



# THE PINCHOT LETTER

News from the Pinchot Institute for Conservation

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## Coda: Johannesburg, 2002

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Obviously, this is not Rio,” said United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan at the conclusion of the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa, August 19 to September 4, 2002. And indeed, it was not.

### THE PAST

The Earth Summit ten years earlier in Rio de Janeiro was a landmark event. It produced an outstanding blueprint for sustainable development, “Agenda 21;” two major international conventions on climate and biodiversity protection and a commitment to desertification by a third; the beginnings of the Earth Charter; the important Rio Principles to guide international decision-making; and a commitment to almost double development assistance funding. By contrast, WSSD’s Plan of Implementation is a faint echo, though there were a few notable accomplishments.

### THE PRESENT

Whether one deems the Johannesburg Summit a failure or a very modest success depends on the measuring stick one applies. If one asks whether the Summit responded seriously to global-scale environmental threats or brought globalization and sustainable development together, the only honest answer is that it did not

and that the Summit, in failing to rise to the moment, was a huge missed opportunity. Environmental leaders have been almost unanimous in voicing dismay, though they have not lost their sense of humor. The World Wildlife Fund called WSSD the “World Summit on Shameful Deals,”



J. Gustave Speth

and Greenpeace noted that the Plan of Action on energy “is not much of a plan and contains almost no action.”

When the heads of state took the podium in the final days, speaker after speaker attacked the plan as too weak, and after formally agreeing to the text, the delegates from almost 200

nations applauded for just ten seconds. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was heckled. The anger at the United States was palpable. Not only was President George W. Bush not among the 104 heads of state in attendance, but the United States had fought with considerable success against tough targets and timetables, including the European proposal to set a goal of having 15% of countries’ energy provided by renewable sources by 2015. Iran, Iraq, most of the OPEC countries and Japan joined the United States in this successful opposition.

Across the entire political spectrum, almost everyone at Johannesburg accepted the proposition that the excellent agreements reached at Rio had not been effectively implemented or, as was the case with the commitment to increase development assistance, had been honored in the

*(continued on page 2)*

### INSIDE

- ✿ Part I: Asset Management Approach .....page 3
- ✿ Partnerships Refined...page 8
- ✿ Upcoming & Holiday Events .....page 11
- ✿ Pennsylvania Grants \$2M to Grey Towers .....page 12

*Leadership in Forest Conservation Thought, Policy and Action*



breach. WSSD, therefore, was to be about implementation. Jacob Scherr at the Natural Resources Defense Council said WSSD should be the Down to Earth Summit.

## THE NEED

A year before the Summit, Maurice Strong, who ably led the previous environment and development conferences at Stockholm and Rio, wrote that “what is needed for Johannesburg is a clearly stated theme or goal, together with concrete measures and firm commitments to spe-

cific targets designed to measure progress along the way.” I was among those at that time who strongly agreed with Strong that Johannesburg would succeed if agreements were reached on specific plans of action to which governments were unambiguously committed, with targets and timetables and commitments to funding. Nothing else could close the huge credibility and accountability gaps that had opened since Rio.

My meeting to discuss these matters with Secretary-General Annan was scheduled on September 11, and

I arrived at Grand Central Station just as the first of the twin towers collapsed. When we did finally meet in October, we went over possible areas where definite, concrete plans of action with specific, funded and time-bound objectives might be framed for WSSD, including: 1) providing secure, committed funding and other support needed to meet the Millennium Development Goals, such as the goal of halving world poverty by 2015; 2) complementing the Kyoto Protocol with commitments to end

*(continued on page 16)*

## ABOUT THE PINCHOT INSTITUTE

Recognized as a leader in forest conservation thought, policy and action, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation was dedicated in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy, Jr. at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark (Milford, PA)—home of conservation leader Gifford Pinchot. The Institute is an independent nonprofit organization that works collaboratively with all Americans nationwide—from federal and state policymakers to citizens in rural communities—to strengthen forest conservation by advancing sustainable forest management, developing conservation leaders, and providing science-based solutions to emerging natural resource issues. Further information about the Pinchot Institute’s programs and activities can be found at [www.pinchot.org](http://www.pinchot.org).

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## PERSPECTIVE

## An Asset Management Approach to Forest Stewardship (Part I)

*Dr. V. Alaric Sample*

*President, Pinchot Institute for Conservation*

Land stewardship in the context of sustainable forest management implies more than just minimizing abuse. Stewardship implies an active husbanding of the land and its resources that is, not only to provide for the needs of the current generation, but also to leave these resources to future generations in as good or better condition than they were received.

Today, Americans are the beneficiaries of a forest legacy created by farsighted leaders of the Conservation Movement more than a century ago. The nation now has more forest area than at any time since the American Revolution. Yet we find that the value of these forest assets—in terms of timber quality, wildlife habitat, biodiversity and other measures—is declining in many instances. The notion of increasing net asset value of forest resources—building principal as it were—seems to have disappeared from the professional lexicon of forest management, even as we wax eloquent on terms like sustainable forestry and ecosystem management.

### DEPRECIATING ASSETS: REINVESTMENT IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS

In recent Congressional testimony, Forest Service officials estimated that as much as 73 million acres of the National Forest System are at high risk for outbreaks of catastrophic wildfires, the kind that has already devastated hundreds of thousands of acres of National Forest this year in Colorado, Arizona, Oregon and elsewhere (USDA Forest Service, 2002).

This is the result of more than just

the unusually hot, dry conditions that have prevailed in much of the western United States in recent years. The Forest Service reports that much of this forest is dangerously crowded with dense stands of fire-prone tree species, a gradually unfolding problem made acute by the degree to which drought-stressed trees are succumbing to disease, insects, and other causes of mortality. An area more than 20 times the size of Connecticut is



Dr. V. Alaric Sample

dense with tinder-dry fuel, just waiting for a spark.

There is plenty of blame going around, as the leaders in our nation point fingers and scramble to find the hundreds of millions of dollars needed to put out the fires, pay claims for private property damage, and take emergency measures to prevent catastrophic floods later on when these burned-out forests shed stormwater they are no longer capable of storing in their blackened soils. Some of these

fingers have pointed to the Sierra Club and other environmental activists for their opposition to timber harvesting on Federal lands, including forest health-related thinning of overstocked stands. With National Forest timber harvests already driven to lows not seen since World War II, it is argued that the Forest Service is being prevented from even doing the custodial management necessary to protect the forest resources themselves.

But this period immediately following World War II was significant for another reason. It was a period when Congress, eager to create jobs for their constituents and fuel the postwar housing boom, pressed the Forest Service to sharply increase the amount of timber being harvested from the National Forests. The Forest Service—always a “can do” organization—was just as eager to respond, but with a caveat.

Increasing the level of National Forest timber harvests, which eventually topped out at more than 12 billion board feet annually (enough to build about two million single family homes at the time), would necessitate similar increases in expenditures on reforestation and “timber stand improvement” (Hirt, 1994). Timber stand improvement consisted largely of thinning immature stands of regenerated forest to improve their growth rates and wood quality, but typically at a stage in which the trees removed are too small to be of any commercial value—a costly investment that would not pay off until several decades later. Never one to think

*(continued on page 4)*

that many election-cycles ahead, Congress balked. Give us the timber now, they instructed the Forest Service through their appropriations, and let's worry about reinvestment in the forests later.

