



## PRIEST LAKE CELEBASIN

### Mark your calendars!

**T**HIS YEAR'S Celebasin and annual membership meeting will be Sunday, August 25. SPBA members and guests are invited to share the afternoon on the Pend Oreille River with the SPBA board.

Environmental issues have gained importance nationally this year and this has certainly been the case within the Priest Basin. Your SPBA board and committee chairs wish to review with our members a range of events of environmental importance, including gains and losses, within the basin.

We are seeking member concerns and ideas to chart future directions and actions. This is also an election year and politics strongly shape environmental decisions. Idaho Democrat State Senator from our district, Tim Tucker, and Shawn Keough, Republican challenger for Mr. Tucker's senate seat will give brief presentations.

Admission is free for the event (1 p.m. - 5 p.m.). Burgers and salads will also be provided. Simply bring your favorite beverage and join in. We look forward to a large turnout of our members and guests in these environmentally turbulent times.

In early August, SPBA members will receive a formal invitation and a map to Ted and Rita Runberg's spacious riverside home on the Pend Oreille between Priest River and Newport. For more information you can call 448-2971.

## 'Lawless logging'

### Loss of democracy equals forest destruction

**C**REATE A BOGUS "forest health" emergency with hype and fear tactics. Remove the public's democratic right to have a say in the management of its forests. Reward those who have so grossly mismanaged our national forests to continue to do so without the constraints of environmental laws or citizen oversight.

Then subsidize multi-billion dollar, multi-national timber corporations to clearcut old growth forests, sensitive and damaged watersheds and some of the last large unroaded, unlogged areas left in the Inland Northwest, and you have the terms of the infamous Salvage Rider.

The salvage rider, Public Law 104-19, Section 2001, also known as the "lawless logging" rider, was attached to the Rescissions Bill which was signed into law by President Clinton in July, 1995.

The rider, written by those representing large timber corporations and enthusiastically endorsed by right-wing Republicans in Congress, was supposed to improve forest conditions and bring money to the treasury.

According to experts, the "salvage" logging being proposed will actually damage the forest.

*Continued on page 4*



WET LANDS BEING FILLED only a few hundred feet from Kallispell Bay. See page 5 for full story

## Endowment land management a political circus

**T**HE SPBA'S second legal challenge to the Idaho Department of Lands' mismanagement of school endowment forests has been thwarted by the power of big timber interests and their lobbyists. The Idaho Supreme Court has ruled in the Bugle Ridge case that SPBA and its members lack standing to sue over legal and ethical transgressions concerning state lands management.

So, who can challenge the state and the trustees of school endowment land? We're still scratching our heads on that one. It seems that if the trustees are screwing up the forests and

streams, then they have to catch and punish themselves! No one else can! Bear in mind that the trustees (governor, secretary of state, attorney general, superintendent of schools, and state controller, known collectively as the Land Board), do not own these lands.

It is incidental to their duties to serve as trustees during their temporary elected term of office. It simply does not make sense to hold them accountable for the havoc they wrought and continue to bring to state lands.

*Continued on next page*



## Chairman's Message

# *New laws, same voices, same old results*

**G**ORDON WEST has resigned as SPBA Chairman, but he remains on the Board of Directors. As a result, there is a new voice for the "Chairman's Message".

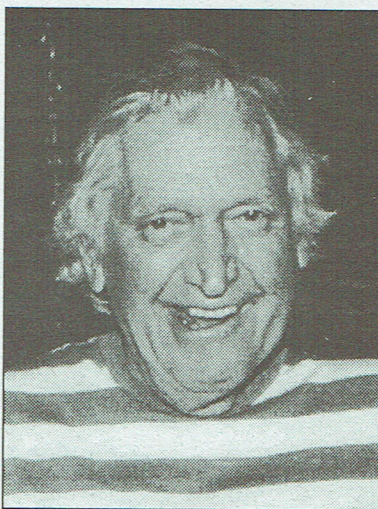
Gordon's new business interests in New Mexico keep him out of the Basin for lengthy periods. Mary Boone, our very capable part-time Administrative Assistant of several years, has reduced her hours to accept a position with the state of Washington. The Board sends them our best wishes and support. Not quite Hail and Farewell, but the same feeling of loss.

The good news is that the Idaho Legislature passed the Priest Lake Management Plan into law with only two "nay" votes in the entire legislative process. Governor Batt signed the act immediately. It is expected that Glen Rothrock will be named the Project Manager. The process has begun to achieve his appointment.

Already, lake management procedures have had to be initiated over willful incursions on the lake integrity.

