



## NEW PERSPECTIVES

### OTHER, from page 5

professor in the Department of Forest Sciences at Oregon State University, says to "...quit clearcutting and don't substitute thinly disguised clearcutting such as leaving a few token trees. Instead, aggressively thin mid-aged stands, leaving about one-half of the mature trees standing (generally 50 to 70 trees per acres)." Why won't the Forest Service adopt strategies like the one Dr. Perry suggests? (See sidebar p.5)

### An Old Growth Policy?

Many of us, myself included, thought that the Forest Service's changed "Old Growth Policy," announced over two years ago, would eventually eliminate the logging of big old trees like those in the Erika timber sale. We were wrong, or more accurately, we were naive to believe the Chief's rhetoric about preserving old growth. A little on-the-ground experience revealed the transparency of the Forest Service's Old Growth Policy.

In the Gifford Pinchot, old growth of less than 10 acres is not counted as old growth, and some National Forests have a 30-acre minimum. The Forest Service's Old Growth Policy, like the new Ecosystem Management policy, gives the illusion that ancient forests are no longer being clearcut. Anyone who thinks that the stream of huge logs coming out of the national forests is going to end any time soon because of policy emanating from Washington DC is badly mistaken.

Another example is the New Perspectives logging project in the Siouxi Roadless Area in southwestern Washington. The Forest Service proposed timber sales in the watershed in 1989, and a year later, Siouxi became Shasta Costa's "sister project" in Washington state. Satellite imagery shows Siouxi as a large verdant green island surrounded by massive clearcuts on private land and the Forest Service's badly cutover Canyon Creek watershed. The Mt. St. Helens blast zone is north of Siouxi, hydro-dam reservoirs to the west, and suburban sprawl to the south. The Forest Service Siouxi project seems centered on new ways to log a roadless area, with little acknowledgment of its larger-scale context as a refuge for wildlife and people. The decision to log in Siouxi was made in the forest plan over the protests of hundreds who commented that it should remain unlogged—so much for public involvement.

### Looking at Where

To many of us, where logging occurs is more important than how it is done. Somehow, the sense of place needs to be integrated into decision-making. As one forest service biologist put it "there are some places that simply should not be logged."

I don't know who is advising the Forest Service where to log, but it's obvious that Judge Dwyer does not with their choices or the proce-



Siouxi drainage, Gifford Pinchot NF, Tryg-Sky/LightHawk.

dures in choosing which areas to log. Perhaps, citizens, biologists, ecologists, hydrologists, and geologists should have more input concerning preliminary decisions of *where* logging and roads are permissible, without jeopardizing species viability or water quality. Why aren't scientists and citizens consulted earlier about the location of logging projects?

The Forest Service should concentrate on activities that won't get them in trouble with the courts. The agency has a larger mission than just building roads and cutting timber. There is a tremendous opportunity for the Forest Service to do restoration forestry, recreation maintenance, public education, wilderness planing, wild and scenic river management, ecological monitoring, research, and endangered species management. For example, many riparian forests were logged before protection measures were developed. I don't think anyone would object to restoration of cedar groves along streams presently lined with old growth stumps. The agency could be promoting reforestation on private lands within Forest boundaries and elsewhere before rural pastures and fields are converted into parking lots, subdivisions, and golf courses.

The bottom line, of course, is caring for the land. That's why the U.S. created the Forest Service in the first place. New Perspectives, if it only means a new way to cut down trees, primarily serves short term economic interests. The current condition of our forests and streams have shown that the rate of logging and the locations of timber harvest are not compatible with caring for the land. Thirty years of extensive clearcutting have used-up the forest's ecological line of credit. It may take 300 more years to put it back.

### WHITHER, from page 1

According to Worldwatch Institute, if all possible wood-saving measures were taken, we could save about HALF the wood presently being cut (Postel and Ryan, 1991). Even without going to extremes, we could easily save the roughly 6 or 7 percent of the nation's harvest coming from roadless and old-growth areas.

