



June 1999

National Association of State Foresters

Washington Update

Volume 15, Number 3

House and Senate Dear Colleague Letters Sent Record Number of Letters Sent Support State & Private Programs

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Several "Dear Colleague" letters supporting the USDA Forest Service State & Private Forestry programs have been sent to both the House and Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittees. This year saw a record year for the number of individual letters (six) written in support of funding increases for S&PF programs in fiscal year 2000. The "Dear Colleague" letter is a mechanism for House and Senate members to show and garner support for specific programs.

House of Representatives

The House put together a total of four, first-year letters, each

(Dear Colleague Letters, page 2)

USDA Forest Service Initiates Two-Year Study of Southern Forest Sustainability

The forests of the southern United States supply fifteen percent of the world's timber from its 214 million acre forested land base. Questions have been brewing over the past decade as to just how sustainable the cut is in the South on a number of levels. To answer these questions, the USDA Forest Service, along with other Federal agencies and in conjunction with the Southern Group of State Foresters, will conduct a study of the region's forested resource to be completed in 2001. The study will have broad implications for the non-industrial private landowner as those lands comprise nearly 70% of the study area.

According to a Forest Service press release, the objective of the sustainability study will be "to compile and analyze data and information necessary to evaluate the status of the forest resources of the southern United States; their productivity, ecological diversity, and sustainability." In other words, the study will not only take the traditional look at the sustainability of current

(Southern Forest Study, page 4)

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The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) is comprised of the directors of the 59 state and territorial forestry agencies. Through public-private partnerships, NASF seeks to discuss, develop, sponsor and promote programs and activities which will advance the practice of sustainable forestry, the conservation and protection of forest lands and associated resources and the establishment and protection of forests in the urban environment.

Dear Colleague Letters, *from page 1*

supporting a different program supported and implemented by the State Foresters; the Cooperative Fire programs, Urban & Community Forestry, Forest Legacy and the Forest Inventory & Analysis program.

- *Cooperative Fire (State Fire Assistance and Volunteer Fire Assistance)*

Authored by Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR), recommending funding the State Fire Assistance program at \$30 million and the Volunteer Fire Assistance program at \$10 million, both of which are NASF's recommended levels. A total of twenty-two Representatives signed.

Greg Walden (R – OR)
George Brown, Jr. (D – CA)
Lois Capps (D – CA)
Scott McInnis (R – CO)
Bob Schaffer (R – CO)
Helen Chenoweth (R – ID)
Mike Simpson (R – ID)
Joe Scarborough (R – FL)
Steny Hoyer (D – MD)
Jim Oberstar (D – MN)
Ronnie Shows (D – MS)
Rick Hill (R – MT)

Tom Udall (D – NM)
Jim Gibbons (R – NV)
Earl Blumenauer (D – OR)
Peter DeFazio (D – OR)
David Wu (D – OR)
Tim Holden (D – PA)
Curt Weldon (R – PA)
Jim Turner (D – TX)
Herb Bateman (R – VA)
Jack Metcalf (R-WA)

- *Urban & Community Forestry*

Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) put together an impressive U&CF letter recognizing "tree planting one of the most cost-effective ways to revitalize our urban environment." A total of 15 House members signed on in support.

Jim Moran (D-VA)
George Brown (D-CA)
Carrie Meek (D-FL)
Judy Biggert (R-IL)
Luis Gutierrez (D-IL)
Michael Capuano (D-MA)
Ben Cardin (D-MD)
Frank Pallone (D-NJ)
Bill Pascrell (D-NJ)
Tom Udall (D-NM)
Joseph Crowley (D-NY)
Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)
Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
Jim Leach (R-PA)
Ron Klink (D-PA)

- *Forest Legacy*

The letter in support of Forest Legacy was led by Rep. Charles Bass (R-NH), and with the help of the Land Trust Alliance, gathered a total of twenty-five signatures.

(Dear Colleague Letters, page 3)

Rep. Walden Breaks New Ground with Dear Colleague Letter on Fire Programs

For the first year ever, Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR) brought together an impressive coalition of House members calling for a "higher profile" of the Cooperative Fire Assistance programs in the State & Private Forestry budget of the USDA Forest Service. In all, twenty-two Representatives signed on to a "Dear Colleague" supporting a line-item of \$30 million for the State Fire Assistance (SFA) program and a line-item of \$10 million for the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) program in the fiscal year 2000 budget.

Fires in the volatile wildland-urban zone where buildings mix with wildland fuels are becoming a more frequent and more dangerous occurrence. Walden wrote, "These fires are more dangerous and more expensive to combat than fires that take place in remote areas. Moreover, the Federal government's firefighting forces, unlike rural firefighters (supported by the Cooperative Fire programs), aren't trained or equipped to deal with these unique firefighting challenges."

The State Fire Assistance program helps the State Forestry agencies to coordinate with Federal agencies and facilitates the participation of State Foresters in the Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) program which takes military equipment and retrofits them for firefighting purposes. The Volunteer Fire Assistance program is the only national program targeted specifically to Volunteer fire departments, the first line of defense against wildfires. As Walden put it, "Volunteer firefighters provide a \$36 billion service to our nation without asking for much in return. The minor increases in these two programs are the least we can do for our nation's rural firefighting forces and the rural communities they protect."