The most dangerous supporters of the Priest Lake drainage are those who say "I do all of this because I love the lake so much." In the pursuit of this false love, the object is to sell it for their own profit. How can you be a real lover of the lake and yet "sell" its degradation. (see this issue for details) As to the higher lands of the drainage, there is no way that I can deal with the problem as well or better than Howie Wolke, Director of the Greater Salmon Selway Project, has in "Salvage Mania and the Forest Health Sham (the big lies of Ecosystem Management.)" He states:

A heinous threat looms over America's public forests, and it's the greatest threat yet: The Forest Service, the timber industry, and various western congresspersons have discovered that salvage logging and a phony 'Forest Health Crisis,' provide a brash and politically expedient opportunity to log



to allegedly reduce fire danger, will be widespread. And all logging is now called 'Ecosystem Management,' under the guise of 'Forest Health'.

Regrettably, Senator Craig and Gorton's Lawless Logging is alive and well in the Priest Basin with twelve different sales either sold or planned in 1996. The sales will total about 7 million board feet of timber. Senator Craig is pushing to extend his Lawless Logging (presently scheduled to sunset at the end of 1996) to the year 2002. Time has come to change the term public forests to taxpayer subsidized, corporate forests.

**Harry Batey**  
SPBA Chairman

## *Political Circus*

*Continued from page 1*

Lost in the past several years battle over standing have been the merits of SPBA's case against the Land Board. Through sheer political muscle the timber industry and its shills have claimed victory in excluding us from the game. But they have not by one whit diminished the force of our claims that endowment lands are being abused. In fact, the great length they have gone to in robbing us of a voice in the matter highlights the dread they must feel in having that abuse brought to public view.

Severe overcutting, high grading, and excessive road building are standard practice in the Land Board's zeal to keep their political and corporate cronies happy. The so-called "mandate" to maximize revenue for the schools is a thin mask for maximizing profits for those whose money got them elected. "We dance with them that bring us," said one of the governor's staff regarding who has clout in state lands manage-

ment and "them that bring us" are the ones who buy the timber. That collusion not only affects the volume of trees cut, which far exceeds the rate of growth (by the state's own reckoning), but the price it sells for as well. Mills in the state of Idaho are given exclusive first crack at bidding for state timber, thus reducing competition and the eventual selling price. So much for the inviolable "mandate".

During the last legislative session, the timber industry wrote a bill exempting state lands from a 1927 law that made public recreation the priority use along the shores of three of Idaho's premier lakes, including Priest Lake. It passed the House and Senate on the fleet wings of Mercury and was headed for Governor Batt's desk for signing. Just before the midnight hour, an offer came from Joe Hinson of the Inter-mountain Forest Industries Association.

If we would drop reference to the 1927 law from our lawsuit, Joe would have the governor veto the new law. Oh, he felt bad, too, because the legislature didn't know why they had passed this new bill. SPBA

refused the offer so the leader of IFIA's flock (the Guv) signed it into law. And worse, the IFIA wrote another bill exempting endowment lands from the public trust doctrine, the hook on which SPBA had been granted standing in the Trapper Creek lawsuit.

Joe's legislature and governor made that one a law, too. Quoting SPBA's Barry Rosenberg, "What the Supreme Court giveth, Joe Hinson taketh away." And in old news, several other laws had been made in past years in the ongoing effort to emasculate SPBA's ability to improve state lands management. Trampling of constitutional rights does not faze this political crew in the least.

In a nutshell, environmentally concerned people in the great state of Idaho are at best second class citizens governed by a corporate monarchy where Timber is King. If that bothers you then get off your duff, roll up your sleeves and get politically active. People who care about this world are in the majority. We can reinstate democracy!

— Gordon West



# 'LAWLESS LOGGING'

## Clarify the Myths

OVER THE PAST decade, I have often been frustrated by the difficulty in finding a clear path through the morass of timber politics. Generally, the public's source of information is the mass media (newspaper, television articles, advertising, and direct mail from interest groups). Unfortunately, that is not enough to make such complex issues understandably clear.

The recent focus on the forest health on federal land and the resulting salvage logging bill (the suspension of environmental laws and suspension of environmental appeals from virtually all timber sales) presents a muddy and dangerous situation. With the rise of ecosystem awareness, and the idea that a forest is more than a deck of logs waiting to be cut, came the concept of forest health.

Some battle-wise environmentalists soon predicted that timber industry public relations specialists would find a way to use health as an excuse to increase logging. They succeeded spectacularly by obfuscating the science convincing enough people that we can save our forests by cutting them down. We are now in an era of lawless logging.

The following, I hope, will clarify several areas of confusion and myth.

1. Logging of dead, dying, and disease-prone merchantable timber does little to

prevent fire or improve forest health. Statistics telling us of the billions of board feet of sick and dead timber that must be cut do not tell us about the age, species, or dispersement of all those trees.

Remember the soundbite "Trees are growing faster than we're cutting them." That was true if seedlings and saplings (unmerchantable thickets) were counted. Now, much of the available sick volume is in those same thickets. But it is not the doghair woods that are targeted for salvage. There is no money in that. So, to make "salvage" of more widely dispersed mature and merchantable trees financially attractive, a great many healthy trees are thrown into sales to sweeten the pot.