Unfortunately, much later, as it turns out. During hearings leading up to the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976, Congress "discovered" the enormous backlog in reforestation following timber harvests on the National Forests. The Reforestation Trust Fund was created, with a requirement that the Forest Service report annually to Congress on its progress in working off the backlog (16 USC 1600, 1976). The budget deficit-conscious Office of Management and Budget subsequently concluded that, given the trust funds set aside for reforestation, the regular Forest Service budget line-item for "reforestation and timber stand improvement" could be essentially zeroed out in the President's Budget—an instant budget savings, considering that trust funds are "off budget" (Gorte and Corn, 1995).

But the trust funds were devoted strictly to reforestation, and did not include follow-up silvicultural activities, like timber stand improvement. Ironically, Congress' attempt to make up for decades of under-investment in reforestation simply compounded the other problem of decades of under-investment in silvicultural treatments, like thinning. What we see today on the National Forests—overstocked stands of low quality timber, highly susceptible to infestation and wild-fire—represents more than a half-century of deferred maintenance, for which Congress must share responsibility with the Forest Service.

This is not offered as an indictment for the dangerous and enormously wasteful situation on the National Forests today. Nor is it presented as another opportunity for hand-wringing over the short-sight-

edness of the nation's political leaders, when it comes to issues like sustainable natural resource management, that require a long-term perspective and commitment. Rather, it is offered only as a current example of how the prevailing concept of land stewardship in forestry, and the underlying economic framework that is used to make this concept operational in daily resource management decision making, somehow still manages to result in degraded forests so diminished in value from the last generation to the next as to run counter to the very idea of stewardship itself.

#### FOREST ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT: JUST A DIFFERENT MIX OF OUTPUTS?

The advent of the term "ecosystem management" in forestry prompted a spirited debate whether the purpose of forest management is to produce certain "outputs" demanded by society—such as timber, minerals, wildlife, or water—or to maintain certain forest conditions deemed valuable by society, such as those favorable for preserving biological diversity (Sedjo, 1996).

With reference to federal forests in the U.S., MacCleery and LeMaster (1999) state "the focus of multiple-use, sustained-yield [forest management] has tended to be on resource outputs or 'flows', whereas ecosystem management places relatively more emphasis on ecosystem 'states' and 'conditions.'" Sedjo notes "The objective of ecosystem management is viewed as not the output of the forest factory, but rather the condition of the forest factory itself. The various, multiple-use outputs of the forest, including the outputs that are mandated by Congress, become merely incidental, with little if any attention being given to the costs and tradeoffs required."

Devising a suitably rigorous, ana-

lytical underpinning for forest management decision-making in this context has been a challenge to the neoclassical economic paradigm (Daly, 2002). Johnson (1997) argues that because a healthy ecosystem is the goal of ecosystem management, little time is spent considering the benefits and costs of various actions. Thus, although trade-offs between preservation and logging, grazing and mining will continue to be made, the criteria delineating for whom and on what basis these trade-offs will occur are not identified.

Observing that "one cannot manage what one cannot measure," Sedjo (1996) argues that the difficulty of measuring progress toward the goals of ecosystem management makes it impossible to determine success toward those goals. Kirkland (1987) has argued that in the absence of meaningful measures, the achievement of the best balance becomes a matter of judgment. This begs the question of whose judgment should be used to determine the set of forest attributes that provide the ideal condition, and by whom this ideal condition should be determined.

The developing field of ecological economics offers new insights into the creation of economic models that factor in not only the value of current production, but also the degree to which the value of the underlying asset is accumulating or being depleted. Much of this work has focused at the level of national income accounting (Costanza, 1997).

Repetto (1989) demonstrated that data are adequate even in many developing countries to estimate adjustments for the depletion of some important forms of natural capital, and that the adjustments could be large relative to conventional gross measures of national product and investment. The adjusted net measures suggest that a substantial portion of many countries' economic growth is

simply the unsustainable “cashing in” of their natural wealth. Recent research has examined the application of this concept at the local level (Prugh, 2000), and has explored the concept in the context of forests in particular (Hartwick, 1993). Further information on how this can best be accomplished will be discussed in the next issue of *The Pinchot Letter*.

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## PARTNERING THROUGH THE CFC

Considering the reality of the current marketplace, we realize that now, more than ever, we need to diversify our base of financial support, begin establishing relationships with new friends who recognize the value of our work, and build an endowment to ensure that our programs can continue to impact forest policies and conservation. Your fully tax-deductible gift made through the current *Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)* can help us do this, plus much more.

By ensuring that we have well-maintained forests, your gift also helps our nation to have cleaner air, better quality water, reduced pollution and toxic substances, sustainable timber, more affordable energy resources and supplies of fish, and properly maintained rivers, beaches, and shorelines. In turn, this gives us more opportunities for outdoor recreation, an abundant quantity and variety of wildlife, and affordable grazing lands and soil conservation for our animals.

Please don't forget us. With over 3,000 nonprofits participating annually in the *CFC* campaign, we want to make sure that we can continue to fund our efforts—work that directly supports yours. Only by working together can we spread the roots of forest conservation.

For more information on how to contribute through the *CFC* and ensure that you're kept informed of our work and exciting events at Grey Towers, please contact Kendra Miller at 202-797-6580 or [kmiller@pinchot.org](mailto:kmiller@pinchot.org).



## Review: Farm Bill 2002 Forum

Last May, Congress passed the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, otherwise known as the 2002 Farm Bill. The legislation contains a number of provisions that create or modify forestry-related programs. Not only will these programs help ensure the sustainable management of our nations' forests, they will also provide much-needed technical, financial, and educational assistance to non-industrial, private forest landowners. Various agencies within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will coordinate with states to develop rules and implementation strategies for these programs.

The Pinchot Institute for Conservation hosted "Farm Bill 2002 Forum: Review and Discussion of Forestry Opportunities" on August 8, 2002 at the Washington Terrace Hotel in Washington, DC. The forum's objectives were to highlight the forestry-related provisions of the 2002 bill, the agency's potential strategies for implementing them, and to provide opportunities for the public to provide input to the agency.

Approximately 80 individuals participated in the forum. These individuals represented state and federal agencies, forest landowner associations, community organizations, environmental organizations, universities, and private forest landowners.

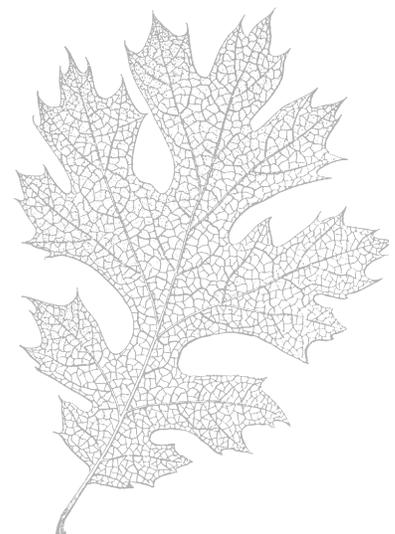
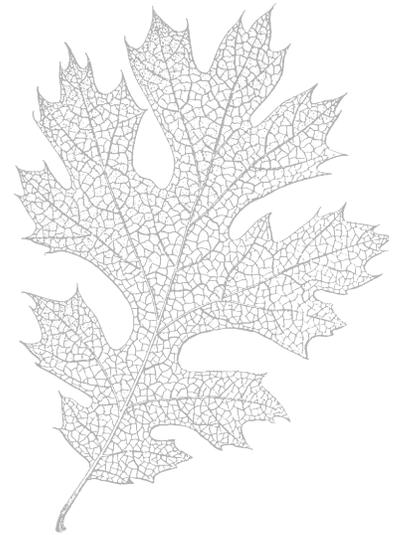
The first half of the forum consisted of presentations from federal and state agency representatives and Congress. The presentations highlighted several programs that were introduced through the Farm Bill's Forestry Title (which was mentioned in the previous issue of this newsletter), including the Forest Land En-

hancement Program (FLEP), the Sustainable Forestry Outreach Initiative (SFOI), and the Community and Private Lands Fire Assistance Program (CPLFA). Conservation Title programs that provide opportunities for the forestry community were also reviewed. Several USDA agencies—including the Forest Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Farm Service Agency—have responsibility for administering these programs. Speakers noted that these programs are being developed collaboratively by federal agencies and non-federal stakeholders, such as state foresters, state committees, landowners, etc.