Some immediate actions the Forest Service could take include:

#### a. Encouraging use of wood-saving construction techniques.

Our own Forest Products Lab has developed a number of building methods that could collectively save about 700 board feet in an average new house (Haynes 1990). The National Forest branch of the Forest Service ought to be actively promoting these techniques in the construction industry.

#### b. Encourage production and use of building products made from recycled materials.

The Forest Products Lab and others have developed a variety of products that can be made from waste paper, demolition waste, old milk cartons, and other materials presently being landfilled (Youngquist, 1991 and Tonge, 1992). The folks at the Lab are working hard to promote this technology but, again, we on the National Forests ought to be helping. We could offer technical assistance or even low-interest loans to people interested in starting up these kinds of businesses. This would also tie in perfectly with rural development as a way of providing useful employment in some of the hard-hit timber towns.

#### c. Encourage paper conservation and use of recycled products, both within the Service and among the general public.

The government is making strides in this direction, but there is much more we can do.

There is nothing preventing us from adopting this true new perspective except our own inertia. And that inertia is what's gotten us into this tailspin in the first place. Continuing to tinker with the old forestry world view is not going to get us out of this mess, nor is it doing any great service to the forest itself. Nothing says we have to cut timber in order to "care for the land and serve people!" We can no longer afford to think of our job only in terms of the supply side of the equation. Only by rethinking our basic mission and our responsibilities to the land, can we emerge from this long tunnel.

This is not just something for the guys at the top to worry about. If everyone at every station in the country began asking "What can we do here to provide products for human needs in ways that alter the forest as little as possible?" we'd see the beginnings of a true ecosystem ethic in this agency. Let's get busy and make this happen!

### References:

- Haynes, Richard. 1990. An analysis of the timber situation in the United States: 1989-2040. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report RM-199.
- Postel, Sandra and John C. Ryan. 1991. Reforming Forestry. State of the World 1991. Worldwatch Institute, p.74-92.
- Tonge, Peter. 1992. Blocks blossom from waste wood. Christian Science Monitor.
- Youngquist, J.A. et. al. 1991. Alternative uses of recovered fibers. FOCUS 95+: Landmark Paper Recycling Symposium. Tappi Press, p. 333-341.





## NEW PERSPECTIVES PROJECTS



*New Perspectives Cut, Blue River Ranger District, Willamette NF. Trygve Steen.*

### Cascade Center—Examining Northwest Ecosystems

The Cascade Center for Ecosystem Management provides a good example to trace some of the development and impact of the Forest Service's New Perspectives program. The Center involves land managers and researchers

and is based on the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, the Blue River Ranger District/Willamette National Forest, and the Forestry Sciences Laboratory in Corvallis, Oregon. The Center has its roots in the

research program on the Andrews Forest which began in the 1950s. Since 1970 the research effort has focused intensively on forest and stream ecosystems. Over the past 10 years, researchers and Willamette NF employees have increasingly worked together to incorporate new information into management of forest stands, stream systems, riparian zones, and landscapes. The resulting concepts and techniques comprise a system of ecosystem management, often referred to as "New Forestry" in much of its public discussion to date.

The models provided by the Andrews Forest/Blue River Ranger District partnership and a number of other grassroots efforts around the nation have been instrumental in formulation of the Forest Service's national New Perspectives program and its new commitment to ecosystem management.

The New Perspectives program has also had important influences on development of this partnership. In part through New Perspectives direction and funding, the Cascade Center was formed in 1991 to encompass the Andrews-based research program, a variety of activities directed by the Willamette National Forest, and activities conducted by land managers and researchers together.