2. The forests are not on the verge of conflagration because we failed to log them. Fire danger has increased for two separate reasons, both relating to the overcrowding mentioned above. One reason, decades of fire prevention, has affected some (not all) unlogged forests. A problem exists that we must begin to deal with over time, but one that is not correctable in a few years by emergency logging.

The second overcrowding problem is the direct result of high-grade logging over the last forty years, a practice which takes the biggest and best trees leaving open tracts prone to growing back as thickets.

Both situations deal with controlling

small trees. This will require an investment, since thinning (by fire or saw) does not produce immediate profits. And contrary to a new soundbite, logging does not mimic fire. Unlike logging, fire does not compact soil or build roads.

3. Roads are bad. Bad for water quality, bad for water quantity, bad for wildlife, and bad for forest health. Some roads are bad, some are worse. Let me be exquisitely clear; roads are bad for ecosystems.

In looking at the big picture, forest health has become a hot issue because we have overspent the ecologic budget. The monthly paycheck came in and we blew it frivolously in the first week (high-grade logging) and we are now in a struggle to survive until the next check comes in (recovery of ecosystem health). Continued exploitation is suicide, we must now invest even though times are lean.

Recently, an old man in my neighborhood died. Friends and acquaintances went afterward to where he lived to put things in order. They found heaps of junk, mostly unuseable, and one curiously remarkable scene. He had removed most of the walls of the guest house and burned them for firewood. Only the corners remained to hold up the roof. (What makes this story especially ironic is that this man did not own the property. He was living there as the caretaker.)

— Gordon West

## Lawless logging casts its pall over the Priest River Basin

THE PRIEST LAKE RANGER DISTRICT has taken full advantage of the "salvage rider", known as "lawless logging". In the Selkirk-Priest River basin, the "salvage rider" is being used to log green trees, to reincarnate timber sales that were stopped by appeals and to release timber sales that would not withstand full environmental review. Since the rider went into effect in July, 1995, every timber sale offered (except two) on the Priest Lake Ranger District has been called "salvage".

The Rogers Mosquito timber sale, now called the Rogers Mosquito "Salvage" Timber Sale located in the Lower West Branch Priest River drainage is a typical example of the types of brazen abuse taking place under the lawless logging rider. The SPBA appealed this sale twice and on both occasions the Forest Service agreed with the SPBA that the sale was illegal. (See Sightlines 1993-94) Now Ranger Dunstan waves his magic wand and the sale assumes "salvage" stature, thus making it immune from environmental laws and citizen challenges.

The Lower West Branch of the Priest River is a prime example of a stream that is in total disequilibrium from excessive logging and road construction. Like the majority of streams in the Idaho Panhandle National Forests it can no longer support viable populations of Idaho's state fish, the westslope cutthroat trout. There is an overwhelming amount of sediment (dirt and sand) covering spawning areas and pools, both critical habitat for fish survival.

There are at least three sales either ongoing or proposed for the drainage in 1996, yet miraculously the Forest Service assures the

public that these timber sales will not cause additional serious effects to the stream. Ranger Dunstan says he decided to accept the compromise the SPBA offered up during the second appeal of Rogers Mosquito, a compromise offered to the Forest Service by SPBA which had been previously rejected.

Since then, there have been other timber sales both implemented and planned which already have or will further degrade the condition of the drainage. Included is the four Corners sale where the West Branch flows through the middle of this 374 acre cut. This is a very healthy stand of second growth forest.

Without laws, the appeals process and democracy, the citizen owners of the national forests can only stand helplessly by as the Forest Service continues its relentless assault on the beleaguered Lower West Branch of the Priest River drainage.

Ranger Dunstan has also decided to allow lawless logging of visually sensitive areas around the lake which he says will reduce the risk of fire. He provides no scientific evidence to support his decision. In fact, a study of Sierra Nevada forests ordered by Congress released in June, 1996 found that more than any other human activity, logging has increased the risk and severity of fires by removing the cooling shade of trees and leaving flammable debris.

Up north in caribou and grizzly country Ranger Dunstan waved his magic wand again and turned the former Dusty Peak Timber Sale into a "salvage" timber sale.

The timber sale is located in the drainages of Granite, Packer, Dusty and Blacktail Creeks.

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# Huckleberry Bay Company proposes development

## Includes 55 shore lots, 44 second tier lots on Priest Lake

ON JULY 11, 1995 The Huckleberry Bay Company (HBC) submitted a new piecemeal application for a planned unit development (PUD) of 55 single family lake shore lots and 44 single family second tier lots. This was just part of its plan to ultimately build 313 dwelling units at Huckleberry Bay.

The application was rejected by the Bonner County Planning Department because it was incomplete. HBC re-submitted a completed application to the department on April 11, 1996. This application was then procedurally forwarded to other reviewing agencies for their comment. On May 14, Planning Director Martin Taylor informed David Bell of HBC that the appli-

cation did not meet county code requirements, which would need to be satisfied before further processing.

