

DERNESS SOCIETY,
DED ON ISSUES,
S BRANDBORG

Stewart M. Brandborg, for 11 years head of the 100,000-member Wilderness Society, has been fired in an internal controversy that has sharply divided the organization, according to a report by James Risser, Washington bureau writer for the *Des Moines Register and Tribune*. Three top staffers have quit, including George Alderson, director of federal affairs, said Risser. Clifton Merritt, formerly western regional director, has been named acting executive director. Risser said the action came in a divided vote of the society's governing council on management policies. He said it also pointed up the issue of whether the society should always remain "purist" or should sometimes try to reach compromises with opponents.



"The Great American Forest," a 42-foot van (left) packed with exhibits on forests and forestry, is touring Idaho at the invitation of schools, recreation groups and other organizations. The non-profit Idaho Forest Council sponsors the program to create better public understanding of the forest resource.

All national forests will be required to complete designation of areas open to off-road vehicles by the end of this year. Management planning is underway, and input is being sought from four-wheel-drive clubs, snowmobile groups and trailbike organizations . . . The Senate version of the BLM Organic Act would mean "virtual cancellation" of the mining laws of 1872, according to Alfred H. Kramm, research director for the World of Rockhounds Assn . . . Fees of \$1 to \$3 a day will be charged at 212 campgrounds in national forests of Oregon and Washington this year, but another 925 campgrounds will be free . . . President Ford has approved hiring an additional 400 National Park Service employees, lifting the ceiling of 7,000 in effect for several years. Visits to national parks have doubled since 1965 . . . The pesky mosquito may play a useful role similar to that of the bee in pollinating wildflowers. Dr. Lewis Nelson of the University of Utah says mosquitoes feed on the nectar of flowers and may pollinate some tiny flowers such as Forget-Me-Nots that bees ignore . . . Washington has opened a special bear season this month in areas where black bears are causing extensive tree damage. The hunt is intended to balance bear population with habitat. . . . Senate hearings are completed on the Ski Area Relief Act that would relax the present 80-acre limitation on ski developments and increase the term of permits from 30 to 50 years . . . Forest Service officials say they are "very optimistic" that they can control another outbreak of the destructive tussock moth without using DDT. Field tests indicate that four new chemicals and two biological agents offer promising control potential.



This red-clawed "Logster" is being used by Simpson Timber Co. to sweep floating debris and logs around the company's waterfront at Shelton, Wash.

IBIT VAN TAKES
BEST EDUCATION
DAHO SCHOOLS

BERLINES . . .

FINAL SHOT FIRED AT 'GUNS OF AUTUMN'

One final reverberation from "The Guns of Autumn," a 90-minute CBS documentary on hunting that outraged millions of hunters: *Columbia Journalism Review*, a respected professional publication, has concluded that the program aimed low. "To select these parodies of hunts for extended treatment, without at least indicating that they do not make up the whole story of hunting, is to play into the hands of critics who say the networks tend to be biased when they deal with subjects dear to the hearts of 'middle Americans,'" it said. "It was as if vegetarians were to make a documentary about packing plants."

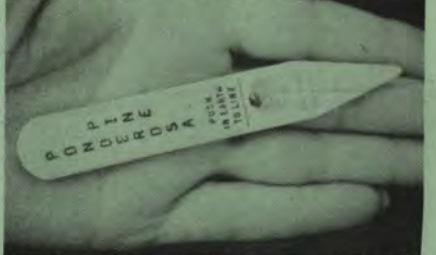
USFS PLANTING HIT 394,000-ACRE MARK IN 1975 PROGRAM

Tree planters in Montana's Lolo National Forest uncover 700,000 seedlings stored under sawdust in a snowbank to prepare for the spring planting season. Some 394,000 acres of national forest land were reforested in fiscal 1975 with funds from timber sales and congressional appropriations. (USFS photo by Geo. Stipe).



TIMBERLINES . . .