Following two lunchtime presentations by private forest landowners, the afternoon was devoted to breakout sessions on the Forestry and Conservation Titles' programs that presented during at morning panels. At these sessions, participants asked questions of federal and state representatives, and provided invaluable comments on the proposed implementation of the programs. Agency representatives indicated that they would consider this input as they develop implementation strategies for the programs.

The Pinchot Institute has produced a report that summarizes the morning presentations and compiles the participant's comments from the afternoon breakout sessions. Appendices include the forum's agenda, a participant list, and fact sheets on each of the programs discussed.

The report is available on our website at [www.pinchot.org/pic/farm-bill/forum.html](http://www.pinchot.org/pic/farm-bill/forum.html). If you would like to receive a printed copy, please email [publications@pinchot.org](mailto:publications@pinchot.org) or call (202) 797-6580.



## Pinchot Institute Staff Testifies Before Congress

On July 18, 2002, Andrea Bedell Loucks (Community-based Forest Stewardship program) testified before the House Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition, and Forestry. Subcommittee chair, Bob Goodlatte (R-Virginia) convened the hearing to discuss the use of stewardship contracts in the prevention of wildfire and the value of independently monitored activities associated with their use.

On the first witness panel, Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth testified that the pilot program has “provided the Forest Service and local communities with additional opportunities to work collaboratively to find common ground and to focus on what is left

on the land, rather than what [the Forest Service] removes from it.” He further mentioned a variety of positive values associated with the pilots, including improved agency “work efficiency,” increased flexibility, and fostering “stewardship in communities, contractors, and workers.”

In her testimony, also part of the first witness panel, Loucks highlighted findings from the pilot’s FY2001 annual report, which the Pinchot Institute authored. She noted that while the stewardship authorities are seen as a way to get work done on the ground, only 31% of the pilots have completed National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements, whereby 13% of the pilots were appealed or brought under litigation.

She also pointed out concerns the participants expressed about the projects, including bureaucratic agency culture, inefficient NEPA processes, and a lack of appropriate funding for long-term commitments. Finally, Loucks expressed concern over premature permanency of authorities, stating that Congress should wait for details from the multiparty monitoring and evaluation process before making a final judgment on its usefulness. Additional testimony was provided by a series of community-based and environmental organizations.

For copies of these testimonies, please visit [agriculture.house.gov/hearings/testimony.htm](http://agriculture.house.gov/hearings/testimony.htm). Please contact Andrea Bedell Loucks at (202) 939-3455 or [andreabedell@pinchot.org](mailto:andreabedell@pinchot.org) for specific questions on the hearing or the stewardship contracts.

## Ensuring the Future

Nonprofit organizations across the country are facing new challenges in the current economy. The recession has had a major impact on philanthropic foundations that provide much of the support for the nonprofit sector. Furthermore, after September 11, public support for nonprofit organizations outside of the health and human services arena has dropped as well, thus reflecting the unexpected decline in tax revenues, corporate profits, and the sudden return to major deficits in federal and state budgets.

The Pinchot Institute for Conservation is not immune to these economic trends. During the past several years, the Institute’s board and staff have built a *Working Capital Fund* for unrestricted/general operating support. Furthermore, we established the *Pinchot Legacy Fund* last year as

an endowment to help ensure the Institute’s long-term financial health and well-being. Such support is essential to our steadily providing timely research and policy analysis on key natural resource conservation issues as they arise. And in times such as these, the Working Capital Fund and Pinchot Legacy Fund become essential to continuing, without interruption, the kinds of innovative, quality programs for which the Institute has become known.

By far, the most important source of such support is unrestricted contributions from people like you. Through our annual campaign, donations via the Combined Federal Campaign, matching gifts from employers, and a number of innovative planned giving opportunities, those of you committed to conservation are helping to ensure that we continue to play

a leading role in this task of discovering new and creative solutions to the challenges of sound natural resource management.

Now more than ever, we need your support. If you have already contributed, particularly as a Pinchot Associate, we gratefully acknowledge your contribution and the continued vitality it brings. If you have not yet contributed, please consider doing so now, when it is most important to our having a lasting, positive impact on the future of conservation.

*For more information on the different ways you can donate to the Pinchot Institute, please contact Kendra Miller, director of external affairs, at 202-797-6580, [kmiller@pinchot.org](mailto:kmiller@pinchot.org), or visit our website at [www.pinchot.org](http://www.pinchot.org).*

## Partnerships Refined: The Partnership Development Program

In response to the need for greater competency in natural resource management partnerships, the Forest Service's Partnership Task Force employed the Pinchot Institute to take the lead in designing a Partnership Development Program. Comprised of a team of six Forest Service employees appointed to a six-month detail, which ended December 1, 2002, the Partnership Task Force help foster an organizational culture that cultivates and expands the agency's capacity for partnerships. Though only one component of this overall effort, the Partnership Development Program, as envisioned by the Task Force, is intended to be a useful and available tool to agency personnel and outside parties that have an interest in partnering with the Forest Service.

In the first of this two-phase project, the Pinchot Institute conducted interviews with noted practitioners, trainers, and academics to: (1) define the core skill-set program managers and partnership specialists need who are responsible for advancing solutions to natural resource management by using collaboration and partnerships; (2) catalogue existing training opportunities related to the development of these skills; (3) explore the cultural, procedural, and skill-related barriers to advancing collaborative solutions; and (4) identify some of the more promising, and perhaps necessary, approaches to developing competency in partnerships and collaborative stewardship.

Those interviewed were asked to identify the skills they believe are essential to an individual's effective participation in partnerships, particularly those involving the Forest Service. In general, the skills identified fell into

the following categories:

- ✿ relationship building
- ✿ understanding communities
- ✿ facilitation/mediation
- ✿ the business side of partnerships (i.e., grants and agreements)
- ✿ monitoring.

Though the interviewees were not asked to identify skills according to these specific categories, these categories emerged organically, thus indicating their importance to establishing and maintaining effective partnerships.

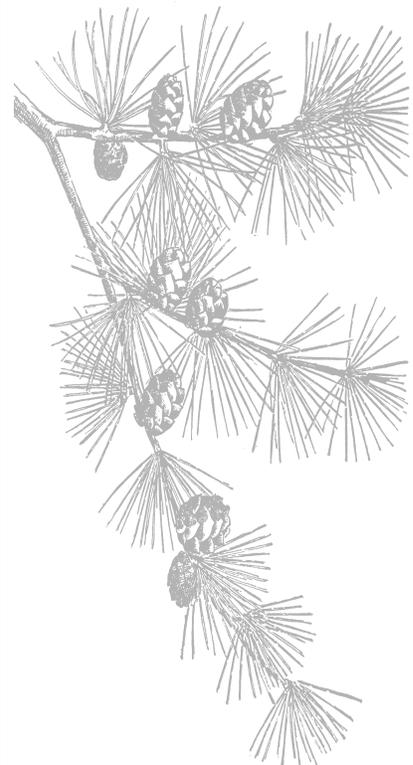
Overall, it appears that the core skills the interviewees identified could be developed through the rich array of training courses currently offered by industry, universities and colleges, and government agencies. Many of these training sources can provide customized or off-the-shelf courses, both of which can be particularly helpful. In addition to the Pinchot Institute's October, 2001 report to the agency, "Collaborative Stewardship Training Opportunities," which offers an in-depth review of notable sources, there are other training sources on the market that are geared toward collaborative natural resource and public lands management.