The code referred to concerns and requirements of other agencies. In this case, the Idaho Department of Lands prohibits access to waterfronts through state land, such as the use of recreational easements that had not been included in the design proposal.

Drafts of the Bonner County Planning Department staff report were furnished to SPBA and the public on July 3, for review and comments prior to submission to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The application as submitted covers only routine requirements of ordinances and codes that essentially apply to the confines

of the development area, and limits itself to engineering and architectural design.

"Serious attention must be given to cumulative impacts by substantial human intrusion on adjacent wetlands, uplands, tributary streams and the environment in general," said SPBA Director Jules Gindraux. "Human impacts affect an array of federally threatened and endangered candidate flora and fauna including grizzly bears, caribou, bald eagles, migratory birds, fish species, ancient forest and rare plants."

Federal, state and private associations have stated that fish and wildlife habitats, natural sensitive areas and water quality have declined within the Priest Basin.

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## 'Lawless logging'

*Continued from page 1*

The Congressional Research Service conservatively estimates that this mandated "salvage" logging will cost the taxpayers over 50 million dollars.

The rider is based on the myth that our forests have too many trees and are suffering from an epidemic of insects and diseases which will make them more susceptible to "catastrophic" fires. The rider, sponsored by Senator Slade Gorton R-WA, was heartily endorsed by Idaho's congressional delegation: Senator Larry Craig, Senator Dirk Kempthorne, and Idaho's most notorious Congresswoman, Helen Chenoweth.

The rider calls for a massive "salvage" logging program and includes the suspension of all environmental laws and the citizen appeal process. The law covers timber sales from July, 1995 through December 31, 1996. Since there is no limit set for the actual logging of these timber sales, it is conceivable that these "lawless logging" sales could be carried out for decades.

The rider defines "salvage" timber sales as those which remove "...disease or insect infested trees, dead, damaged, or down trees, or trees affected by fire or imminently susceptible to fire or insect attack...and associated trees...". In other words, by definition, trees that could burn or be attacked by insects could be considered "salvageable", i.e., every tree in the forest can be logged without laws.

Dr. Arthur Partridge, professor of Plant Pathology at the University of Idaho School of Forestry says, "This whole 'forest health' scheme is nothing but a hoax so timber corporations can continue to get subsidized logs without the inconvenience of laws and public oversight." Doc, as he prefers to be called, says that, "The government has no data to support this supposed crisis. In fact, their data shows just the opposite. This supports the data that I have recently accumulated which shows less than one percent mortality in our Inland Northwest forests. This 'crisis' is absolute nonsense. Besides, insects, disease, and dying and dead trees play a critical role in fully functioning forest ecosystems. The Forest Service's own RPA inventory released in 1994 states that there has been no significant increase in mortality rates on federal lands for the last 40 years.

Supervisor James Caswell of the Clearwater National Forest and Scott Russell, Ranger of the Elk City Ranger District on the Nez Perce National Forest seem to agree with Partridge. They have stated in response to public queries that they have no documented evidence that shows that there are abnormal amounts of

dead, damaged, and diseased trees found in their respective areas. The Idaho Fish and Game Department (IFG) states that "sick" trees are NOT the most pressing problem with our forests. "It is our position that the most serious forest ecosystem health issue on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests (IPNF) at this time is watershed conditions, largely brought on by management practices of the last several decades." (IFG letter to Dave Wright, IPNF Supervisor, 1/5/96)

This tree 'health' is a ruse to divert the public's attention away from the catastrophic problems that plague our forest as a result of 40 years of Forest Service and timber corporation mismanagement. It's the same folks who have so damaged our forests who now, with the kind of hubris that accompanies greed, ignorance and failure, say they know the cure for what ails the forest—more chainsaw medicine.

In the Sandpoint, Idaho area, Sandpoint District Ranger Claire Lavendel made the decision to log 12.5 million board feet of trees from the Packsaddle roadless area, and by calling it salvage it is exempt from citizen oversight. Ranger Lavendel left the district shortly after she made her decision, to assume another post with the Forest Service. Critics say most Forest Service employees have no tie to the land. They make bad decisions and leave the forests and the residents of forest communities to suffer the long term consequences.

The Idaho Panhandle does not have many large, intact, unlogged areas. Existing unlogged forests or roadless areas provide critical habitat for wildlife and fish and allow for natural forest functions. These areas are increasingly important given their rarity. The Forest Service is targeting for logging many of these last unroaded places.

Thus, on the basis of a hoax, the public is being locked out of their own forests, existing environmental laws suspended while providing multi-national timber corporations with cheap wood and big profits.