The mining industry has been locked out of so much federal land that the base of the U.S. economy is threatened, according to Dr. Jack Carlson, assistant secretary of Interior for energy and minerals. He said 500 million acres — equal to every state east of the Mississippi except Maine, or 67 percent of all federal land — is effectively closed to mineral exploration and mining . . . Poachers are killing deer at an alarming rate in California, using well-organized tactics and CB radio, says Charles Fullerton, state fish and game director . . . The National Society for Conservation and Animal Protection, Box 3129, Bethlehem, Pa. 18017, has been formed for the purpose of protecting sportsmen's rights . . . Bill Barrier, executive director of the Pacific Northwest Ski Assn., says that for every 12,000 acres of public land, more than 2,000 acres have been set aside for preservation while only one acre is devoted to alpine skiing . . . Washington horsemen led by Ken Wilcox held a series of meetings with the Forest Service in March to study trail programs . . . A California Wilderness Coalition, Box 891, Davis 95616, has been formed to coordinate preservationist efforts . . . Boeing Agri-Industrial Co. has contracted for warm water from proposed nuclear plants at Boardman, Ore., to begin tree farming on arid land.



Boise Cascade Corp. is using these "push-in" seed sticks — each one containing pine seeds near its tip — to dramatize tree planting. Single sticks are free, more are 20 cents each, at Box 50, Boise 83728.



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PROPOSED WILDERNESS WOULD BRING DENVER EXTREME WATER BILLS

Boundaries of the proposed Eagles Nest Wilderness in the Colorado Rockies north of Vail approved by the House Interior Committee will raise water costs for thirsty Denverites by \$500 million, according to the Denver Water Board. The boundaries, proposed by westslope Rep. Jim Johnson (R-Colo.), would set aside 130,480 acres atop the Continental Divide — including a key 11,000-acre area from which the Denver Water Board planned to draw water in its eastslope master plan to double Denver's water-delivery system by the year 2000. If the 11,000 acres are included in the wilderness, thus excluding pumping facilities, Denver would have to collect water at a lower elevation and put in additional pumping stations to pump it back up over the divide. Denver Mayor Bill McNichols called Johnson's bill "a shameful use of the wilderness concept." The measure now goes to the full House where Johnson expects approval and then to a joint conference committee for ironing out differences with a Senate-passed companion bill.



(Denver Post cartoon)

SENATOR EYES PLAN TO SPEED PROCESSING OF WILDERNESS BILLS

Congress has so far acted on four of 56 areas of national parks proposed for wilderness designation, and Sen. J. Bennett Johnston Jr. (D-La.) said he may introduce legislation giving the Interior Department authority to designate wilderness areas without congressional review. He said his intent is "to make it easier to get land into wilderness, but not out." E.U. Curtis Bohlen of the Interior Department said wilderness designation would help park superintendents manage the "tremendous pressure from various interest groups" seeking development of facilities "not desirable" in national parks.

WINTERING GROUND FOR BALD EAGLES BECOMES SANCTUARY

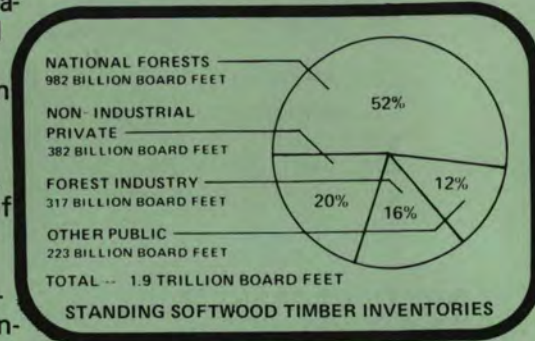


This bald eagle and more than 300 others who returned to their traditional wintering ground along Washington's Skagit River in December will now enjoy a permanent forest sanctuary through actions by Simpson Timber Co. and Scott Paper Co. Simpson donated 110 acres and both companies sold an additional

645 acres (left) at a greatly reduced price to Nature Conservancy to insure protection for the West Coast's largest concentration of northern bald eagles. The birds roam along the river's sandbars, feeding on the carcasses of dead salmon that spawned upstream.