The party affiliation of the twenty-two House members to sign was split down the middle, with eleven signatories coming from the West, four from the South and four from the Northeast. Thanks to their efforts, and that of the letter's author Rep. Greg Walden, we hope that the

Dear Colleague Letters, *from page 2*

Charles Bass (R-NH)
Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)
Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)
James Maloney (D-CT)
Neil Abercrombie (D-HI)
Jerry Costello (D-IL)
Michael Capuano (D-MA)
William Delahunt (D-MA)
Ronnie Shows (D-MS)
David Price (D-NC)
Rush Holt (D-NJ)
Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ)
Bill Pascrell (D-NJ)
Marge Roukema (R-NJ)

Barney Frank (D-MA)
James McGovern (D-MA)
Martin Meehan (D-MA)
Richard Neal (D-MA)
John Olver (D-MA)
Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD)
John Baldacci (D-ME)
Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY)
James Walsh (R-NY)
Phil English (R-PA)
Bernard Sanders (I-VT)
Jack Metcalf (R-WA)

(Dear Colleague Letters, page 6)

Southern Forest Study, *from page 1*

harvest levels and timber markets, but answer questions about the sustainability of fish and wildlife populations, the ecosystems that support them, and the associated social and economic changes.

History

Public interest in this issue stems from the recent proliferation of chip mills throughout the South. Beginning ten years ago, demand for chip loading facilities along waterways was at an all time high as the major pulp and paper mills sought access to new raw materials. To be built, the loading facilities needed to undergo a wetland permitting process through the Army Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The Environmental Impact Statements prepared recommended no new issuance of permits drew lawsuits from industry groups alleging the TVA extended its authority when it considered off-site impacts not directly related to construction of the chip mills. As industry continued its push for more chip mill facilities, environmental challenges arose based on wetland permitting and State air permitting regulations.

Current Status

Currently there are over 140 chip mills operating in the South producing about 325,000 tons of chips annually. Chip mills convert logs and other normally unmerchantable small diameter materials into small wood chips used by pulp mills to make paper as well as by other mills to make oriented strand fiber board.

Many feel that the increased number of chip mills might encourage poor forest management practices and will eventually tip natural ecosystem balances beyond sustainable boundaries. Recent timber growth and drain reports do indicate unfavorable harvest levels for soft-

woods in certain areas and point to possible hardwood shortages as well, but links to increased chip mill construction have not been confidently established. However, it is worth to note that both State and private nurseries have been unable to meet seedling demand for the past two years even though indicators point primarily to increased demand from harsh climatic conditions.

Sustainability Studies

A number of States have begun studies of their own to address the issue, notably Missouri and North Carolina. Missouri has declared a temporary halt on new chip mill construction and recently, a North Carolina administrative law judge ruled that that State exceeded its authority when it excluded chip mills from its renewed general stormwater permit for the timber products industry. The Society of American Foresters is also initiating a project of their own to develop a comprehensive description of forest sustainability beyond the southern States.

The USDA Forest Service sustainability study is still very much in the design and development stage. Funding for the study will come from a variety of sources within the involved Federal and State agencies. It is to be headed by John Greis and David Wear of the Forest Service and will include officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Tennessee Valley Authority and the thirteen State Forestry Agencies included in the study's scope (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia - the Southern Group of State Foresters).

The proposal on the table now calls for a de-

(Southern Forest Study, page 9)

Administration Finalizes Tongass National Forest Plan Amidst Controversy

The USDA Forest Service has issued its final management plan for the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, the nation's largest National Forest. The final plan will cut timber output by one-third and designate an additional 234,000 acres off limits to logging and development. The plan, released in April, revises the 1997 Tongass forest management plan and reflects the Administration's goals of more balanced and sustainable management of the National Forest System.

Signed by Agriculture Undersecretary for Natural Resources & Environment Jim Lyons, the Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) lays out a 15% reduction in the landbase open to logging, down to a level of 576,000 acres. The entire National Forest covers over 17 million acres. The new plan will allow up to 187 million board feet to be harvested yearly, down nearly 30 percent from the previous harvest level of 267 million board feet.

Logging will be reduced in forty-two separate wildlife areas covering 270,000 acres, where harvest rotations would be extended from the current 100 years to 200 years. Lastly, the plan will limit new road construction and increase the rate of road decommissioning. According to the Administration, the changes reflect an emphasis on protecting more old-growth habitat and associated endangered species.

Reaction

The decision has been a controversial one for interested publics. Questions have arisen over the legality of the final plan. Originally, the Forest Service finalized the Tongass plan in 1997. That 1997 plan had been arrived at through a comprehensive, ten year public in-

volvement process costing over \$13 million. After the 1997 plan's release in the Spring of that year, a number of Administrative appeals were filed. Normally, the Secretary's office reviews the appeals and then makes a decision either to uphold the plan or send it back for further development. In this case, the Administration decided to revise the 1997 plan without significant public input and issued a new final in April. The final plan is not subject to appeal.

