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# The American Forestry Association **PRESS**

## **RELEASE**

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WILDERNESS EMOTIONS PROBED IN AMERICAN FORESTS MAGAZINE

FEB. 25--"It's time for the managers to take over" the care of the nation's wildernesses, argues the March issue of AMERICAN FORESTS magazine. In a feature story titled "Wilderness: Can We Have It and Use It Too?" associate editor Jay Heinrichs states that the increasing number of people using the wilderness may destroy the very pristine setting they seek. In reaction, resource professionals rely on sociological studies and subtle administration to try to "modify" the user's "behavior." "This is why, at some trailheads that lead into wildernesses, hidden cameras quietly snap pictures every few seconds," the article reports.

But the magazine says that a lasting nostalgia for the old American frontier--when people were free to exploit fresh territory or admire unspoiled beauty--motivates both preservationists and developers in promoting their opposing causes. "One person can see a virgin land as a tract that has yet to be raped by modern man. Another can see the same virgin land as one that has yet to be married to man's needs. The virginity--the pure wildness--may appeal to both." The piece argues that this yearning for a frontier that died almost a century ago may hamper efforts to protect the remaining wild areas in the country, by causing opposition to proper management.

Other articles appearing in the March issue of AMERICAN FORESTS--published by The American Forestry Association, a national conservation organization--include the first part of a two-part series on owls by noted wildlife journalist Ben East; a small-woodland owner's description of how an ice storm's destruction gave him a lesson in good forestry; and a "how-to" piece on maple sugaring by columnist Dorothy Behlen. (Note to editors: a complimentary copy of the magazine is available upon request.)

**AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION**

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