In June, Elizabeth Furse's (D-OR) bill to repeal the salvage rider fell just two votes short of getting attached to the fiscal year 1997 Interior Appropriations bill. What's left? Massive protests against losing the last best places in our forests. Write and/or call President Clinton and tell him to use his administrative authority to stop the illegal salvage rider timber sales. We must keep the pressure on — he is aware that this is an election year

— Barry Rosenberg

To contact the White House, call the comment line at (202) 456-1111, or write: President Clinton, The White House, Washington, DC 20500



# Planning chair muddies lake

## Run-off plagues Priest Lake; Wetlands in danger

JIM ANDERSON SAYS he is fixing the problem that allowed run-off from his development above Linger Longer to dump silt into Priest Lake.

Meanwhile, the Army Corps of Engineers is investigating reports that property owners near Kalispell Bay and the Cavanaugh Bay airstrip filled wetlands without permits. The corps had been unable to contact the land owners to visit the properties - both posted with no trespassing signs - as of June 17.

There is disagreement about how much silt washed into the lake from Anderson's 18-acre development. Anderson said little, if any, silt reached the lake and any that did was "some clay in suspension." Members of SPBA said, however, they saw a plume of silt "halfway to Kalispell Island."

June Bergquist of the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality said she could not determine how much silt reached the lake, but that sediment was still getting into the lake on May 28 when she visited the site. "It was a mess," she said.

She said talked at length with Anderson's engineer the first week in July about changes needed to meet requirements of state water law. She said the engineer is preparing the plan. "We're on our way," she said. "We'll see how it looks." She did not set a deadline for the changes.

Anderson emphasized that he had followed the development plan approved by

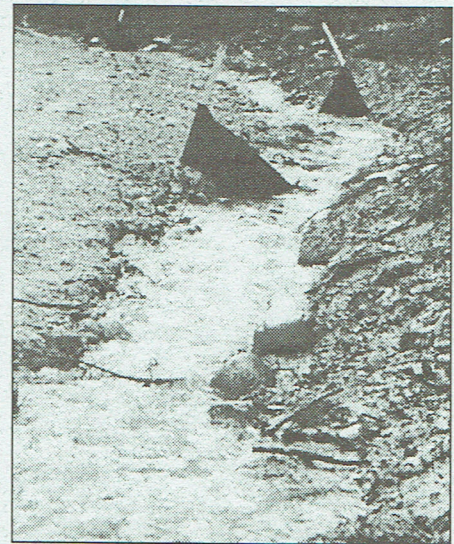
the county and blames this spring's exceptionally heavy rains for the problem. Bergquist says there should have been a contingency plan for handling heavier than usual run-off. Both she and Marty Taylor, Director of the Bonner County Planning and Zoning Department, say the county has tightened its enforcement of storm run-off provisions since 1994, when Anderson's development was approved.

Anderson, Chairman of the Bonner County Planning and Zoning Commission, didn't vote on approval of his own plan.

Bergquist said run-off problems are "happening all around the lake" and the cumulative effects are "rapidly aging the lake." Because the sources of siltation are often difficult to pinpoint, enforcement of prevention measures also is difficult.

DEQ relies largely on cooperation and education in an effort to prevent problems and recently conducted two workshops at Schweitzer Basin to help developers and equipment operators learn techniques for protecting the lake.

The two wetlands issues involve property near Kalispell Bay, owned by Gary Rudie, and a development near Cavanaugh Bay, owned by Larry McCormick of Spokane. Gregg Rayner of the Corps of Engineers had been attempting to contact the land owners to discuss the problems, but he was away from his office the first week in July and no information on the status of the complaints was available.



**SILT RUN-OFF** from Jim Anderson's development near Kalispell Bay, eventually reaching the Priest Lake.

He said one lot-size piece of land near Priest Lake Marina appeared to have been filled "sometime in the past." He said the McCormick property "does appear to have fill which needed a permit."

McCormick received final approval of a 23-lot, 22-acre subdivision west of the Cavanaugh Bay airport last October 13. Because the subdivision received preliminary approval in 1987, it comes under less restrictive land use rules then in effect, said Marty Taylor of the county's planning department said, however, the filling of wetlands is governed by federal law that goes back to 1972.

— Roberta Ulrich

## Basin Logging

*Continued from page 3*

The sale was previously pulled in response to objections by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The timber sale calls for the cutting of 480 acres including 122 acres of clearcut-type logging.

The sale also calls for construction/reconstruction of three miles of road. The Idaho Fish and Game is concerned about the impacts to fish and wildlife that may result.

IFG is also concerned about the road construction/reconstruction since the affected streams are already laden with dirt from previous logging and road building and fish populations are already affected. The IFG thinks it inappropriate to build new roads since the Forest Service does not have enough money to maintain the existing

road system. They also do not like the clearcuts on south facing slopes and question the lack of facts to justify cutting to "improve" caribou habitat, one of the Forest Service's justifications for the sale.

It is obvious to all involved with this salvage logging process that it is predicated on a hoax—forest health does not equal tree health. Our forests are suffering from 40 years of abusive mismanagement. That is the real problem. Unfortunately, the lawless logging rider does not deal with real forest problems.