The timber industry has strongly criticized the new plan, calling it a political decision, rather than one based on the best science available. They contend that the changes in the new plan would further harm the region's economy, making it nearly impossible for the sawmills in the southeastern part of the State to survive. Nearly 1,500 forestry related jobs have already been lost in that part of the State over the past ten years as harvest levels have dropped in half.

In a Washington Post Op-Ed dated May 12, the members of the Alaska Congressional delegation, Sen. Ted Stevens (R), Sen. Ted Murkowski (R), and Rep. Don Young (R), criticized the new plan for denying Alaskans "the right to meaningful participation in decisions on National Forests, (something) afforded the citizens of every other State." Individual reactions have been even harsher. Rep. Young called the final plan a "sham (that) abandons science, abandons common sense, abandons law, and abandons Alaskans." Sen. Murkowski publicly denounced the appointment of Undersecretary Lyons to the Department of Agriculture.

(Tongass Plan, page 10)

Dear Colleague Letters, *from page 3*

• *Forest Inventory*

Initiated by the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry, this letter supported full funding of the Forest Inventory & Analysis program including the creation of a new and separate \$4 million line-item under S&PF to better leverage State resources. A total of ten Representatives agreed that sustainable forest management must be based on sound and accurate inventory data.

Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), Chair	John Hostettler (R-IN)
Eva Clayton (D-NC), Ranking Minority	John Cooksey (R-LA)
Saxby Chambliss (R-GA)	Bennie Thompson (D-MS)
Ray LaHood (R-IL)	Greg Walden (R-OR)
David Phelps (D-IL)	Virgil Goode (D-VA)

Senate

This year forty-two Senators voiced their support for the core S&PF programs. However, This year's letter was more comprehensive, covering every single program in the S&PF budget important to the State Foresters.

This year's letter supported NASF's budget numbers for the Forest Stewardship program (\$28 million) and the Stewardship Incentives Program (\$15 million). Unspecified, but "aggressive" levels were supported for the Forest Legacy program, the Urban & Community Forestry program, and the Economic Action Programs, and the Cooperative Fire programs (\$10 million specified for the Volunteer Fire Assistance program). The letter also called for a funding increase in the Cooperative Lands Forest Health Management line-item of \$4 million to fully implement the Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread campaign. An increase of \$10 million was called for the Forest Inventory & Analysis program so forest management decisions can be made with a clear picture of the nation's forest resource. Like last year, the letter was spearheaded by four Senators, Senate Agriculture Chairman Richard Lugar (R-IN), long-time forestry supporter Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), and Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond (R-MO).

Richard Lugar (R-IN)	John Breaux (D-LA)	Bob Smith (R-NH)
Pat Leahy (D-VT)	Mary Landrieu (D-LA)	Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)
Kit Bond (R-MO)	Ted Kennedy (D-MA)	Robert Torricelli (D-NJ)
Patty Murray (D-WA)	John Kerry (D-MA)	Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)
Barbara Boxer (D-CA)	Paul Sarbanes (D-MD)	Harry Reid (D-NV)
Christopher Dodd (D-CT)	Susan Collins (R-ME)	Daniel Moynihan (D-NY)
Joseph Lieberman (D-CT)	Olympia Snowe (R-ME)	Ron Wyden (D-OR)
Joe Biden (D-DE)	Paul Wellstone (D-MN)	John Chafee (R-RI)
Max Cleland (D-GA)	Max Baucus (D-MT)	Tom Daschle (D-SD)
Daniel Akaka (D-HI)	John Edwards (D-NC)	Tim Johnson (D-SD)
Daniel Inouye (D-HI)	Jesse Helms (R-NC)	Orrin Hatch (R-UT)
Mike Crapo (R-ID)	Chuck Hagel (R-NE)	Chuck Robb (D-VA)
Richard Durbin (D-IL)	Bob Kerrey (D-NE)	James Jeffords (R-VT)
Pat Roberts (R-KS)	Judd Gregg (R-NH)	Herb Kohl (D-WI)

(Dear Colleague Letters, *page 10*)

Four Volunteers Die on Wildland Fires in 1999

by Billy Terry,
Cooperative Fire Program Branch Chief
USDA Forest Service

This year has already resulted in the death of 4 volunteer firefighters on wildland fires. Another 10 firefighters were injured on wildfires in Florida. The reason? The failure to consider the unpredictable nature of a wildfire, heads the list. Unlike a structure or vehicle fire, wildland fires are uncontained and able to follow their own paths. These fires often create their own weather to confuse and bewilder even experienced firefighters.

Two firefighters died in Kentucky when a wildfire burning below them ran up the hill. Unable to out run it, they died. A firefighter in Nebraska died when the wind unexpectedly changed and entrapped him. Another firefighter in Massachusetts died of a heart attack as the smoke, terrain and conditions proved too much.

There are 10 simple wildland firefighting orders. If followed, they can save a firefighters life. These include things like knowing the conditions of the fire, always fighting the fire with security as the primary consideration, give clear instructions, etc.