**NATIONAL FORESTS
FACING SHUTDOWN
OF FIBER OUTPUT**

Congress is eyeing action by mid-May on legislation to deal with a court-threatened shutoff of wood fiber from the national forests. The possibility of a national-forest wood embargo arose when courts in the fourth federal circuit ruled that an 1897 law gives the Forest Service authority to sell only trees that are "dead, large growth or physiologically mature." The courts conceded that the old law may be bad forestry, but only Congress can change it. If applied nationally, the court ruling would lay a deadening hand on the practice of scientific forestry, in the opinion of Thomas C. Nelson, deputy chief of the Forest Service. Thinning, for example, perhaps the single best means of stimulating forest growth by eliminating overcrowding among immature trees, would be largely barred, since commercial thinning sales would be prohibited.



The Forest Service said the court order could reduce its wood-fiber harvests 75 percent the first year and 50 percent from then on, throttling growth of one of the nation's greatest renewable resources. Over 15 percent of the nation's wood fiber comes from the national forests — about the same proportion of wood as the percentage of oil the U.S. imported from Arab countries at the time of the oil embargo. In the West, the percentage of standing softwood on Forest Service land is much higher. A bill introduced by Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) would amend the 1897 act to give foresters flexibility to apply their best professional judgment in managing the national forests. Opposing bills by Sen. Jennings Randolph (D-W.Va.) and Rep. George Brown (D-Calif.) would fix the court ruling firmly into law with additional restrictions.

**INDIANS NOW CLAIM
80,000,000 ACRES
OF NATIONAL FOREST**

Indians throughout the West are once again on the warpath — this time fighting in the courts and Congress to claim forests, water rights, mineral deposits and special hunting and fishing privileges. A coalition of 26 tribes met in Denver recently to coordinate strategy, and one tribe — the Northern Cheyenne in Montana — has begun a drive to regain a 550,000-acre national forest. The National Wildlife Federation has called for a new national policy to compensate the Indians and end other special rights. Forest Service Chief John McGuire said Indian claims now total about 80 million of the 187 million acres in the national forests. McGuire said federal policy in the past was to pay the Indians cash in compensation for broken treaties, but Congress and federal agencies are now giving them land and expanded hunting, fishing, timber and water rights. The tribes have filed a host of suits laying claims to "potentially huge" quantities of water from the Colorado, upper Missouri and other basins. One report said proposals for giant new energy developments in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and Arizona are especially vulnerable to Indian challenges because they would use water or coal on or near reservations or would require transmission lines across reservation lands.

**PRESIDENT SIGNS
BILL ON FLAT TOPS
WITH 'RELUCTANCE'**

President Ford has signed a bill creating the Flat Tops Wilderness in Colorado, saying he did so reluctantly because it "includes some constructed reservoir, partially constructed roads and private lands with cabins and other improvements" not consistent with wilderness. Congress had added 93,000 acres to the 142,000 acres originally proposed for wilderness by the Forest Service. The President said a mineral survey has not been conducted within much of the area added to the bill by Congress.

**LAWSUIT TO BLOCK
ALASKA WOLF CONTROL
DISMISSED BY COURT**

A U.S. District Court has dismissed a preservationist group's suit seeking to block a wolf-control project by the State of Alaska. The state proposed to remove about 100 wolves from an area near Fairbanks to aid calving success by moose and study the effect of this control measure on moose population. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game says the wolf population has grown to an historic high under improved management programs with the number of wolves now variously estimated at 8,000 to 10,000.

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
VISIT TIMBER COUNTRY
AS 'FOREST INTERNS'**



These high-school students from cities far removed from timber country are shown learning about forests and forest management in the American Forest Institute's forest-intern program, now going into its third year. AFI flew the students, two each from three cities in which schools are participating, to areas where they lived for a week with a forester's family. From left above are Kelly Dillon, San Diego, with Boise Cascade Corp. at LaGrande, Ore.; Diana Allen, San Diego, with International Paper Co., Longview, Wash.; and Dick Lam, Oakland, with Louisiana-Pacific Corp., Big Lagoon, Calif. Other host companies were Southwest Forest Industries, Phoenix, Ariz.; Weyerhaeuser Co., Snoqualmie Falls, Wash.; and Crown Zellerbach Corp., Seaside, Ore.