"No matter what is said, the Forest Service is continuing to fulfill its traditional role—providing trees for the timber industry at the expense of the forest ecosystem," said Bill Egolf, Chair of the SPBA Forestry Committee.

## VERBATIM

**'It just rained too much.'**

— JIM ANDERSON

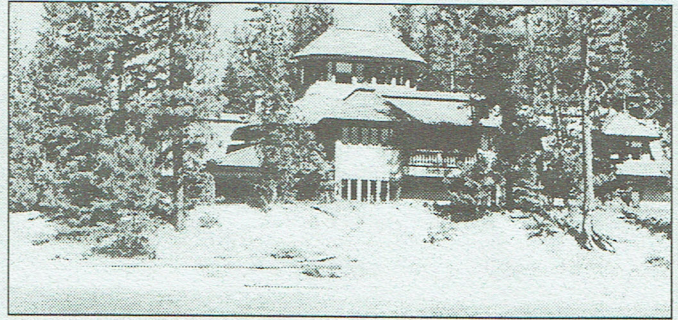
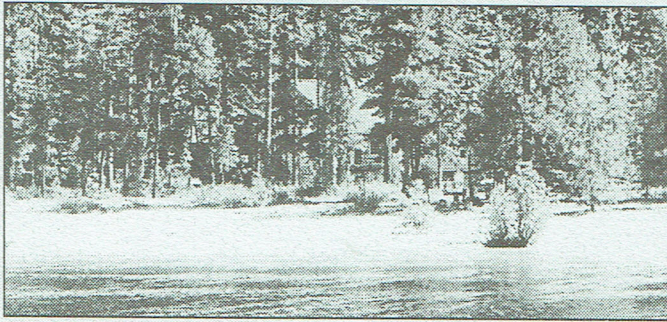
*Jim Anderson is a developer and the head of the Bonner County Planning Commission. His quote is relating to the run-off from his property into Priest Lake, which left a plume of silt 'halfway to Kalispell Island.'*



# SANITY

# VS.

# VANITY



**PRIEST LAKE AND THE SURROUNDING** *hills and mountains offer residents and visitors spectacular, panoramic views. However, the shoreline is sprouting new homes at an unprecedented rate and some of them are out-right obtrusive. As the lake develops, which would you rather view?*

## Timber corporations influence political system

**T**HE RISE OF HEGEMONIC corporations and the influence they exert on our political system is mirrored everywhere in ravaged forests, trashed watersheds, and the diminution of biological diversity.

Despite the American people's unwavering support for environmental protection, the pillage continues unabated. This seemingly paradoxical situation, more often than not, is directly attributable to the undermining of democratic structures by powerful corporate interests.

The Selkirk-Priest Basin Association's travail with the Idaho state political system is a microcosmic look at this dynamic.

Consider: In 1991, the SPBA, alarmed by massive clearcuts, stream degradation, liquidation of old-growth and wildlife habitat, extensive road building, and a lack of cumulative effects analysis on Idaho state forests, enlisted the aid of a number of resource professionals and invested over 3,000 hours into research and documentation efforts in order to substantiate claims that state endowment lands were being mismanaged. The Idaho Land Board was asked to consider the evidence we had compiled. The Board, composed of the five highest elected officials in the state, refused to even look at this material and instead resolved to continue logging.

Since there is no legal mechanism in Idaho to appeal state timber sales, we asked for a rehearing. This request was again denied, but only after lobbyist Joe Hinson, representing the Intermountain Forest Industry Association, considered by many to be nothing more than a front group for the Boise-Cascade Corporation, appeared before the board, unscheduled and unannounced, and asked for a postponement of the decision for rehearing.

Incredibly, Hinson's request is granted and, in a maneuver which SPBA's attorney said "reeks of collusion," used the time gained to ram a bill through the Legislature requiring all lawsuits against state timber sales be accompanied by 10 percent of the sale value. Later, the timber corporation's paid-for Legislature and passed another law prohibiting judicial review of timber sale decisions altogether. Left with no other recourse, SPBA filed suit against the Land Board charging that endowment lands were being managed "for the benefit of the timber industry and in response to political influences."

In July of 1993, First District Court Judge Craig Kosonen dismissed the suit on the grounds that the SPBA, as parents of school children, lack "standing." The judge also ruled that timber corporations, however, deserved standing as intervenors in the case. SPBA, with no other alternative, appealed to the Idaho Supreme Court.

Then, in March of 1994, the Idaho Education Association, the state's largest union, filed a petition for amicus status in the case.

The teachers quickly withdrew their request when the IFIA and Boss Hinson wrote state legislatures suggesting the public school budget be cut and increases in teacher's salaries be "reconsidered."