Along with the orders, there are 18 situations that "Shout Watch Out". These include items like firefighters are working on a hill with a fire burning below them, the weather is being hotter and dryer, the wind begins to blow, or a thunderstorm is approaching. All of these items change the burning conditions and should tell firefighters to watchout.

In 1994, 14 firefighters died on a wildfire near Grand Junction, Colorado. This is known as Storm King Mountain. The deaths occurred when several of the 10 standard orders and 18 situations were violated. The report on the deaths stated, "Firefighters on the West Flank Fireline and on the Main Ridge perceived the fire to be burning as a wide front moving north and east up the West Drainage and across the West Flank. . . Steep slopes and strong west winds triggered frequent upslope (eastward) fire runs toward the top of the Main Ridge. These upslope runs spread through the

Gambel oak at 6 to 9 feet per second. . . The combination of steep slopes, strong winds, and flammable fuels resulted in a fire that entrapped and killed 14 firefighters on the northeast end of the West Flank Fireline. Two other firefighters, who moved north up the Main Ridge then northwest toward an exposed rocky face, died in a narrow gulley when overrun by the fire. The surviving firefighters exited the area by moving out the East Drainage to Interstate Highway 70 along the Colorado River."

If you want to know more about wildland firefighter safety, the U.S. Forest Service maintains a website at www.fs.fed.us/fire/links2.shtml. It contains the 10 Standard Orders, the 18 Situations That Shout Watch Out, and the Storm King Mountain Fire Report along with other fire safety information.

Be careful! Don't take unnecessary chances on a wildland fire. Back away! Size-up the situation and make a careful planned attack. Four deaths for 1999 is too many. Don't add to the number.

FOR WILDFIRE TRAINING ASSISTANCE, CONTACT YOUR STATE FORESTRY OFFICE OR YOUR STATE FIRE MARSHALL. INFORMATION ON THE STATE FORESTRY AGENCIES IN EACH STATE IS AVAILABLE AT <http://www.stateforesters.org/SFlinks.html>

An Excerpt from the 1998 US Fire Administrations Report on Firefighter Deaths

"The number of deaths associated with brush, grass or wildland fire fighting rose to nine from the five deaths experienced in 1996. These two years reflect a significant drop from the 18 firefighters that died in wildland activities in 1995. Five firefighters were killed in three wildland fire fighting aircraft crashes in Arizona, California, and Pennsylvania; one died from a severe asthma attack at a prescribed burn in Nevada; one firefighter died of Strep A infection contracted while fighting a wildland fire in California; a firefighter in Florida died of exposure; and a firefighter in California died of heat stroke." <http://www.usfa.gov>

State Spotlight:

Virginia Department of Forestry and Western Virginia Land Trust Host Forest Fragmentation Seminar

By Paul Revell

Virginia Department of Forestry

Forest fragmentation has been one of the hottest topics in the news in Virginia over the last 18 months. The loss of the forest and agricultural land base in Virginia to development has been the subject of lengthy articles in both the Washington Post and Richmond Times Dispatch. The Virginia Department of Forestry and the Western Virginia Land Trust (WVLT) made fragmentation the topic of their second annual forestry forum which will continue to be held in Roanoke each March.

The one day seminar, *Forests Forever or Forest Fragmentation*, was promoted to a wide range of interests including foresters, planners, county and municipal officials, as well as conservation and environmental organizations. The conference was held March 11 in Roanoke and attracted a diverse audience of 105 participants from a wide array of groups represented.

The seminar focused on identifying the potential impacts of forest fragmentation and the implications for Virginia's forests if current fragmentation trends continue. Rupert Cutler of the WVLT organized a program that provided a broad range of perspectives on the issue. Some highlights from the seminar were;

Dr. Norman Chritensen of Duke University gave the keynote to the conference in which he provided a framework for the discussion of forest fragmentation and sustainable forestry. His

observation that "...forests are never the same twice" suggested that forests are ever-changing and that we base forest management decisions on current conditions and trends rather than rely on past models.

Dr. David Wear of the USDA Forest Service presented current research on the causes of forest fragmentation. While the causes were obvious to the audience, he suggested that care be taken in interpreting the data for the general public. It is important that we clearly define what forest fragmentation is and interpret the data on that basis. Without a clear definition of forest fragmentation, data analysis can be contradictory and misleading. The presence of forest cover does not always mean that a functioning forest ecosystem or a commercially viable forest is present.

Virginia State Forester Jim Garner reported on the findings of Virginia's Resource Assessment Project. He noted that Virginia's Forest Survey identifies 15.5 million acres of forest land in the State. However, forest fragmentation and other factors have rendered only 8.5 million acres readily available for commercial forestry operations. Garner also stressed the need for the forestry community to provide accurate forestry information to land use planners to insure protection of the forest land base. He highlighted new efforts within the Department of Forestry, especially in the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) arena, to develop and disseminate timely and accurate information on the resource.