With so many resources available, the challenge is providing timely training that is integrated with real, collaborative problem solving activities. Training should be made available to those in need when the time is ripe for outside intervention. The fact that this is not occurring reflects an issue with administrative processes

and procurement, rather than a lack of training sources.

Based upon the wealth of knowledge amassed through the expert interviews and related written materials, we outlined a model for the Partnership Development Program that is to be further articulated in Phase II of this project. Aspects include utilizing new and existing training opportunities, such as a reliable, internal mentoring program that allows those in need to learn directly from those with successful experience. Furthermore, Phase II will also fully describe the components of a comprehensive program, which will be designed to develop competencies in the skill areas outlined in Phase I.

For more information on the Partnership Development Program, please contact Naureen Rana at (202) 797-6584 or [nrana@pinchot.org](mailto:nrana@pinchot.org).



## The Manzano Mountains: An Example of Community-based Forest Stewardship

Located just southeast of Albuquerque, NM in Torrance County, the Manzano Mountains, in contrast to the surrounding grassland, contain a mixed conifer forest of ponderosa pine and piñon-juniper woodland, with patches of oak, and aspen. Throughout its history, this area has been used by humans—from the Tiwa-speaking, Pueblo Indians, who settled there before 1300, to the land grant communities established by the Spanish government in the 1600's and later, by Mexicans, who resettled there in the 1800's. As part of the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which followed the Mexican-American War, the region then became part of the United States. Under this treaty, the land grant communities of the Manzano Mountains were subsumed into the U.S., where by some retained a traditional, communal system of land tenure by establishing community lands for grazing, hunting, and resource extraction. Heirs of the original settlers still live in communities at the base of the mountains and many continue to be reliant on the land and forests for their livelihoods.

Though not recognized by the United States government as property of the land grants, much of the mountains became part of the Cibola National Forest's Mountainair Ranger District. As National Forest land, these mountains are managed by the Forest Service and subject to the processes and policies of federal land management. This management has frequently caused dismay among members of the land grant communities, as they have watched the destructive logging by industry on their traditional forestlands, which have also been neglected for fire management, and made off-limits to them for

the traditional practice of gathering fuelwood.

In the Manzano Land Grant, one of the communities bordering the National Forest, you can see the effects that a legacy of mismanagement has had on a rural community. Most striking is the lack of water for irrigation in the valley. In this region, the mountains and their snow pack are critical to maintaining a continuous supply of water in downstream springs. The dense vegetation of second-growth forest, where fires have been suppressed, keeps snow from reaching the ground and recharging aquifers. Down in the valley, the Manzano Land Grant's intricate, spring-fed system of irrigation ditches, which once provided for rich and diverse agriculture in the valley, sits dry and unused.

Economic opportunities have also dried up in this small, family-oriented community. Unemployment is common and the younger generations are leaving the area to find work. Many residents depend on the neighboring National Forest as a source of fuel wood for cooking and heating, and for wood, which they use in fences and construction. Some residents make money off the National Forest by poaching old-growth alligator juniper, a high quality firewood, and large moss-covered rocks, which are popular in the foundations for Santa Fe-style homes. A combination of economic need and the high price for these products offsets the risk of getting caught and paying a fine.

The risk to local communities of catastrophic wildfire posed by the overstocked stands of trees in the National Forest have led to some creative collaborative solutions to the envi-

ronmental and economic challenges of the region. In 1998, the Mountainair Ranger District, in partnership with six land grant communities, initiated a forest health stewardship project. The Las Humanas Cooperative, made up of people from each of the six communities, hired a local crew and trained them to harvest small diameter trees, reducing forest density and the risk of catastrophic fire. Members of all of the land grants were allowed to take small diameter material to use as fuelwood and building material, providing benefit to them while disposing of the small logs.

Learning from the lessons of that project, Las Humanas has continued, winning contracts for thinning projects on the National Forest and providing work for two trained crews. Las Humanas has also purchased a log peeler and loader which they use to make *vigas* and *latillas*, traditional structural materials for homes. They are even exploring the feasibility of using the leftover peelings in a process for making a recycled plastic-infused composite board called Atree developed by the local P&M Sign Company in Mountainair.

There have of course been setbacks to this collaborative stewardship approach. The Mountainair Ranger District's proposed 10,000 acre Thunderbird Ecosystem Management Project, involving fuels reduction and watershed restoration, was halted for unresolved environmental concerns and the communities have urged the Ranger District to focus on smaller, less controversial, defensive space projects close to communities. Conflict of this sort emphasizes the importance of building consensus over fuels reduction activity in Na-

*(continued on page 10)*

tional Forests. It is hoped that careful monitoring will help inform this debate and some of the younger generation of the land grant communities are already learning the skills to do this monitoring through a Youth Conservation Corps program administered by the Forest Trust in collaboration with the Mountainair Ranger District and the Las Humanas Cooperative. The youth interns are trained to measure vegetation growth and ecological conditions in the sites of past stewardship projects. Las Humanas president, George Ramirez is also developing methods for a socio-economic monitoring component that uses indicators of community wellbeing to evaluate the impacts of the stewardship projects.

Ramirez, who runs Las Humanas and tirelessly fulfills a host of other civic and community duties, sees that restoring the forests and the opportunities for his community will require using a variety of creative strategies. Even elementary school children are being introduced to stewardship of the Manzano Mountains through a yearly program to Adopt-an-Alligator Tree. Each year the children select the largest alligator juniper that they can find and commemorate it with a sign bearing their names. These 400-year-old trees, which were around at the start of the original land grant communities, stand as a reminder of the lengthy relationship between landscape and community in these mountains. As modern policies and management continue to shape the ecology of these forests, the communities dependent on them will also respond, continually finding new strategies for survival.

For more information, please contact Peter Kostishack at (202) 797-6580 or [peterk@pinchot.org](mailto:peterk@pinchot.org).

## BECOME AN INNOVATOR FOR FOREST STEWARDSHIP

Concerned about the changing global climate? Not sure if the natural resources we enjoy today will be here tomorrow for future generations? Dissatisfied with the quality of your water?

Not sure if you can make a difference? Well, you can. Make today your first day as an innovator for forest stewardship by becoming a **Pinchot Associate**.

As a Pinchot Associate, you will join others across the nation who invest resources the Pinchot Institute needs to quickly, yet thoughtfully, respond to natural resource issues *before* they become policies that ruin our environment, diminish our livelihood or destroy our quality of life. The flexibility your unrestricted gift provides enables us to collaborate nationwide with all of America's people—from rural landowners to federal policymakers—to sustain natural resources and build economic capacity through educational programs, research on forest-management policies, and technical assistance for on-the-ground projects.

