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December 7, 1992

UI Wilderness Research Center (WRC)

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Steve Brunsfeld, Assistant Professor of Forest Resources

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Oz Garton, Professor of Wildlife Resources

Marvin Henberg, Professor of Philosophy and Director, UI Honors Program

John Hunt, Professor and Head, Department of Resource Recreation and Tourism

Harley Johanson, Professor and Head, Department of Geography

Leon Neuenschwander, Professor of Forest and Range Resources, Associate Director, CFWR Experiment Station and Associate Dean for Research and International Programs

Harry Peterson, Vice President for External Relations and Development

Art Rourke, Professor and Head, Department of Biology

Carlos Schwantes, Professor of History

Mike Scott, Professor and Leader, Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit

Art Smith, Professor and Associate Dean, Law

Subject: FORUM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1-3 P.M.: SUB BALLROOM

Dear Colleagues:

Congressman LaRocco will be holding hearings in Idaho, December 12-16 (December 15 in Lewiston) to get public input prior to introducing a new Idaho wilderness bill early in the new Congress. Senator Craig wants to address some major issues unresolved in previous legislative attempts before introducing a new bill in the Senate.

Last week CFWR was contacted by both Senator Craig's and Congressman LaRocco's staff asking our help in identifying the kind of information and analysis we could contribute toward resolution of Idaho's wilderness situation. A meeting convenient to both parties has been scheduled for Tuesday, December 15.

As we discussed briefly at the Wilderness Research Center (WRC) advisory committee meeting November 12, the WRC, as a university-wide center, may be the

most appropriate UI unit to facilitate information on the wilderness issue. It is important that our response is university wide and non partisan. Thus, after discussing the issue with the staffs of Senator Craig and Congressman LaRocco, and some of you, I have planned a forum for Tuesday, December 15, from 1-3 p.m. as a Wilderness Research Center event.

The purpose of the two-hour forum will be to address the question: **What kind of information and analysis could be developed by UI to help resolve the wilderness allocation issue in Idaho?** A facilitator (Dr. Ed Krumpe) will run the forum to identify and describe the kind of information and analysis UI faculty (or graduate students) might develop. The goal is a list of ideas to consider and critical discussion about how useful or applicable they may be. Congressman LaRocco and the staffs of Senator Craig and Congressman LaRocco will attend.

Three ideas are already scheduled for short presentations and discussion based on the expressed interest of the congressional staff:

1. The current Policy Analysis Group (PAG) project "Analysis of Roadless Areas and Wilderness Proposals in Idaho," which is a chronology and analysis of successful and unsuccessful wilderness allocation proposals. (Dr. Jay O'Laughlin)
2. Potential biodiversity analysis utilizing the GAP analysis methodology developed by Dr. Mike Scott and the Fish and Wildlife Cooperative Research Unit. (Dr. Mike Scott)
3. Potential use of "option finder" and other group process documentation methods being adapted and applied by Drs. McLaughlin, Krumpe, Sanyal, and Hunt in the Resource Recreation and Tourism Department. (Dr. John Hunt)

Please inform faculty who may have ideas or proposals to present or want to participate in the discussion. If they want ten minutes on the agenda for a formal presentation, please have them call Dr. Ed Krumpe (885-7428) or me (885-6442). I hope as many of the WRC advisors as possible will attend. Enclosed is an announcement you may wish to post.

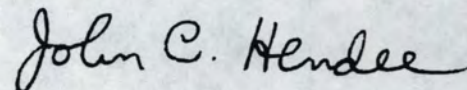
Some ground rules for the forum are:

1. There is no money to support any ideas that may be proposed. We envision regular academic and research program activity such as term papers, graduate research, etc.

2. This is an idea-generating session sponsored by the WRC, with no planned WRC follow up until we are asked, and WRC advisors have an opportunity to consider such requests. Of course, any other UI unit can respond to requests as they desire and as appropriate.
3. As a public tax-assisted institution, it is appropriate for UI only to provide objective information and analysis. Of course, UI employees are free to participate in the wilderness allocation process as citizens, but the official role of the university is limited to contributing information and analysis.

Please contact me with your additional ideas and suggestions for the meeting.

Sincerely,



John C. Hendee, Dean, CFWR
Acting Director, UI Wilderness
Research Center

JCH/mp

cc: President Elisabeth A. Zinser
Provost Thomas O. Bell
UI College Deans
Senator Larry Craig
Congressman Larry LaRocco

E. J.
Kramer
Contor
file

30-year career embraced wilderness in managing parks

BY PETER HARRIMAN

Staff Writer

Roger Contor, over a 30-year career, was the superintendent of four national parks and was regional director in Alaska when 54 million acres — as much land as all Idaho — was added to the national parks system.

He has long been a proponent of wilderness in national parks, and Thursday he offered

"A Vision for Wilderness in the National Parks" as the 12th University of Idaho Wilderness Resource Lecture.

Contor, a UI graduate who has retired near Ellensburg, spent his career with the National Parks Service during a transitional time for that agency. He was there both before and after the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, which established a new way of looking at America's wild land.

Thursday at the UI, he prodded the parks service to do more than simply tolerate wilderness but to embrace it.

National parks, with 40 million acres of wilderness within their boundaries, are the largest custodian of wilderness in the U.S. The Forest Service follows with 34 million acres, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages 19 million acres, and the Bureau of Land Management oversees just less than 1

million acres of wilderness. Contor likes the fact wilderness management is spread among several agencies. He suggests that creates competition to outdo each other in good management.

He is not shy about laying down his precepts for wilderness, bluntly asserting "I really wouldn't want to be in wilderness if there weren't some grizzly bears around it."

He offered a 16-point pre-

scription for improving wilderness management in national parks. Reduced to a few core concepts, Contor's list promotes a National Parks Service with a strong professional staff that drives management strategies, rather than politically appointed directors. And he says wilderness should be truly wild land, full of indigenous plants and animals, and virtually empty of man-made structures and unneeded trails.

Contor's most far-reaching tenet of enlightened wilderness management might be for agencies like the National Parks Service to "aggressively pursue research to nail down the quantifiable benefits of wilderness to mankind."

Contor believes such benefits, in myriad ways, exist. He also fears that in a nation where natural resources are becoming ever more precious, wilderness may eventually have to be defended to prevent its development.

"The best single measure of the quality of life," he says, "is diversity. Wilderness is an addition to that diversity in America.

"A world run from a business school mentality, 'use it up now, because it won't be here forever,' is a world that will not endure."