(VA Forest Fragmentation Seminar, page 9)

Virginia Forest Fragmentation Seminar, *from page 8*

Wayne Barfield, Appalachian Forest Manager of WESTVACO, expressed a feeling common among foresters in the audience – the problem of forest fragmentation is becoming more obvious, but the solutions to it are not. He described how fragmentation would negatively impact wood procurement activities and traditional forestry operations. He then described WESTVACO's "Ecosystem Based Forestry" as a means by which Westvaco might attempt to practice forestry in an increasingly fragmented rural landscape.

Mary Heinrich of the American Farmland Trust and Dan Gilmore of the Land Trust Alliance discussed conservation easements, transferable development rights (TDRs), and the potential of the Forest Legacy Program to protect forest and farmland.

Dr. Molly Rutledge of the Virginia Department of Health discussed how conservation easements had a role in protecting public health by helping to protect valuable open space. Dr. Rutledge also condemned the use of clearcutting and took the forest products industry to task for air pollution from pulp and paper facilities.

Bill Kittrell of the Nature Conservancy described its new Forest Bank program in southwest Virginia. Forest Banks will be used to buffer sensitive Nature Conservancy properties and provide management alternatives as well as an income stream to forest landowners. According to Kittrell, forest banks will be managed "sustainably" with no clearcutting. This presentation drew considerable comment and question from the audience.

Larry Wallace, a local consulting engineer in Roanoke, described the role of inventories of private land in helping land trusts target their efforts to critical properties. Mr. Wallace is currently working with the WVLT to identify critical viewshed properties along the Blue Ridge Parkway as well as those adjoining the GW-Jefferson National Forest.

Bob Neville of the Forest Service gave an inspiring presentation on involving local governments and community organizations in the effort to slow forest fragmentation through citizen participation in the planning process. He noted that forest fragmentation is very much an urban as well as a rural problem. He provided a case study where the BUDA (begin, understand, decide, act) process was employed to enable a small New England town to protect natural features in the face of rapid development.

Dr. Greg Brown, Dean of the College of Forestry at Virginia Tech, discussed the role of the university in dealing with the fragmentation issue through programs and research.

Overall, the seminar promoted networking and dialogue among the diverse interests represented. There was some criticism from both the fervent environmentalists and strong forest industry supporters in the crowd that the conference did not hit the issue head on. However, it was the general consensus of the audience that more seminars and dialogue on this topic need to occur in Virginia. The Department of Forestry and the WVLT are already planning a follow-up seminar next spring.

Southern Forest Study, *from page 4*

tailed look into the some of the most common concerns raised regarding southern forest sustainability. Many go beyond the chip mill issue and address landscape scale indicators. They include;

- Forest age class distribution
- Forest specie composition
- Forest fragmentation
- Timber supply
- Biodiversity
- Clearcutting
- Wetland impacts
- Water quality degradation
- Water yield
- Threatened & endangered species
- Conversion to non-forest
- Harvesting intensity
- Reforestation
- Tree species conversion
- Harvesting/processing technology

Researchers plan a two-tiered approach with a region-wide assessment supplemented with smaller area assessments. Public involvement will be a critical element of the assessment in defining questions and evaluating progress.

Environmental groups are calling for a moratorium on construction of new chip mill facilities until more is known about their perceived impacts. Claims have been made that one chip mill would need 8,700 acres of forestland every year to stay economically viable, amounting to an estimated annual harvest of more than 1,500 square miles of forests in the South.

The Forest Service study's assessment team is to begin work this summer. To find out more, visit the Forest Service's website at <<http://www.fs.fed.us>>.

Dear Colleague Letters, *from page 6*

The Plains States Senators, led by Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) and Senator Craig Thomas (R-WY), rallied behind a "Dear Colleague" letter which focused solely on the Stewardship Incentives Program. Ten Plains States Senators signed on asking for an appropriation of \$15 million in FY 2000 for the program which "is the most cost-effective cost-sharing program available to both forest landowners and State Foresters."

Craig Thomas (R-WY)
Bob Kerrey (D-NE)
Tom Daschle (D-SD)
Pat Roberts (R-KS)
Mike Enzi (R-WY)
Max Baucus (D-MT)
Tim Johnson (D-SD)
Wayne Allard (R-CO)
Chuck Hagel (R-NE)
Byron Dorgan (D-ND)

Tongass Plan, *from page 5*

Environmentalists have also expressed opposition to the plan, not because of the process, but because of timber harvest levels and extent of the acreage set aside. Some environmental groups feel that timber levels should be reduced even further and roadless areas be even better protected.

As it stands, the Tongass Land Management Plan, and the decade long process it has undergone, epitomizes the conflicts the Forest Service faces in developing National Forest plans.

The National Arboretum's Grove of State Trees Spotlight:

California's State Tree

The Giant Redwood

By Sunburst Crockett
NASF Washington Office

The Giant Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) is a tree of magnificent proportion. It grows along a number of separated areas in a narrow strip along the West Coast, about 450 miles in length, and from 20 to 40 miles in width, from California's coastal fog belt to as far up as the southwestern tip of Oregon. Its eastern limits appear to be governed by atmospheric moisture, because redwoods disappear where high mountain ridges cut off the ocean fogs.