After this cave-in to corporate extortion, another group, the "Idaho Small Loggers Council," an organization of independent gypo loggers and sawmill owners, filed a brief requesting amicus status in support of SPBA. In a news release, the loggers agreed that logging on the state's two largest forests had "been carried out for decades" at rates which far exceeded sustainable harvest levels and accused the Land Board of "gross mismanagement." Judge Kosonen, consistent as ever, denied the Small Loggers Council's request for "friend of the court" status.

In the end, a case that should have been decided on its scientific merits before the state Land Board became transmogrified into an issue of "standing" before the State Supreme Court. The justices, agreeing with the District Court's ruling that school districts, not school children, were the intended beneficiaries of the endowment trust, nevertheless allowed that the SPBA has standing under the Public Trust Doctrine which holds that navigable bodies of water are held by the state "for the use and benefit of the public." Since Trapper Creek is a "navigable body of water," SPBA claimed standing and prepared to return to court.

The IFIA and Hinson then wrote a bill for their pet legislature restricting use of the Public Trust Doctrine as a legal argument in cases involving state water or land use, and another bill exempting endowment lands from consideration under a 1927 law reserving state lakeshores for recreational purposes.

Instead the prime function of state owned lakeshore land is now timber production. The timber corporations succeed not only in hijacking the public's forests, but their government as well, enshrining once and for all the notion that corporations are the real constituents in the political process.

Keep in mind that the SPBA was not trying to "stop logging on state lands" or challenging the authority of the Land Board's oversight responsibilities. We were merely asking for the right to be heard, for the opportunity to present documented evidence that the public's forests were being grossly mismanaged.

We must now ask what recourse we have in a system that denies participation. In the "New World Order" of corporate politics "we the people" increasingly find ourselves at the back of the bus, the back of the line, or if we have the temerity to protest, on our knees with a corporate boot on the back of our necks.

— Mark Sprengel



# Secretary of Agriculture loosens salvage knot

AS SIGHTLINES GOES to press we have learned that Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman had announced to a group of grassroots forest conservationists, during a June 13th meeting, that for the first time in the history of the Department of Agriculture the Secretary was going to become directly involved in the management of the Forest Service.

Glickman made good on his promise on July 2 when he issued a Directive placing limitations on what timber sales could be called "salvage".

Barry Rosenberg, Forest Watch Director for the Inland Empire Public Lands Council (Council) and SPBA board member attended the meeting. Rosenberg said that "Glickman's Directive is a validation that indeed the Forest Service is running amok with its lawless logging program."

The salvage rider suspends all environmental laws and eliminates the public's right to appeal salvage timber sales. It became law in July, 1995 when President Clinton signed the Rescissions bill.

The Directive issued by Secretary Glickman attempts to curb the more obvious abuses of the lawless logging rider. It states that timber sales in inventoried roadless areas should not be classified as salvage unless they have high risk of fire and are near "local communities or occupied structures".

It also states that green sales that have been "...subsequently withdrawn, such as for environmental or other substantive reasons, may not be reclassified and may not go forward as a...salvage sale."

In six Inland Northwest forests alone, the Council estimates that the limitations presented in the Directive could remove approximately 26 timber sales or 150 million board feet (MMBF) from the salvage program.

On the Priest Lake Ranger District, Rogers Mosquito and Dusty Peak fit the criteria outlined in Glickman's memo. These timber sales would lose their immunity from environmental laws and they would become susceptible to legal challenges.

According to the Council, on the Kootenai (MT), Colville, Okanogan (WA), Idaho Panhandle, Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests (ID) there are at least six "salvage" roadless timber sales totaling over 91 million board feet (MMBF) covering over 8,000 acres that should now be made to comply with environmental laws and be open to legal challenges.

In addition, there are 20 timber sales which propose logging over 63 MMBF from 18,000 acres that were originally "green" timber sales that were withdrawn on appeal and re-released as salvage, or became salvage timber sales after the passage of the rider. These sales should also be available for appeal.

"We are pleased to see that there is movement on the part of the government to begin to curtail the damage brought to our forests by the lawless logging rider. Its not enough. For the sake of our forests this bad piece of legislation needs to be killed, not modified. There is still a lot of room for abuse", said Rosenberg.

## Changing economy spurs new timber trends

### Major corporations attracted to Northwest

THE RUMOR these days is that yet another Priest River mill may close soon. Balancing that to some degree is the news that Buck Merritt has purchased the Crown Pacific mill site and will move the Triad Cedar Products operation from Spokane.

The sawmill portion of the site will be auctioned off later. The Triad business is a "value added" operation. Conventional lumber mill jobs are being replaced with different jobs in applied technology and that is the trend of the future.

Two uncommonly interesting studies released in late 1995 deal specifically with the changing economy of the Pacific Northwest and the interior Columbia River Basin. Drawing from different data, both reach essentially the same conclusions: overall, the economy of this region is improving, while at the same time, the extractive industries of timber and mining are contributing an increasingly smaller proportion of economic support.

A third, extremely significant conclusion is that this economic growth is occurring because companies are choosing to relocate to our area, one which offers amenities not so easily found elsewhere: a beautiful, relatively un-polluted environment with many recreational opportunities.

