
THE PINCHOT LETTER

News from the Pinchot Institute for Conservation

Vol. 9, No.2 Fall 2004

Public Review Sought on U.S. National Reports on Sustainable Forestry

The Pinchot Institute, in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, U.S. Department of State, and the Meridian Institute, is seeking feedback on the U.S. National Report to the United Nations Forum on Forests, via an innovative on-line tool designed to make the report accessible to a wide diversity of readers. For the past three years, the Pinchot Institute played a key role in the development of the U.S. national reports to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), describing U.S. policies, programs and activities that respond to more than 270 Proposals for Action intended to improve forest management in countries around the

world. The Proposals for Action were developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (the precursors to the UNFF) to address a range of forest management issues at the national level in a manner that is consistent with national, political, social, and economic limits. In the coming months, the Pinchot Institute will work closely with the participants of the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests (RSF) to gather broad stakeholder feedback on the its findings.

The Roundtable on Sustainable Forests (RSF) an open and inclusive multi-stakeholder process dedicated

to shared leadership and responsibility toward the goal of sustainable forest management (SFM) on public and private forestlands in the U.S. Since its inception in 1999, the Roundtable's primary focus has been identifying and evaluating data that could be used to assess the state of the nation's forests, as well as providing input to the federal government on the production of the *National Report on Sustainable Forests – 2003*, which was published by the USDA Forest Service in February 2004. The Pinchot Institute has been an active participant in the RSF, serving on both its Core Group and its Communications and Outreach Work Group.

The publication of the *National*

(continued on page 2)



INSIDE

- ✿ Forest Plantations
(Part II)page 4
- ✿ Nepal's Community
Forestry Programpage 8
- ✿ Forest Sustainability and
the Pathway Hypothesis
.....page 11
- ✿ Restoration Surgery..page 20

Leadership in Forest Conservation Thought, Policy and Action



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Report is the first step in the U.S. implementation of the Montreal Criteria and Indicators for the Conservation of Temperate and Boreal Forests (Montreal C&I). As such, the report creates an important opportunity for U.S. forest stakeholders to provide targeted feedback to U.S. government participants and engage in international dialogue on refinements to the Montreal C&I. The RSF has also supported the analysis and evaluation of the *National Report* and will contribute to the Montreal C&I revision process as part of the Pinchot Institute's effort to coll broader stake-

holder input on the U.S. response to the Proposals for Action.

The Pinchot Institute is teaming up with the Meridian Institute, the RSF's facilitator, to develop a website and outreach plan that will encourage stakeholders to respond to and add to the Pinchot Institute's current body of work on the Proposals for Action. The website will provide an easy means for stakeholders to comment on the adequacy of the U.S. response and to share their views regarding priorities for future efforts to meet the directives of the Proposals for Action.

The Proposals for Action will be grouped under the seven Montreal criteria so that stakeholders can quickly navigate to the topics of greatest interest to them.

The feedback website will launch some time prior to the RSF's November 17, 2004 meeting and will be accessible for approximately 2 months. Pinchot will analyze the feedback received and its implications for the domestic response to the Proposals for Action, the Montreal C&I revision process, and the *National Report*. The Pinchot Institute will

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 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.

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present its analysis at an RSF's meeting scheduled for late April 2005.

Another important project that contributes to the Montreal C&I revisions process is the Multiple Perspectives Project. The Project's primary purpose is to invite members of the forest stakeholder community to share their ideas about the key findings of the *National Report*. In doing so, the project aims to explore key refinements to the Montreal C&I, data gaps that impede understanding, and the theories, concepts, and experiences that stakeholders from different perspectives use as the basis for their analysis.

On August 31, 2004, the Multiple Perspectives Review Committee, a group of RSF participants charged with managing the project, released a call for manuscript proposals and instructions to authors who wish to share what they discern to be the key findings that flow from the *National Report on Sustainable Forests*. By mid-November, the Committee will select approximately 10 proposals for development into full papers, which will be published in a special on-line publication of the Society of American Foresters. The papers will also be the subjects of an on-line dialogue process and real time discussion at a workshop planned for late fall 2005. The deadline for manuscript proposals is November 1.