As a natural resource steward, becoming a Pinchot Associate will enable you to feel good about protecting our environment while helping others. For your gift of \$100 or more, we will:

- Keep you informed of timely natural resource issues through *The Pinchot Letter*;
- Send you advanced notification of our workshops, seminars, conferences, and newly released publications;
- Give you special recognition in our newsletter and annual report;
- Send you invitations to special events we host in your community, Washington, DC, and at Grey Towers so you can see for yourself how you are helping to advance forest conservation.

Your gift can be made to the Pinchot Institute through the Combined Federal Campaign or by returning the enclosed envelope. For information on additional tax-advantaged ways to become an innovative conservationist and follow in Gifford Pinchot's shoes, please contact Kendra Miller at (202) 797-6580 or [kmiller@pinchot.org](mailto:kmiller@pinchot.org).



Pinchot Institute for  
Conservation; charity #1010

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS AT GREY TOWERS CELEBRATION

Grey Towers National Historic Landmark, Milford, PA

*Unless noted otherwise, please call (570) 296-9630 for more information.*

### **December 6, 7 p.m.**

Annual tree lighting ceremony

### **December 7 & 8, 2 p.m.**

*A Christmas Carol* performed by Joe Plummer and son. Admission, \$12 per person. Please call after Grey Towers after November 1 for more information.

### **December 9-13, 16-20, 23, 26-30, 1-4 p.m.**

Open House. Come see all three floors of the Grey Towers mansion, beautifully decorated for the season by the Milford Garden Club.

### **December 14, 2 p.m.**

Gifford Pinchot Audubon Society Annual Christmas Tea

### **December 15, 12:30 p.m.**

"Reading Ranger" program, where

children learn how Gifford Pinchot convinced President Roosevelt to have a Christmas tree in the White House. Please call Pike County Library at (570) 296-8211 to register.

### **December 15, 1-4 p.m.**

Open House with visits from Santa and demonstrations by the Lost Art Lacers of North Jersey.

### **December 20, 7 p.m.; December 21, 5 p.m.; and December 22, 3 p.m.**

Holiday Leier Concert, part of the *Music at Grey Towers' "Kindred Spirits"* series of musical programs. Performances at Grey Towers. Tickets available at the Gallery at Forest Hall, 101 W. Harford Street, Milford, (570) 409-0902. For more information call (570) 296-2877.

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2003

### **National Fire Plan Conference, New Orleans, LA**

January 14-15, 2003

For more information, please contact Mary Farnsworth at [mfarnsworth@fs.fed.us](mailto:mfarnsworth@fs.fed.us).

### **Environmental Film Festival, various venues, Washington, DC**

March 13-23, 2003

Now in its eleventh year, the Festival screens films with a fresh perspective on global, environmental issues. Most screenings are enhanced by discussions with environmental experts or filmmakers that are free and open to the public.

For complete information (available in February), please contact (202) 342-2564 or visit [www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org](http://www.dcenvironmentalfilmfest.org).

## GREY TOWERS MORTIMER GARDEN INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Through the generosity of Elisabeth and Charles Mortimer, the Elisabeth S. Mortimer Garden Internship at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark was established in 1994 to provide an aspiring horticulturalist with invaluable practical experience.

Set along the Delaware Water Gap in Milford, Pennsylvania, Grey Towers is a 116-year-old, French-chateausque mansion designed by Richard Morris Hunt. The 101-acre site, administered by the USDA Forest Service, consists of formal, landscaped and wooded grounds. The student chosen for this opportunity will receive a \$2,000 stipend and hands-on experience that will challenge and broaden practical applications learned in horticultural theory.

The Mortimer Garden internship opportunity is open to students above the freshman level who are interested in a variety of fields of study. Past participants in this 10-12 week summer program were enrolled in such disciplines as ornamental horticulture, forestry, and landscape architecture.

Resumes are being accepted now for Summer 2003. For more information on the application process or on this unique opportunity, please contact Grey Towers Horticulturalist Elizabeth Hawke at (570) 296-9661 or [ehawke@fs.fed.us](mailto:ehawke@fs.fed.us).

## GREY TOWERS NEWS NOTES

NEWS OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES AT GREY TOWERS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

**Pennsylvania Grants \$2 Million to Grey Towers**

Pennsylvania Governor Mark Schweiker announced on Oct. 3 a \$2 million grant to the USDA Forest Service at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark for improvements to visitor services and the historic landscape.

The matching grant comes from the Commonwealth's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program and is a demonstration of Pennsylvania's commitment to the Forest Service mission at Grey Towers and recognition of Grey Towers as a significant statewide and national treasure.

"The investment we are making today will help keep alive the vision and spirit of the man who is consid-

ered to be the father of modern conservation," Gov. Schweiker told the crowd of about 500 who had gathered at Grey Towers on Oct. 3 to kick off Keystone Ride 2002, a two-day bicycle tour through Pennsylvania to promote travel and tourism. "What better way to begin our bicycle tour of some of the most spectacular lands and waters in Pennsylvania than to honor the great stewardship and leadership of Gifford Pinchot," he added.

Edgar Brannon, Director of Grey Towers, said, "We are thrilled and extremely grateful to have the Commonwealth as a major partner in the preservation and use of the home of a great American and one of Pennsylvania's most notable governors.

The Forest Service is grateful to Gov. Shweiker and the people of Pennsylvania for their investment in this valuable public asset."

The money will supplement funds raised through the federal Transportation Enhancement Assistance program (through the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Northeastern Pennsylvania Rural Transportation Planning Organization); federal appropriations and private funds. The total project cost—\$4 million—will be used for improvements to visitor services, with a safety and security focus, including a visitor reception area, an environmentally-sound parking area, landscape restoration, historic tree protection, pedestrian and vehicular circulation, improvements to the historic amphitheater and the entry drive.

The Forest Service has invested nearly \$14 million in the historic renovation of Grey Towers, former home of Gifford Pinchot, founder and first chief of the Forest Service and two-term governor of Pennsylvania. "The Commonwealth investment allows the state to capture the full economic value of the federal investment," Brannon added.

Grey Towers re-opened in August 2001 after an extensive renovation of the main mansion, bringing the home back to the grandeur of the 1920s and 30's, when Gifford and Cornelia Pinchot lived there. In addition to interpretive house and garden tours, the site is an active conference center, with a full schedule of workshops, lectures, programs, and meetings. Conference center activities help carry on the Pinchot conservation legacy,



Pennsylvania Governor Mark Schweiker announces a \$2 million grant from the Commonwealth to the USDA Forest Service at Grey Towers, former home of Gifford Pinchot. He is joined at the podium by Grey Towers Director Ed Brannon and Pinchot Institute Board Chairman Peter Pinchot. The Governor was at Grey Towers on Oct. 3 to kick off the annual Keystone Ride, a 2-day bike ride through the Commonwealth.

much as they did during the beginning years of the conservation movement in America.

In 1963, recognizing the importance of Grey Towers to Pennsylvanians and to all Americans, Dr. Gifford Bryce Pinchot gave Grey Towers to the American public and was dedicated by President John F. Kennedy as the home of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation. As a partner at Grey Towers, the Pinchot Institute utilizes the site to bring together leaders to develop new strategies for conservation problems at the local, state, and national scale.

For more information on Grey Towers and Phase IV of the project, please call Lori McKean at (570) 296-9672.



## Pinchot Institute Welcomes New Administrative Assistant

The Pinchot Institute is pleased to welcome Yenie Tran as administrative assistant. Yenie recently completed a bachelor's of business administration in marketing at the University of Georgia in Athens, and plans to pursue a master's degree in communications at American University.

