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back to me



## East River Travellers

exploring the uncommon

28 May 1993

Dr John Hendee, Dean  
College of Forestry, Wildlife,  
and Range Sciences  
University of Idaho  
Moscow Idaho 83843

Dear Dr Hendee

If you will look at the list of 1956 graduates you will find me among them. I was a practicing forester only for a short time (USFS Payette NF and State of Idaho, McCall Office) before a recall to active military service led me on another path for 20+ years; but I never lost my love of the forest!

When I began semi-retirement from the business world in 1990 I became an active participant in The Nature Conservancy, Wilderness Society, and Audubon Society. Through these organizations, and the World Forestry Center in Portland, I began to get a feel for what was happening in our forests and wild lands, including their destruction to satisfy political demands (which makes me sad) and the strong-hearted forester-scientists (of whom I am proud) who continue to stand up for the stewardship and well-being of our wild lands, or what I call acknowledging the sacredness of our lands. But there's still enough of the old forester-logger in me that I continue to support the basic "multiple use" principle, provided that logging and grazing (I'm not sure about mining) is both profitable and appropriate to the public need, with due consideration given to "sacred lands" (yet to be defined).

About a year ago an article appeared in a popular travel magazine in which Professor Gary Machlis discussed some of the uses and abuses of our wild lands and introduced the word "sociology" in wild land management. This really caught my eye and piqued my interest as "sociology" was not a consideration in the forestry curriculum when I was a student. I wrote to Dr Machlis for more information and he sent me course descriptions and other material that gave me a good feeling that would-be wild land managers (at least at UofI) are getting a solid background in the basic notion that a forest is much more than trees to make lumber and that wild land has human interests and concerns. This is akin to my use of the term "sacred land". Would you please share this letter with Dr Machlis so that he will see that his feedback to me has led me further down the path of becoming re-acquainted with current education in wild land management.



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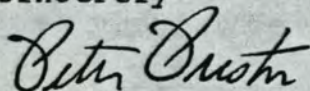
Through the Wilderness Society, and thence USFS (Ken Wotring, Salmon NF; Kurt Becker, Payette NF), I am becoming reacquainted with the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness Area and its currently-developing management plan. I am now a "Friend of the Frank" and am eager to add my comments as the plan develops. The Frank is, in part, sacred land to our family in that my wife's father began his USFS career as packer-fireguard on the old Chamberlain District in 1926, and my wife's great-grandmother's 1917 homestead was on the South Fork of the Salmon, just outside the Frank boundary. My wife is a McCall native; we met while I was in summer school there and married upon graduation.

The activity on the Frank has also led me back to my alma mater: in the "Visions of the Future" guide for the 25-27 March symposium in Boise is the U of I position statement (pp 32-33) for managing the Frank, to which I subscribe. Items that attracted my attention were that the Frank is now an international biosphere and the old Taylor Ranch (we used to fly in there in the old Ford Tri-motors for elk hunting) is now the U of I Wilderness Research Station.

The foregoing dissertation has been leading to an observation and question; several of the position statements on the Frank call for a comprehensive biodata survey to be accomplished as a multipurpose baseline. Might there be opportunities for technically qualified (I can still spell *Pinus ponderosa*) individuals to volunteer for such surveys? Or in some way provide volunteer assistance that would be beneficial to the management of the Frank? A volunteer program such as the very successful USFS Passport In Time (PIT) program for archaeology/history might be considered as a model.

I am going to be in Idaho for about six weeks this summer, from late July to early September, using McCall as my base camp while I do research on an area history in cooperation with Payette NF. I will be transiting Moscow going to-from Spokane on a flexible schedule in August. May I contact your secretary to arrange a face-to-face meeting with you in your office sometime in August? I would like to meet you and talk in general about the "changing face of forestry" and specifically about how I might provide volunteer assistance to the University's role in the technical/scientific interests in the management of the Frank biosphere.

Sincerely



Peter Preston