This stately State tree is considered to be one of the world's most massive trees, reaching heights of more than 300 feet and reaching diameters of more than 20 feet. The larger trees feature irregular, buttressed bases, and long-tapering boles, which can be found to start at more than 150 feet from the ground. Young trees from 12 to 15 inches in diameter form narrow, conical crowns of exceptional symmetry, which cover the entire length of the bole.

It produces extremely durable wood and offers a natural resistance to termites and wood decay fungi. It is fire resistant, in its older stage, due to the thick furrowed bark it forms. The heartwood is also very fire resistant, because of its non-resinous characteristics. The wood has exceptional insulating characteristics, and was often used in the past for construction of railway refrigeration cars and mill and industrial roofing. Its main uses now consist of veneer and siding.

Between five to fifty years of age, the Giant Redwood is a prolific annual. While some seeds will germinate on moist duff, fresh mineral soil is best because the young trees can scarcely penetrate the duff and die from drying out. The mature cones

are only ½ to 1 1/8 inches in diameter, ovoid to sugloboses, reddish brown, with 15 to 20 peltate scales, maturing at the end of the season. The seeds are 1/8 inches long, light brown in color, with narrow lateral wings. The Giant Redwood is also capable of producing vigorous stump sprouts following logging operations. In fact, this method of regenerating second-growth stands is heavily relied upon.

The rate at which redwood stands grow is nothing short of remarkable. In fact, no other North American tree, with the possible exception of eastern cottonwood, is capable of producing the same volume of wood per acre in the same given period of time. When the Giant Redwood trees are released from long periods of suppression, they demonstrate remarkable recuperative powers. They recover rapidly and grow with renewed vigor. The Giant Redwood is also a tree of great longevity. However, ring counts on individual trees can vary greatly making it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain the approximate age of the tree. Ring counts on felled timber have resulted in counts of 550 to more than 1800 on a single tree.

A different state tree is highlighted each issue to learn more about our stately treasures. All trees described here can be seen in person at the *Grove of State Trees* at the United States National Arboretum in Washington, DC.

To learn more about the Grove of State Trees and the National Arboretum visit their website at:

<http://www.ars-grin.gov/ars/Beltsville/na/collectn/state.html>

Or drop by the Arboretum for a visit:

United States National Arboretum
3501 New York Avenue, NE
Washington, D. C. 20002-1958
Tel: 202-245-2726 Fax: 202-245-4575

Upcoming Events/Conferences in the Forestry Community:

June

June 12-16 6th Conference on Agroforestry in North America. "Sustainable Land-Use Management for the 21st Century". Hot Springs, AR. Contact: Dr. Catalino A. Blanche, Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center, 6883 South State Hwy 23, Booneville, AR 72927-9214; (501) 675-3834; cblanche@yell.com; <http://www.missouri.edu/~afta/makeplansNAAC.htm>

June 13-16 Land Conservation Transactions: Planning, Negotiating, Financing, and Closing Deals. Marshall, CA. Contact: LTA, 1319 F Street, NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20004; (202) 638-4725; Fax (202) 638-2514

June 15-17 Crossing the Millennium: Integrating Spatial Technologies and Ecological Principles for a New Age in Fire Management. Boise, Idaho. Contact: Greg Gollberg, Coordinator, Department of Forest Resources, University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844-7733; (208) 883-5545; goll9151@uidaho.edu; <http://firescience.for.uidaho.edu>

June 16-17 Enhancing Longleaf Ecosystem Values in an Economic World. Whiteville, NC. Contact: NCSU Forestry Educational Outreach Program, Box 8003, Raleigh, NC 27659-8003; (919) 515-3184; Fax (919) 515-6883; <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/nreos/forest.feop/long.html>

June 21-22 Western Mensurationists Conference. Penticton, B.C., Canada. Contact: Western Forestry and Conservation Association, 4033 SW Canyon Rd., Portland, OR 97221; (503) 226-4562; Fax (503) 226-2515; frieda@westernforestry.org

June 22-25 52nd Annual Conference: Partnerships in Water Resource Management, The Focus for the Next Millennium. Greenwich, Nova Scotia, Canada. Contact: Kay Moir; (902) 424-3617; Fax (902) 424-0503; moirkin@gov.ns.ca

June 23-26 2nd Annual Trails and Greenways Conference: Making the Connection II. Pittsburgh, PA. Contact: Rail-to-Trails Conservancy, 1100 17th Street, NW, 10th Floor, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 974-5151; Fax (202) 466-3742; rtconf@transact.org

June 23-26 5th International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment. Baltimore, MA. Contact: Demetri Kantarelis or Kevin Hickey, IEA/Kantarelis-Hickey, Assumption College, 500 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01615; (508) 767-7557; Fax (508) 767-7382; dkantan@assumption.edu

August

Aug. 8-11 Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Conference. "Walk on the Wild Side". Biloxi, MS. Contact: Soil and Water Conservation Society, Pat Mulligan, Conference Manager; (515) 289-2331, ext. 17; patm@swcs.org; <http://www.swcs.org>