Having completed internships with the Georgia Museum of Art as the assistant to the director of development and assistant to the director of public relations at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia, her recent experiences have given her a firm footing in the



Yenie Tran

nonprofit arena. As such, she brings to the Institute an organizational flare and a detailed work ethic that will assist us in expanding our mission.

Yenie was born in Kansas and raised in Cobb County, Georgia. She first began to dabble in environmental protection and conservation forums as a sophomore in high school.

## Institute Bids Farewell to Long-time Staffer

After nearly five years, the Pinchot Institute bids adieu to Nadine Block, program associate for the for the Conservation Policy and Organizational Change program area.

Among many achievements during her tenure, Nadine was instrumental in forging the Institute's participation in new forest policy development initiatives, such as our interaction with Congress and non-industrial, private forest landowners that helped shape the 2002 Farm Bill, and the United Nations-sponsored initiatives towards a global forest management plan, which gave us an entrée into the international policy dialogue. Other groundbreaking work included a study on timberland investment management organizations



Nadine Block

(TIMOs), which are fast becoming the largest forestland owner in this country. (See each of the 2001 issues of *The Pinchot Letter* for more information on these initiatives.)

We wish Nadine well in her future endeavors, and sincerest thanks for her years of dedicated service.

## FROM THE PROFESSIONALS

## Letter of Final Instructions: Why You Need One (Part I)

*Julian Block, JD, LLM  
Larchmont, NY*

In the best of all worlds, we would know exactly what to do when someone close dies. Our loved one would have informed us where to find instructions setting forth funeral arrangements, the location of the will and any life-insurance policies, a list of all property and assets and the name of the deceased's lawyer. Any minors would be provided for in the will. No one would challenge the authority of the executor—the person named by the deceased to make sure the terms of the will are met. Probating an estate, an often-grueling court process, would be completed smoothly and quickly. In the real world, such a well-ordered process almost never occurs.

— *Money* magazine (August, 1986)

Last year's tragedies on September 11 and the recent, unpredictable sniper attacks in the Washington, DC Metro area have changed our lives and continually remind us of the uncertainties we live with every day. Those events have prompted many individuals to reflect on whether they have sufficiently planned for their death or incapacity, should something unexpected happen.

As a lawyer, I have fielded many inquiries from people who want to write wills. Others have wills, but may need to review them, especially if they have moved to a different state or are affected by recently revised rules for estate taxes. Unfortunately, in my experience, most people never get beyond tending to wills. If they do even that, they overlook another step that is just as necessary. It is also an ideal time to draw up what lawyers call a "letter of final instructions."

Don't be intimidated by the formal title; the letter serves many purposes, but primarily is an informal, personal financial inventory that is not legally binding. Usually, the document is addressed to your surviving spouse, one of your adult children, your lawyer or your executor—the legal term for the person who is the key figure in wrapping up an estate and whose primary responsibility is to

marshal all assets of an estate. Why is it worthwhile to go through this chore?

The reward for your efforts is a letter that advises the people most important to you about assets that they might otherwise have to scramble to locate, whether because of your death or a serious illness or other crisis that leaves you unable to handle your financial affairs. Also, there are important details that can change quickly and are usually impractical to put into a will.

At the very least, the letter should spell out the exact location of all your essential papers and also note any requests that you want to make. To help you organize a letter that can be as necessary as your will, here are some reminders on what sort of information to include.

**WHO GETS WHAT.** Let your heirs know how much they can expect when you die. List all benefits due them from your employer or your business. These fringes include life and accident insurance and retirement plans, whether IRAs, 401(k)s or profit sharing, as well as benefits from Social Security, the Veterans Administration, or other sources.

**PEOPLE TO CONTACT.** Put in the names, addresses and phone numbers

of persons and organizations to notify in case of your death—relatives and friends, attorneys, accountants, employers and financial institutions, for instance.

**THE PLACES YOU KEEP PERSONAL PAPERS.** Indicate their whereabouts, particularly your will, birth and marriage certificates, divorce or separation agreements, diplomas, military records, naturalization papers and similar vital documents. Be specific about these locations. Use language like "in my safe-deposit box at the Fifth National Bank" or "in the bottom left-hand drawer of my desk." There is an added plus if you have yet to file your papers properly: Making out this letter will force you to do so before they go astray.

**CHECKING AND SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.** List all of them—their numbers, the banks and their addresses, names of the owners and location of the passbooks. Each year, banks and other financial organizations advertise for missing depositors who forgot their accounts or died without informing relatives about them. Your letter can avoid this.

**TIP.** Tell, too, where you keep canceled checks, credit card slips, and the like that, among other things, supply the information that you rely on at Form 1040 time to justify the

amounts that you show as income, deductions, exemptions, and other return figures. In the event that Internal Revenue questions those figures and the substantiating records are unavailable, your estate may be drastically diminished by assessments for additional taxes, interest charges, and, perhaps, penalties. Chances are that you use credit cards to pay for many items, including meals, travel and purchases at stores. Your listing of cards should include a reminder for them to be canceled or converted to your spouse's name.

**INSURANCE.** For each insurance policy, whether it be life, accident, car, household, medical or mortgage, list the name of the insurer, policy number, agent and location. Don't overlook those group insurance policies acquired through your employment or by joining professional or fraternal associations. To illustrate, suppose someone dies while traveling on business. His fringe benefits might include an accidental-death policy; there also might be coverage for a specified amount because of membership in an automobile club. Moreover, credit cards frequently provide casualty insurance with tickets that are charged.

**STOCKS AND BONDS.** List all mutual fund shares, stocks, bonds and other investments. If you trade stocks frequently and keeping a current list would be inconvenient, simply list their location. If you have an account with a stockbroker, include his or her name and address and your account number.

**SAFE-DEPOSIT BOXES AND DEBTS.** Record information about the contents and whereabouts of boxes, the location of keys to the boxes and debts, whether owed by or to you. List the details about the information needed to sell your year-round residence, vacation retreat or other dwelling, a tally that should include such key documents as deeds, state-

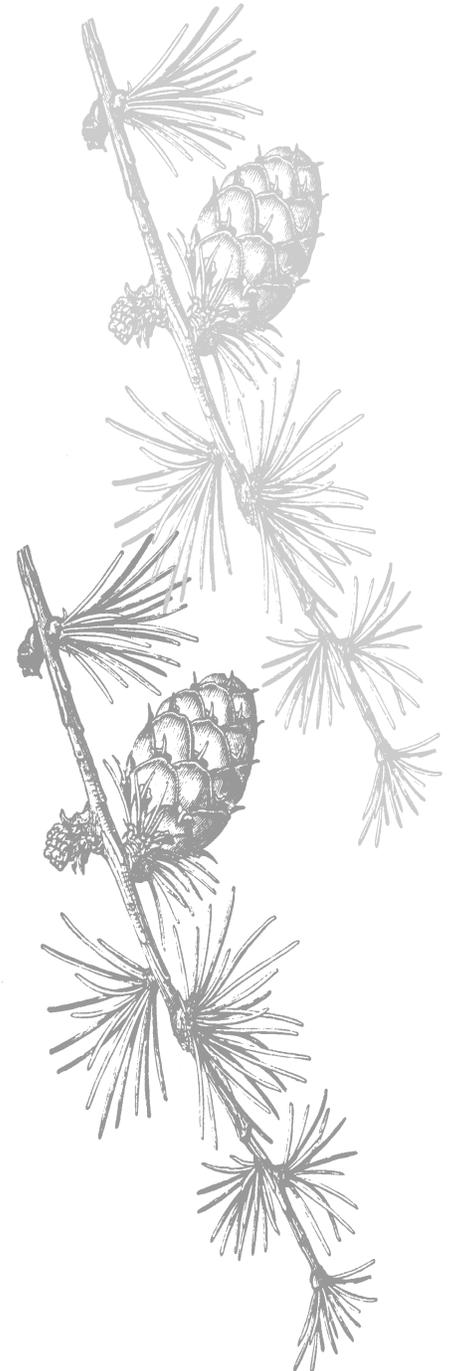
ments of real-estate closings and mortgages. For example, explain whether insurance automatically pays off a mortgage at your death. Don't forget things like money due—say, a loan made to a sister, but not openly discussed. Explain precisely how you want the matter settled, possibly by forgiving part or all of her debt.

**FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS.** The letter can be opened and read at once, whereas a will's opening and reading usually is some time after burial. So use the letter to give immediate instructions concerning important matters that might have been difficult for you and your family to talk about during your lifetime and should not be covered in your will. Some recurring items on wish lists: the upbringing of small children or grandchildren; the disposition of cars, clothing, books and other personal effects; or arrangements for burial, cremation, or the donation of your body or organs to medical institutions.

Here's where you can suggest what you would like mentioned in your obituary—schools attended, places worked, positions held in professional, fraternal or charitable organizations, military service and decorations. Spell out how elaborate or simple a funeral you want and whether you have already bought a burial plot, or made arrangements with a specific funeral home and desire the service to be religious or secular. Although it might sound morbid, you need to write a letter sufficiently clear to be understood by a complete stranger, should a car accident or other disaster wipe out your family.

In summary, a letter of instruction should be seen as a guide to assist you with planning for the future and to help your loved ones determine your intent, should anything unexpected to you. In the next segment, I will discuss some additional, helpful tips.

*Julian Block is an attorney and a syndicated columnist in Larchmont, NY. Block has been cited by the New York Times as a "leading tax professional" and by the Wall Street Journal as an "accomplished writer on taxes." He can be contacted at [julianblock@yahoo.com](mailto:julianblock@yahoo.com).*



(continued from page 2)

energy subsidies and hasten the introduction of renewable energy; 3) recognizing the right to safe drinking water as a basic human right backed by the investments needed to support such an initiative; 4) breathing additional life into biodiversity and desertification conventions, and launching an effort to frame country-specific (North-South) compacts to stem deforestation and protect threatened ecosystems and biodiversity hotspots; and 5) revamping global, environmental governance and providing new institutional means that provide norms and rules for globalization.

In May 2002, the Secretary-General issued a major statement based on the “need for greater clarity on what Johannesburg is about and what it can achieve.” He called for a “strong program of action” and identified specific areas where “concrete results are both essential and achievable.” Identified initiatives were to meet the clean water and sanitation needs of the poor; provide access to modern energy services to the two billion who now lack them; increase the use of renewables and energy efficiency; reverse the deterioration of agricultural lands and implement the Desertification Convention; protect biodiversity and marine fisheries; and safeguard human health from toxic chemicals and unsanitary conditions.

### THE CURRENT REALITY

The outcomes of WSSD bear no resemblance to the specific, monitorable plans of action many of us were advocating during the Summit’s preparatory process. What emerged instead was either nothing or next to nothing (as in the cases, for example, of renewable energy, desertification, development assistance funding, governance, and globalization) or very general and non-binding targets with timetables for their accomplishment. Since the United States and many

others typically opposed these “targets and timetables,” they were viewed at WSSD as major accomplishments when positive outcomes were achieved regarding them. Among the more notable of these agreements were the following:

✿ “We agree to halve, by the year 2015,...the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation;”

✿ We aim to achieve “by 2020 the chemicals that are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant, adverse effects on human health or the environment;”



✿ “The following actions are required at all levels: a) maintain or restore stocks [of fish] to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield, with the aim of achieving these goals for depleted stocks on an urgent basis and where possible, not later than 2015;”

✿ “The achievement, by 2010, of a significant reduction in the current loss rate of biological diversity that will require the provision of new, and additional, financial and technical resources to developing countries.”

Clearly, transforming these and the few other time-bound “commitments” in the WSSD Plan of Implementation into major initiatives in the

real world will require huge future efforts to move from these generalities to specific plans of action and to garner the necessary political and financial commitments. If this happens, we can look back at the battles at Johannesburg and see these provisions as the start of something important in these areas. It is also possible that these agreements will be ignored just as most of the agreements at Rio were. Unfortunately, the Plan of Implementation is silent on follow-up mechanisms for these agreements.

There are many other signs of how difficult it was for governments to move the agenda forward at Johannesburg. It was viewed as a single accomplishment to get the following sentence regarding climate change into the Plan of Implementation: “States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol strongly urge states that have not already done so to ratify the Kyoto Protocol in a timely manner.” That was the Summit’s only fresh contribution to the most threatening of all environmental problems. Expanded reliance on fossil fuels is called for in numerous places without acknowledgement of climate risks.

Also, it was a struggle in the negotiations to achieve recognition of the Precautionary Principle adopted at Rio. Only a last minute appeal by Ethiopia managed to delete words that would have made environmental treaties subservient to World Trade Organization (WTO) rules. The governments also could not agree on language that would guide the WTO on implementing the Doha Agreement or on how to look at globalization from a sustainable development perspective. In the end many were musing that the day of the UN mega-conference may have passed.

### PROMISING OUTCOMES

A more positive assessment of the Johannesburg outcomes is possible if one starts with low expectations and

the premise that WSSD was sailing against stiff winds from the outset. The world economy has seen better days. The U.S. Administration is preoccupied with Iraq and the war on terrorism and generally hostile to both environmental causes and multilateral agreements. (WSSD was originally scheduled to end on September 11.) The developing world is both wary of and frustrated with the rich countries. The failure to implement the Rio agreements casts a long shadow, raising questions about credibility and accountability in processes such as WSSD. Those who sought important outcomes at Johannesburg were aware of these and other negative factors, but hoped that the fundamental importance of the issues involved would drive the agenda.

From this perspective there are those who are relieved that what they see as a generally sensible, forward-looking document was agreed upon in the end. Essentially, they are thankful for modest accomplishments. The targets and timetables that were agreed to offer some hope. A number of parallel multilateral processes, including a large number of environmental treaties and trade agreements, got a modest boost in the Plan of Implementation, as did the Millennium Development Goals. The business community was deeply and generally positively involved, much more so than at Rio.

Most importantly, there was tremendous vitality, commitment and determination within the non-governmental organization (NGO) community and, indeed, with many participating governments and agencies. As a lowest common denominator document, the WSSD Plan of Implementation is hardly reflective of the best of our world.

#### PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

WSSD pioneered the promotion of “type 2 outcomes,” public-private

and other partnership initiatives for sustainable development. Hundreds of these individual initiatives were showcased at Johannesburg. The United States highlighted numerous U.S.-based partnership initiatives, said to be worth \$2.4 billion over several years. (Because it offered so little else in the “type 1” negotiations, critics accused the United States of seeking to derail the main purpose of the meeting with them.) The U.N. Environment Programme presented awards for the 10 best partnerships, including Alcan, Inc., for school-based recycling in Asia and the Americas and Shell for a gas exploration project in the Philippines.



