of shortleaf, oak and white pine seedlings. In some places, chain-saw felling of damaged trees will be used to induce natural hardwood regeneration.

A new wrinkle in the plan, prompted by public input, is the designation of a moderately damaged area as an outdoor laboratory.

Mrs. Merz said the district plans to create a trail from the Yellow Branch picnic grounds to the area, located near the ranger station on S.C. 28.

The district will reforest and salvage timber from part of the area, and nature will be left to make its own repairs in the other, Mrs. Merz said. Then visitors can study and compare how the different approaches served the forest.

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## Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests - Public Affairs Office

# Forest service allows Sumter to speed up salvaging operation

By Allen Bowle

Oconee Bureau

**MOUNTAIN REST** — Citing the potential for timber infestation, the U.S. Forest Service has granted Sumter National Forest an emergency exemption from standard time tables so personnel can speed up salvaging operations on tornado-damaged timber.

The ruling allows the Andrew Pickens Ranger District in northwestern Oconee County to begin salvaging operations immediately after Sumter makes a final decision on how it will handle the recovery process.

Public comment on a proposed plan ended last Friday and the forest service is expected to make a final decision once the agency has responded to all concerns, said Richard Shelfer, planning team leader for Sumter and Francis Marion national forests.

The ruling exempts the district from any requests for a stay in operations made by the public during a 45-day appeal period that begins after Sumter makes its final decision, Shelfer said.

That means the district can move forward with the project immediately, said Beth Merz, district ranger.

Expediting the removal and sale of fallen timber is crucial because the timber has a rapid decline in quality and market value when not salvaged within four to five months, she said.

About 1,500 acres of timber sustained extensive to moderate damage in the Palm Sunday tornado that cut a roughly 8-mile path through the district.

In his ruling, U.S. Forest Chief Jack Ward Thomas noted the probability of an increasing population of Ips and Southern Pine beetles attacking surviving trees in the project area.

Without quick action, he said, the conditions would cause more loss to federal land and private property intermingled in the district.

In addition, the timber has become a fire hazard that must be reduced before wildfire occurs, Thomas said.

In June, Sumter released a comprehensive environmental assessment of the timber damage, including additional alternatives to salvaging timber.

The proposal incorporates a mix of logging, burning and replanting aimed at reducing the risk of wildfire and potential hazards to forest users.

Timber manufacturers, who have sales contracts on timber produced in some of the damaged areas, have been concerned that a long wait and the possibility of a lengthy appeal would jeopardize timber quality.

Several area environmental groups have said Sumter was justified in requesting the emergency exemption if the forest service's damage assessment is correct.



**Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests - Public Affairs Office**

# Federal anniversary present

## Forest Service to spend \$425,000 to improve Chattooga access site

By Allen Bowie  
Oconee Bureau

**MOUNTAIN REST** — The U.S. Forest Service is giving a special anniversary gift this year to the Chattooga Wild and Scenic River — a \$425,000 face lift at the most heavily visited access point along the corridor.

Some work has already begun at the information and river access station on U.S. 76 in the Sumter National Forest's Andrew Pickens Ranger District to upgrade the facility and a primitive pathway to the crashing whitewater of the Chattooga.

But don't expect sweeping changes at the post on the Chattooga, which is celebrating its 20th year of being designated a member of the National Wild and Scenic River System by Congress.

Forest officials say they want the planned improvements to blend right in.

"It's not really going to look a whole lot different," said Greg Borgen, assistant district ranger. "People have told us they don't want to see a lot of development there."

The Forest Service has begun drilling a nearby well that eventually will run a septic system about a half mile away from the river to a drain field.

Once in place, the half dozen unisex primitive toilets at the facility — most of which are uninviting to visitors — will be upgraded to male- and female-designated flush toilets with lavatories and electric lights, Borgen said.

**'It's not really going to look a whole lot different. People have told us they don't want to see a lot of development there.'**

—Greg Borgen,  
Forest Service

On the peak days of Saturday and Sunday, up to 650 people visit the facility, which consists of a large parking lot, information and boat registration boards and bathroom facilities.

An adjacent paved, downhill walkway gives way to a gravel trail running several hundred yards up river to a large rock outcrop overlooking Bull Sluice, one of the most famous rapids on the Chattooga.

Steep at times, the trail will get wooden rail fences in sections and a sign advising the end of trail maintenance at the sudden drop above Bull Sluice as parts of the project, Borgen said.

In addition, information and photographic displays will be improved, and Sumter may place a volunteer at the facility during summer months, he said.

Most of the work will begin in mid-1995 and is expected to be completed by summer of the following year.

*Francis Marion & Sumter National Forests - Public Affairs Office*

## Forest service unveils part 2 of proposal to salvage timber

By Allen Bowle

Oconee Bureau

**MOUNTAIN REST** — Sumter National Forest released Tuesday the second portion of its proposal for salvaging some of the 1,500 acres of timber damaged by the Palm Sunday tornado in the Andrew Pickens Ranger District.

Focusing on timber removal in less accessible areas, Sumter officials propose salvaging 324 acres in a steep, 702-acre region using helicopter logging in order to capture the timber's commercial value, according to the U.S. Forest Service report.

Forest service officials are giving the public until May 23 to submit written comments, which will be incorporated into its environmental assessment and final plans for salvaging.

If the helicopter operation is approved, it will be the first of its kind in the 80,000-acre national forest, said Jim Abercrombie, acting district ranger.

Helicopter logging has only recently been utilized in the forest service's logging operations, he said.

The 702 acres of damaged timber, concentrated in Spider Valley, contains about 10,000 board feet per acre, based on timber sales volumes during the past two years.

Since the costs of helicopter logging require high timber value, the recovery operation would be limited to 324 acres, or 2,000 of the 10,000 board feet per acre, Abercrombie said.

Two log landings used to load the timber and one helicopter

service area would be built near the salvage area, according to the report. The areas for landings and helicopter service, some of which already have been cleared for other operations, would be 1.5 acres each.

Officials have proposed chain-sawing underbrush and burning on about 30 acres, which would then be replanted with shortleaf pine and hardwood seedlings, the report said.

More than half of the damaged trees and woody debris from the storm would remain as is, Abercrombie said.

The forest service released its first proposal on April 26 for salvaging about 900 acres of ground-accessible timber.

The public comment period on that proposal ends May 16.



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# Oregon WildBlog

## The Instability of Stability: Remembering Jack Ward Thomas

Jun 02, 2016 | Arran Robertson (/users/arran)



*On May 26, 2016, Jack Ward Thomas lost his battle with cancer. Thomas began his career with the U.S. Forest Service as a research wildlife biologist in 1966. He was one of the top scientists involved in the construction of the Northwest Forest Plan, the management framework that stopped the wholesale liquidation of Oregon's oldgrowth forests on national public lands and protected critical spotted owl and salmon habitat. He later became the 13th Chief of the USFS, serving from 1993-1996.*

*Copied below is a speech from Thomas on the need to protect our national public lands.*