Aug. 29-Sept. 2 4th Biomass Conference of the Americas, CA Energy Commission. Oakland, CA. Contact: <http://www.nrel.gov/bioam>

Aug. 25-27 Summit for the Four Corners Sustainable Forestry Initiative. Taos, NM. Contact: July Kowalski, Program Leader, (505) 827-7474

Aug. 31-Sept. 3 9th National Urban Forest Conference. Seattle, WA. Contact: American Forests, P.O. Box 2000, Washington, DC 20013; (202) 955-4500; ckollin@amfor.org

Aug. 22-Sept. 11 International Seminar on Forest and Natural Resource Administration. Contact: <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/isfam/>

September

Sept. 11-15 1999 Society of American Foresters National Convention. Portland, OR. Contact: <http://www.safnet.org/calender/natcon.htm>

Sept 22-24 Environmental Problem Solving with Geographic Information Systems (GIS): A National Conference. Cincinnati, OH. Contact: Rebecca Glos, EPA, Office of Research and Development (ORD), National Risk Management Research Laboratory (NRMRL), Lisa Kulujian; (703) 318-4797; Fax (703) 736-0826; rebecca.l.glos@cpmx.saic.com; <http://www.epa.gov/ttnrmrl>

Forestry Announcements

Idaho Forest Health Report Released

The Idaho State Forester, Stan Hamilton, in conjunction with USDA Forest Service Northern Regional Forester Dale Bosworth, Intermountain Regional Forester Jack Blackwell and Rocky Mountain Research Station Director Denver Burns announced the release of a report titled, *Health of Idaho's Forests: A summary of conditions, issues, and implications*. The report covers all forests in Idaho and describes how they are changing in response to various forest health threats.

The report provides a perspective useful to natural resource land managers beyond Idaho's State line. In a letter signed by the report's four coauthors, they write that the report "should be useful tool for all land managers to use when prioritizing restoration activities, working in partnerships, discovering trends, and managing for sustainable forests. It can also provide a sound basis for conservation education on these issues."

Copies of the report can be obtained by calling Betty Blocker at (406) 329-3277.

Four Corners Initiative to Host Conference

The Four Corners Initiative is planning a roundtable conference to discuss increasing catastrophic wild-fire and insect outbreaks in forest ecosystems throughout the Four Corners region and how best to address the situation through community based enterprises. A wide variety of stakeholders will participate in a collaborative strategy to accelerate the restoration of forests and watersheds, decrease the likelihood of catastrophic wildfire, and improve the economic viability of rural, forest-based com-

munities in the Four Corners Region. The Roundtable is scheduled for August 25-27th in Taos, New Mexico.

For registration information or more about the Four Corners Initiative, please contact one of the following representatives;

Arizona Amber Hill
Little Colorado RC&D
(520) 524-6063 ext. 204
lcrd@littlecolorado.org

Colorado Carla Garrison
Montezuma County
(970) 565-6061
mzuma@fone.net

New Mexico Judy Kowalski
New Mexico Forestry Division
(505) 827-7474
jkowalski@state.nm.us

Utah David Schen
Utah Division of Forestry
(801) 538-5555
nrslf.dschen@state.ut.us

Tribal Dorothy Firecloud
USDA Forest Service, Region 3
(505) 842-3424
dfireclo/r3@fs.fed.us

National Agroforestry Center Wins Website Award

Congratulations to the USDA National Agroforestry Center website claiming the "Best of the Net" award recognizing one of the best forestry-related sites on the internet. The site includes online versions of most of the informational materials published by the NAC, plus links to more resources. Visitors can also order NAC materials using an online form. Check it out for yourself at <http://www.unl.edu/nac/>

~ People on the Move ~

It's amazing how much can change in just a few months. There have been a number of changes within State and private forestry circles over the last few months. Four States and one Territory have seen changes in their State Forestry leadership. The USDA Forest Service has filled four top positions in their Washington Office. Lastly, there have been three significant changes within NASF partner offices in the Washington area.



State Foresters on the Move

California

Governor Gray Davis announced the appointment of **Andrea Tuttle** as the new State Forester of California, replacing long-time State Forester **Richard Wilson** who departed the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection back in April. A California native, she attended University of California at Berkeley where she earned her bachelor of arts degree in biological sciences and her doctorate in environmental planning. In between, she went to the University of Washington to earn a masters of science degree.

Beginning in 1978, Tuttle taught and researched at University of California campuses of Santa Cruz and Berkeley. From there, she moved on to serve on the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, as a consultant for the State Senate Select Committee on Forestry, and a member of the California Coastal Commission. In 1992, she founded a natural resource policy and planning company. Her background in water resource related issues will serve California and the association well.

NASF will sorely miss Wilson's work on the NASF Fire Committee and will look forward to Tuttle's participation in Association events.

