Sept 14, 2002

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Mr Horst Greczmiel
NEPA Task Force Director
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FAX: 801-517-1021

Dear Mr. Horst Greczmiel,

I strongly believe the management of our National Forests lacks an overall objective, which I list below. I hope the Nat'l Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) can be revised so there is less interference on a day-by-day basis from extremists groups. Likewise, the Endangered Species Act needs revision because it's being misused to shut down effective forest management. Comments:

1. Our National Forests need to be managed as a sustainable, renewable resource, and not as a limited resource.
2. As a minimum, our Nat'l Forests should provide at least 100% of our harvestable Timber needs; The USA should be a net exporter. This should be the nat'l policy and guiding overall objective, combined with sustainable management.

3. Each NFS and BLM Forest Plan should include how to respond to the unexpected, such as blowdown, disease, and of course, fire. Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) must not be required to be written (1-2 years) to deal with the unexpected. If state and county forest managers can act promptly, why can't our NFS & BLM managers have the freedom to act quickly. If our National forests can't be actively managed, then they should be turned over to state control.

4. We already have designated Wilderness Areas. We don't need permanent "Roadless Area" established, making active forest management impossible. Most Roadless Forests are simply in the late stages of growth, and are likely mature enough to be logged again. By managing forests as a sustainable, renewable resource, then there is no real place for 60,000,000 acres of permanent Roadless Areas. The forest is constantly evolving, constantly growing. Let the forest managers manage. The NEPA Act must allow for long-term active forest management. There must be a mission for our BLM & NFS forests, including sustainable, renewable principles.

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5. Every National Forest (NFS or BLM) should have some old-growth forest. We should be able to set aside some land for old-growth forest in every forested state. Young and growing forests reduce green-house gas, while an old forest does not. However, we should be able to "afford" some old-growth forest(s) in every forested state. Just 1-3% would be significant. In some States, it may take hundreds of years to creat new old-growth forests.

6. The NFS and BLM forest managers must have the authority to act. They can not be responsible for the forest if they don't have the authority to act. This should be the objective of NEPA revision. See section 3.

7. When there is blowdown & disease, like with Wild fires, it's too late to stop and write Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for 1-2 years. See section 3.

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8. By having a mix of forest age, there will be habitat for wildlife of every type.

To conclude, there are enough forests in this country TO meet all needs including harvesting and wildlife habitat.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wendell R. Malin
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