For further information on the UN Forum on Forests or the U.S. response to the Proposals for Action, contact Al Sample (alsample@pinchot.org) or Stephanie Kavanaugh (skavanaugh@pinchot.org) at the Pinchot Institute. To get a copy of the Multiple Perspectives call for proposals, contact Jay West at Meridian Institute (jwest@merid.org) or visit the What's New section of the RSF's website, www.sustainableforests.net.

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 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 footsteps, please call (202) 797-6580 or donations@pinchot.org.



Pinchot Institute for Conservation is a member of the Conservation and Preservation Charities of America. Check your guide for our listing and charity number under this federation.

PERSPECTIVE

Editor's Note: The following is a voluntary paper proposed for the XII World Forestry Congress, Quebec, Canada, September 21–28, 2003. This segment is Part II of a two part series. Part I defined sustainable forestry and discussed sustainable forestry management as a spectrum of management intensities (volume 9, number 1).

Forest Plantations as Components in a Global Biodiversity Conservation Strategy: The Role of Developed, Temperate-Forest Countries (Part II)

Dr. V. Alaric Sample

President

Pinchot Institute for Conservation

FOREST PLANTATIONS AS INTEGRAL TO BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Leading conservation organizations are beginning to recognize that intensive forest management on portions of the landscape well suited to this use can serve to reduce development pressures on other forest areas, and create new opportunities—both practical and political—to provide greater protection to areas of globally- or regionally-significant biodiversity value (Sedjo and Botkin 1997; Hunter and Seymour 1999). A recent report by the World Wildlife Fund suggests that a significant expansion of the area of intensively-managed forest plantations could allow the world's major forest products companies to meet a substantial share of the global demand for industrial roundwood from a relatively small proportion of the world's forest area, and open up new opportunities to provide outright protection to high conservation value forests, particularly those with globally-significant biodiversity values (Howard and Stead 2001). So convinced is WWF of the value of this approach that they have called upon the world's ten largest forest products companies to collectively increase the area of intensively-managed forest plantations by 5 million hectares per year—for the next 50 years (World

Wildlife Fund 2001). With this level of investment, WWF estimates that as much as 80 percent of the world demand for industrial roundwood in 2050 can be met from less than 20



Al Sample

percent of the world's forests. Furthermore, WWF asserts this can all be done consistent with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) criteria for green certification, meaning that much of that 20 percent will be new planted forests on retired marginal crop and pasture land, rather than plantations created by converting natural forests.

This is appealing at a global theoretical level, but there is a need to demonstrate the efficacy of this approach in practical application in

different regions of the world, representing various biophysical, economic and social contexts (Hunter and Seymour, 2000). It has been argued that, in the United States, this is essentially the pattern of forest land allocation that has already emerged, at least when viewed at the national level. Wood production has shifted largely to industrial timberlands and other private forests on about one-fifth of US forest land; biodiversity conservation is becoming a primary management goal in many public forests and forests managed by conservation NGOs, making up another one-fifth; and multiple-use management is still the *de facto* approach on both public and private forests that constitute the remaining three-fifths. Generally speaking, the most productive forest lands, especially those close to labor and markets, have found their way into ownership by forest industry or other private owners for whom wood production is a leading objective. Large, contiguous and often remote forest areas, comprising a wide variety of landforms and habitat types, are generally in public ownership.

This pattern breaks down, however, when US forest lands are viewed at the regional or local level. West of the Great Plains, less than 40 percent of forest land is privately owned; in the East, private forests constitute nearly 90 percent of the total (Powell et al.



1993). It has been estimated that habitat for nearly three-quarters of the Federally-list threatened and endangered species in the US is found *exclusively* on private lands, much of it in the East (Natural Heritage Data Network 1993). Conversely, some of the most productive forests, characterized by fast-growing commercially desirable native tree species, are found on public lands on the Pacific coast. A large-scale reallocation of public and private forest land aimed at placing important conservation lands in public ownership and highly productive forest lands in private hands would be operationally impractical, and politically infeasible. Some other mechanism is needed for aligning the management of forest lands with the uses to which they are naturally suited.