Brazil, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank and the World Wildlife Fund announced one especially promising partnership. Their Amazon Regional Protected Area project ensures that 500,000 square miles of the Amazon will be put under Federal protection. This is the largest ever tropical forest protection plan, an area twice the size of the United Kingdom, that will triple the amount that is already protected.

In another partnership of a very different sort, Greenpeace and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development joined forces for the first time to call upon governments “to tackle climate change on the basis of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol. Independently, Russia took the occasion of the Summit

to announce that it would ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

Several important initiatives announced at Johannesburg plant seeds for the future. The European Union announced that, having failed to win green energy targets at WSSD, it would seek to organize a “coalition of the willing,” like-minded countries to push ahead with global goals for renewable energy development. Germany’s Chancellor Schroeder announced that Germany was willing to host an international conference on renewables, saying that “climate change is no longer a skeptical prognosis, but a bitter reality.” Another group of “like-minded countries,” the 15 biologically richest or “mega-diverse” countries that are home to 70% of the planet’s biological diversity, have come together to achieve reductions in the rate of such loss, protect against biopiracy, and seek fairness and equity in sharing the economic benefits derived from biodiversity.

#### POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE

Writing immediately after the Johannesburg Summit, it is difficult to forecast its long-term significance. But some conclusions are possible. First, the WSSD was a true sustainable development summit in the sense that it advocates all three dimensions of sustainable development—the triple bottom line of economy, environment, and society—were there under one roof, arguing their cases, raising real-world issues, and confronting those with different interests and perspectives.

It was not a social summit dealing only with poverty, exclusion and human rights. It was not an economic and globalization summit addressing only trade and investment, finance for development, and transfer of technology. And it was not an environmental summit focusing only on large-scale biotic impoverishment and pollution. No, it was instead a summit

about the intersections of these issues and was as sprawling and unwieldy as the sustainable development concept itself. But, because of this, it accurately reflected the dynamics of these issues as they are in reality today. And every so often, the vision of sustainable development, actually becoming the unifying concept for its three powerful components, would appear like a quantum apparition, and thus shimmer for a moment, then fade away. Perhaps with more leadership, better preparation, and a more focused agenda, sustainable development could provide the meeting with the grounding it needed to resolve real-world issues of inevitable difficulty and complexity.

As it was, what Johannesburg revealed in bringing all this together was that our world is badly divided on many key issues: corporate accountability, globalization and the WTO, trade and subsidies, climate and energy, development priorities and aid, and many others. The Summit debates covered the core issue of making economic globalization supportive of sustainable development, raising many of the right issues, but in the end delegates could only agree on platitudes and on-the-one-hand/on-the-other-hand theories. That is a sad, but true, commentary on the state of international discourse. The warring paradigms depicted by Martin Khor were greatly evidenced, and next to nothing was accomplished to bridge this gap in perception and power. In all these senses, we are still worlds apart.

Johannesburg also underscored the poor condition we are in regarding the status of environmental issues and institutions. *The Economist* editorialized that “if the world had needed saving, it would have been wrong to expect an event such as the U.N. summit to rise to that challenge in the first place. Happily, though the world does not need saving...it is ludicrous to suggest that the earth is in grave peril.”

The sense of mounting alarm that many of us feel regarding the global environment was hard to find at Johannesburg outside NGO circles and a few governments. Wrongheaded though it be, *The Economist's* views do seem to capture a panglossian perspective that was widespread at Johannesburg. In a similar vein, serious questions about how to strengthen multilateral, environmental institutions and global, environmental governance generally were never on the table for discussion. The environmental community in and out of government has got its work cut out for it if it wants to provide a powerful pillar of sustainable development.

### CONCLUSION

To conclude on a positive note, we should return to the most exciting and impressive aspect of the Johannesburg Summit—the outpouring of unscripted, bottom-up initiatives announced there, some official “type 2” initiatives and some not. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development has called these decentralized and improvisational commitments and partnerships “Jazz,” and while governments bicker, Jazz is fast becoming the most encouraging arena for action today, with an outpouring of initiatives from businesses, governments, nongovernmental organizations, and others, including the following:

✿ By 2010, seven large companies—DuPont, Shell, BP Amoco, and Alcan among them—have agreed to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions to 15% below their 1990 levels. Alcoa is reported to be on track to reducing its emissions to 25% below 1990 levels in this time frame, and DuPont is on schedule to reduce emissions by 65% by 2010.

✿ Eleven major companies, including DuPont, General

Motors, and IBM, have formed the Green Power Market Development Group and have committed to developing markets for 1,000 megawatts of renewable energy over the next decade.

✿ Home Depot, Lowe's, Andersen, and others have agreed to sell wood (to the degree that it is available) from only sustainably managed forests that have been certified by an independent group against rigorous criteria. Unilever, the largest processor of fish in the world, has agreed to the same regarding fish products.

Nongovernmental organizations have played important roles in forging these corporate initiatives. In essence, they are the real maestros of Jazz. State and local governments, private foundations, universities, and other entities also have contributed. Through the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, more than 500 local governments are now part of a campaign to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Pew Center on Global Climate Change has identified 21 separate state initiatives to do the same. A serious question for us all is how to take Jazz to scale, and the Johannesburg Summit was a help in this regard. Only time will tell what happens, and how far we come, next.

*J. Gustave “Gus” Speth is Dean at Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (New Haven, CT), and just recently completed his tenure as a member of the Pinchot Institute's board of directors. Speth is also a recent recipient of the international environmental Blue Planet Prize, described in the Fall, 2002 issue of this newsletter.*

# THE PINCHOT LETTER

*News from the Pinchot Institute for Conservation*

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1616 P Street, NW  
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# IN YOUR OPINION...

Last year, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation received an overall superior rating from Dunn & Bradstreet, the leading provider of business information worldwide. In addition to hearing the thoughts of the surveyed organizations, we would be delighted to learn yours.

How did you initially hear about us?  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you could characterize us in three words or less, which would you choose? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In your own words, please describe what we're trying to accomplish?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Is this something you believe in?  
\_\_\_\_\_

In your opinion, what are our strengths? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Our weaknesses? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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# CONTINUING THE PINCHOT LEGACY

HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN FOREST CONSERVATION?

## Partner with us by making a fully tax-deductible gift to:

- ✿ The *Working Capital Fund* — to help us provide decision makers with timely information and analysis on key issues in natural resource policy.
- ✿ The *Pinchot Institute Legacy Fund* — planned/deferred gifts for an endowment to ensure our long-term financial well-being.
- ✿ The *101 Scholarship* and *Mortimer Garden* funds — to offer internships and scholarships to future natural resource professionals.
- ✿ The *Grey Towers Fund* — to offer training workshops, educational conferences, and to assist with other initiatives at Grey Towers, the Institute's home.

OR

- ✿ Become a *Pinchot Associate* and receive advanced notification of our activities and publications; special mention in our printed materials; and invitations to events held in your community, Washington, DC and at Grey Towers.

## *Other tax-advantaged ways to help us conserve America's forestlands are to:*

- ✿ Contribute in-kind goods or services to the Institute.
- ✿ Donate online on a secure server via our website, [www.pinchot.org](http://www.pinchot.org).
- ✿ Have your employer maximize your investment through its matching gift program.
- ✿ Donate appreciated securities through your broker or a donor advised fund, like Fidelity Investment's *Charitable Gift Fund*.
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For more information on these and other ways to make an investment towards the future of America's forests, please contact Kendra Miller at (202) 797-6580 or [kmiller@pinchot.org](mailto:kmiller@pinchot.org).

## PINCHOT INSTITUTE FOR CONSERVATION

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