In this decade we are witnessing the

struggles of the timber industry to squeeze the last pennysworth of private profit from the once-great public forests. Senator Larry Craig's current "salvage logging" bill — which allows logging of green timber, healthy forest, old growth, roadless areas, all without the option of the public having standing to seek review or to appeal any timber sales — sets aside environmental laws.

This approach seeks to perpetuate what is now coming to be recognized as myth, that an unregulated timber industry is essential to the economy of the Northwest.

By contrast, statistics from private industry, academic institutions and from government agencies independently confirm that it is exactly the environment which unrestrained logging destroys that is the critical factor most likely to draw new companies and new industry into the area and to establish the diversified economy so badly needed here.

On a local level, the current debate about the 355 state-leased lots at Priest Lake (and others at Payette Lake and Coeur d'Alene) concerning whether they should be sold or the leases increased substantially to reflect fair-market value, has come about because financial support for Idaho's public schools is dependent in part upon sales of timber from state forests, and it is now apparent that this money will not be sufficient in the future, due in no small part to current overcutting.

At the beginning of this century, when a portion of state timber revenues was dedicated to the support of schools (true in Washington as well as Idaho), the expectation was that this would be adequate income in perpetuity.

At the end of the century, we now see sadly over-logged forests and diminishing revenue from forests, while the economic data clearly confirms that without protection of the total forest environment the qualities which are presently attracting new income-generating businesses might disappear. Continued "salvage logging" may easily kill that which the timber industry so vehemently says it wants to save: the economic health of the Inland Northwest.

— Joanne Hirabayashi

*You may want to contact your congressional representatives on the subject of "salvage logging." Sources: 1) Power, T.M., ed. Univ. of Montana Economics Dept. Economic Well-Being and Environmental Protection in the Pacific Northwest: A Consensus Report by Pacific Northwest Economists, December 1995. 2) Rasker, Ray, PhD. A New Home on the Range: Economic Realities in the Columbia River Basin. The Wilderness Society, Sept. 1995.*



# Huckleberry Bay

Continued from page 4

The decline of wildlife habitats, natural sensitive areas and water quality have been linked to human activities, including development.

According to Gindraux, the increased human population that is inappropriately located at Huckleberry Bay will introduce year-round ORVs, increased traffic on logging roads, dogs and human presence throughout. Power boats will also affect water quality from hydrocarbon and oil pollution and disturbance of silt.

Negative consequences will mitigate against the purpose and spirit and intent of the newly enacted Priest Lake Management Plan, as well as being contrary to long term public interest. Additional burden will be placed on Bonner County taxpayers for imposed public services.

As we go to press, the Bonner County Planning and Zoning Commission has approved the HBC proposal—SPBA is preparing an appeal. Details in next Sightlines. SPBA will be addressing all pertinent issues and it asks that members and supporters express individual views directly to: Bonner County Planning Director Martin Taylor, 127 S. First Ave., Sandpoint, ID 83864.

## 'Lies, dams lies, and statistics'

**H**AVE YOU HEARD how migrating hummingbirds make their long flights over water? Some folks believe they come on backs of geese. That's a fact/myth I've heard before.

I want to know more about these matters. Good science should tell me, so I went to the Audubon Encyclopedia of Birds of North America and a few other field guides.

How do hummers prepare if they don't reserve space on geese? They are built for it. They have unusually large flight muscles (the pectorals) which have more myoglobin and readily oxidized cytochrome than quail or other non-migratories, and a richer supply of blood capillaries and oxygen, an index of the capacity of the red muscles for long flights. The Ruby Throated Hummingbird migrates 600 miles over the Gulf of Mexico.

How many species are there and how many of those appear in the U.S.? Audubon reads 319 species, maybe as many as 339 valid species of which only 21 enter the United States. Of those 7 are in the far west,

4 can appear in Canada, and the Rufous, our only local hummer, reaches Alaska. The National Geographic Field Guide had 11 here in the U.S., the Golden reads 13 as do the liner notes on the tape.

Mark Twain said it cute. It is fun going to sources: myths, lies, damn lies, statistics, good science. I carry a bunch around in my head. How much old growth really remains in the NW?, how do clear cuts affect water sources?, Do I care? Does it make any difference in how hummingbirds fare?

— Kate Batey

*Editor's Note: Ranger Dunstan at the Priest Lake Forest Service station wrote to us and pointed out our numbers were incorrect in the Winter '95 edition of Sightlines in an article on the Forest Service's 12-mile sale. We reported that 2.8 million board feet issued in the EA had jumped to at least 6 million. The correct numbers of board feet are as follows: Original quantity estimate 4.42 mm BF, current quantity estimate 4.99 mm BF, cut as of 5/31/96 - 3.87 mm BF.*

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SELKIRK-PRIEST BASIN ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 1809  
PRIEST RIVER, ID 83856

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