**COURT TRIAL NEARS
FOR MINERAL KING
SKI DEVELOPMENT**

A final decision by the Forest Service on its revised recreational-development plan for Mineral King Valley in California is expected by late April. The federal district court for northern California will then proceed to trial this summer of the Sierra Club lawsuit against development of the area filed in 1972. The proposed year-around complex covered by the final environmental statement sharply reduces the recreational capacity originally planned for, but would still accommodate 6,000 people at any one time in summer and 8,000 people in winter with 18 ski lifts, campgrounds, new trails and other support facilities. Camping, fishing, hiking and horseback riding would be featured in summer. Facilities such as an equestrian center and an environmental-education center are included. Access to Mineral King Village would be by electric bus.



Mineral King Valley (USFS photo)

The lawsuit alleges that the environmental statement is inadequate, that the Forest Service has no authority to issue development permits covering more than 80 acres, that development is inconsistent with purposes of the Mineral King Game Refuge and that the Park Service may not permit road access across Sequoia National Park for non-park purposes. Rep. John Krebs (D-Calif.) said he will introduce a bill annexing Mineral King to Sequoia National Park. A similar bill introduced last year by Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.) has not been scheduled for hearing.

**ROAD CLOSURES
DUE THIS SUMMER
AT MT. RAINIER**

Two roads which provide access to popular hiking and camping on the west side of Mt. Rainier National Park in Washington will be closed this summer, the National Park Service has announced. Park officials said they will maintain severe camping restrictions and a total camping ban in another area where the road closures prevent people from hiking in and out in one day. The 62-unit campground at Paradise will be closed. The Washington Recreation and Resource Council estimated that only 1,500 people will be able to use the 210,700 acres of wilderness daily under the new restrictions. Larry Penberthy, a Seattle resident who filed a suit challenging the Park Service restrictions, said removing the roads and planting them with alders would destroy an estimated \$5 million of public property. He said he and others would seek an injunction until his lawsuit could be tried. The Park Service has recommended that 90 percent of the 235,239-acre park become wilderness.



Camping restricted here.

**MAN RESHAPES
FIRE ECOLOGY
OF SEQUOIAS**

Man's control of forest fires in California's Sequoia National Park may have produced an unexpected side effect — a population explosion among carpenter ants who burrow into the old sequoia trees. The nocturnal ants nest in the giant wood skyscrapers by day, but come out at night, file to the ground and ascend nearby white firs to collect honeydew manufactured by aphids attracted to the sticky juices of the firs. Before man gave protection to the groves, periodic fires kept down the number of white firs that have now grown up around the sequoias.



General Sherman

TIMBERLINES . . .

Colo. Gov. Dick Lamm has withdrawn his state's objections to development of Beaver Creek 10 miles west of Vail as a winter sports area, clearing the way for a project that will accommodate 10,000 skiers each year. . . . The minimum age limit of 16 years for snowmobilers at Yellowstone National Park has been reduced to 12. . . . The Fish and Wildlife Service has listed the grizzly bear as a threatened species in the lower 48 states, but said sport hunters may continue to take up to 25 bears annually in northwestern Montana. . . . The Sierra Club has filed a petition under the Freedom of Information Act to obtain information collected by the National Park Service on air quality in the national parks. . . . The Wildlife Management Institute says wild horses and burros have doubled their numbers since 1971, are increasing at about 20 percent a year and are displacing native wildlife. . . . Snowmobilers are concerned over the amount of public land being closed to recreation vehicles in Idaho, Ray Brandt of the Idaho Snowmobile Assn. told the recent Greater Snake River Land-Use Congress. There are 19,000 snowmobilers in Idaho with 60 organized clubs. . . . The National Park Service is seeking public comments with an eye toward easing the ban on hang-gliding in national parks. Interior Department's Nathaniel Reed said "they (glider groups) reminded us that such comparable activities as mountain climbing, canoeing, skiing, rafting and scuba-diving are permitted." . . . Bonneville Power Administration is going to give some of its transmission towers a special paint job to make them blend in with the natural scenery.