Important contributions of the Cascade Center over the past few years include:

- Evaluation of alternative silvicultural techniques through demonstrations, monitoring, and research. These tests examine economic and ecological effects in both regular timber sales and experimental trials and in natural stands as well as in plantations.
- Management guidelines have been developed for stream and riparian systems, based on ecosystem research, experience of land managers, and public input through the forest planning process. These ecosystem

concepts and management guidelines are finding wide application.

- A series of projects have addressed effects of alternative forest cutting patterns on landscape structure and selected ecological processes. These modeling studies examine past forest conditions and made projections over several next centuries. This work has lead directly to new policies in Region 6 aimed at reducing forest habitat fragmentation resulting from timber cutting.

- An integrated resource analysis project on the South Fork McKenzie River is using an understanding of natural wildfire patterns as a basis for designing stand and landscape management systems with improved potential to sustain biological diversity.

- Long-term studies (up to 200 years) are underway to provide answers to questions that cannot be addressed by short-term studies (2-5 years). These studies include tests of effects of alternative management systems on long-term productivity of Cascade forests.

In summary, the Cascade Center exemplifies many aspects of the New Perspective program. The Center is a grassroots effort by a large number of individuals committed to development and use of sound approaches to ecosystem management. Distinctive features of the Cascade Center are its major commitment to ecosystem research and its strong, long-standing management-research partnership.

—Lynn Burditt, District Ranger

—John Cissel, Cascade Center Coordinator

Blue River RD, Willamette NF

—Art McKee, Director

H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, Dept. of Forest Science Oregon State University

—Fred Swanson, Team Leader USFS PNW Research Station



### Zuni Mountains Road—Bridging the Functional Gap

The Zuni Mountains of northwestern New Mexico were owned by private interests until the 1940s. Following the Civil War, enormous herds of cattle severely overgrazed the Zuni Mountains. The intense thunderstorms typical of the Southwest combined with the bare ground initiated massive erosion gullies.

Railroad logging began in the Zuni Mountains in the early 1900s. Logging camps and towns were scattered throughout the range. To complete the transportation system, wet meadows were drained, streams diverted, roads constructed, and over 200 miles of railroad grade were built. Eventually, the perennial streams became deeply incised, dry gullies.

By the time the Forest Service began acquisition of the Zuni Moun-

tains in the 1940s, the land had been subjected to decades of overgrazing. Almost the entire area had been clearcut. The Forest Service acquired over 300,000 acres of land needing lots of TLC. But twenty five-year grazing reservations, allowed for in the land exchanges, restricted Forest Service management of livestock until the early 1970s. Since that time, the range conditions have improved and reforestation efforts have been fairly successful, but healing the scars of the past requires continuing efforts.

#### The Road Project

The Zuni Mountains Road (locally known as Forest Development Roads 49 and 50) runs the entire length of the mountains—57 miles. Originally built

by the railroad loggers, the road continues to contribute to degradation of the watershed. Road 50 is a single lane dirt road, parts of which are incised as much as two feet into the ground. Improperly constructed drainage features contribute to the progress of erosion gullies, draining of wet meadows, and concentration of runoff which initiates more erosion. In addition, the road is passable for only a few months of the year.

To meet Forest Plan objectives for watershed and transportation in the Zuni Mountains, a road must be designed and constructed using ecologically sensitive techniques—i.e., to benefit the resource. This requires a design approach unlike that of traditional engineering. Rather than looking at the surrounding terrain and how it

may affect the road, we began to ask, "How can we manage the road as part of the ecosystem?"

John Caffrey, Mt. Taylor District Ranger, and John Fehr, Cibola NF Engineer, initiated the idea of reconstructing the 57-mile road in the fall of 1990. The ID team was given instructions to capitalize on as many opportunities as possible. An initial objective of the project was to mitigate the effect of the road on the watershed. Bill Zeedyk (retired Director of Wildlife, R3) volunteered to inventory half the route and calculated over 1000 acres of wet meadows/wetlands that could be restored along just half the project's length.

Since its inception, the Zuni Mountains Road project has picked up

*continued on next page*