Iowa

Mike Brandrup, who has served as acting State Forester since **Bill Farris** retired from the post in January, was officially named State Forester of

Iowa in March. Brandrup has over twenty-four years of experience with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Forestry Division. He moved his way up through the ranks beginning as a District Forester in 1975, moving on to become the Chief of Forestry Services Bureau in 1987, and eventually the State Forester's office in 1999.

Prior to his time at the Division, Brandrup gained considerable experience working for the forest industry as a logging superintendent and a wood procurement/woodland management forester. Currently married with two children and living in Webster City, IA, Brandrup began on the long road to the State Forester Office after earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Management from Iowa State University.

Maine

After a brief, but productive five-year tenure as State Forester of Maine, **Chuck Gadzik** announced his resignation in February to pursue a new management position with the regional forest products company J.D. Irving. As director of the Maine Forest Service, Gadzik had been in charge of fire control, forest management and utilization, and insect and disease management programs for the State.

With his perspectives and past experiences with the timber industry in the State, Gadzik helped implement the Maine Council on Sustainable Forest Management and improve the State's Forest Practices Act. Prior to his appointment in 1995, Gadzik served on the Maine Environmental Priorities Project Steering Committee and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection/Planning office Wetlands Task Force. He spent a number of years with the Baskahegan Company as its forest manager after earning his Bachelors of Science in forest management from University of Maine in 1979.

Donald Mansius has been named Acting State Forester in the interim. A final decision on who will be named State Forester next is expected within the coming weeks.

~ People on the Move ~

West Virginia

In mid-April, West Virginia Governor Cecil Underwood named **Charles R. "Randy" Dye** as the new Director of the West Virginia Division of Forestry. Dye is a Parkersburg, WV native with a Bachelor of Science in forestry from WVU earned in 1974. For the past twenty-one years he has been with Georgia-Pacific in a number of management positions in Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia. He most recently served as an area procurement manager for Georgia Pacific at Brookneal, VA. He replaces **Ralph Glover**, who served as Acting State Forester since **Bill Maxey** left the post late last year.

Virgin Islands

In March, a new Territorial Forester was named to replace **Arthur Petersen, Jr.** who moved on after many years of service. **Henry Schuster** will replace Peterson as the new Commissioner for the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture.

USDA Forest Service Staff on the Move

The Forest Service has recently undergone some significant changes in its top leadership positions which have some positive implications for State & Private Forestry (S&PF). Replacing the departed Chief Operating Officer **Francis Pandolfi**, former Deputy Chief for State & Private Forestry **Phil Janik** stepped up to the Chief Operating Officer position in March. Responding to the Deputy Chief for S&PF vacancy, changes were made in the S&PF leadership accordingly. Filling in for Janik, **Janice McDougale** moved from her Associate Deputy Chief position to Acting Deputy Chief and **Larry Payne** stepped in to replace McDougale as Acting Associate Deputy Chief for S&PF. With Janik's strong ties to the S&PF community, Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck chose to maintain Janik's oversight of S&PF even in his new capacity as Chief Operating Officer.

Stemming from her past successes, McDougale was officially named just last month as the new Deputy Chief for S&PF. According to Chief Dombeck, "Her work with partners, communities, and agencies, she

has shown the ability to build coalitions, solve problems, and make tough decisions to maintain healthy, diverse and productive land while retaining full respect for private property rights."

Vacant since its inception, the Associate Deputy Chief for Natural Resources leadership post will be filled by **Hilda Diaz-Soltero**. A native Puerto Rican, Diaz-Soltero will work alongside with Janik in coordination of the program activities of the three main branches of the Forest Service with Janik overseeing S&PF and Diaz-Soltero overseeing the National Forest System and Research. Reflecting Chief Dombeck's emphasis on biodiversity, Diaz-Soltero brings a strong fish & wildlife background after spending twenty-four years with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service in various director capacities.

Also filling a long vacant position, Chief Dombeck chose **Jim Furnish** to head up the National Forest System. As Deputy Chief, Furnish will be responsible for ensuring sustainability of all forest interests on the 191 million acres of National Forest System lands. Furnish comes most recently from his Forest Supervisor post on the Siuslaw National Forest in Oregon and arrives with over thirty-one years of agency experience.

NASF Partners on the Move

Dan Gilmore has announced his departure from the Land Trust Alliance to work for the Wood River Land Trust in Ketchum, Idaho. Gilmore is one of the primary reasons for LTA's success in promoting the Forest Legacy program. His support and energy will be missed.

Lastly, The Conservation Fund, a rising player in the realm of non-profit conservation groups, recently lost its Federal Projects Coordinator **Dan Sakura**. Sakura helped secure many of the Fund's recent land purchases in the Northern Forests of New England. He will be stepping up to become Chief of Staff for the Council on Environmental Quality under George Frampton's leadership.

NASF Calendar

NASF Executive Committee

Early August - Washington, DC

Contact: Gary Hergenrader (NE), (402) 472-2944

Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters

July 25–27, 1999 - Providence, RI

Contact: Tom Dupree, (401) 647-3367

1999 NASF Annual Meeting

September 18-23, 1999 - Harrisburg, PA

Contact: John Berst, (717) 787-2925



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Washington Update

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