There have been several intensive efforts to identify forests of high conservation value, rank them in order of importance, and prioritize them in terms of degree of threat and need for immediate action to conserve biodiversity and other environmental values (Ricketts et al., 2000). A parallel process is needed to identify forest areas well-suited to intensive forest management, starting with a consensus approach to specifying a set of criteria and attributes for differentiating lands of relatively high value for sustainable wood production and relatively low value for biodiversity conservation. Preliminary efforts to accomplish this have met with public concerns that identifying and prioritizing such areas would be tantamount to declaring "sacrifice zones" in which there would be no attempt whatsoever to conserve biodiversity or protect other environmental values (Heaton 2003). Existing requirements of federal and state law in the US already generally preclude such an approach. Nevertheless, voluntary efforts such as the recent Forest Stewardship Council certification of a hybrid poplar plantation in Oregon (Forest Stewardship Council 2002) will provide additional public assur-



ance that environmental values, including biodiversity conservation, can be protected in different ways at every point in the spectrum of forest management intensities. Conversely, continued efforts such as this could result in constructive modifications in guidelines for independent certification of forest plantations to comprise a set of "best practices" for intensive forest management.

TOWARD A NEW CONSENSUS ON SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

We are perhaps within reach of a new political consensus—one in which both the forestry community and the environmental community actively support the idea that intensively-managed forest plantations *and* protected areas in high conservation value forests have an essential place in a comprehensive strategy for sustainable forest management (Sample 2003). It has been suggested (Binkley 2003) that a consensus agreement might include considerations such as:

- ✿ devoting 20-30 percent of the landbase of plantation projects to ecological services

- ✿ strict control of offsite impacts of plantation-based timber production, especially the movement of silt, fertilizer or herbicides into waterways or groundwater

- ✿ agreed upon limits on the use of yield-enhancing chemicals such as fertilizers and herbicides, focused on minimizing use and maximizing impact

- ✿ agreed upon limits on the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) to instances in which it can be demonstrated that gene flow out of the plantation is not possible

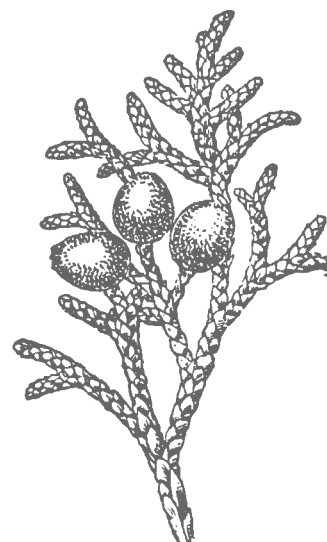
- ✿ a commitment not to log old growth forests

Developed, temperate-forest countries with high per-capita consumption of wood products have a dual conservation responsibility to fulfill. First, there is an obligation to protect their remaining "hot spots" of biological diversity—and bear their share of the local, short-term economic effects of doing so. Second, there is an obligation to meet their

share of the demand for renewable wood and fiber that they themselves generate, without shifting an undue burden onto biologically rich forests in other regions of the world. Taking a more specialized approach to forest management, and further developing the policies and institutional frameworks that make it possible to do so, create significant potential for improving both biodiversity conservation and sustainable wood production.

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SUPPORT FOREST CONSERVATION THROUGH THE CFC

Don't forget to designate the Pinchot Institute on your CFC pledge card. With over 6,000 nonprofits participating annually in the CFC campaign, we want to ensure that we continually fund our efforts—work that directly supports yours and the values that you hold as a steward of the land. Only by working together can we spread the roots of forest conservation. We have affiliated ourselves with the Conservation and Preservation Charities of America, a federation of national organizations working to protect and restore the Earth's natural environment and historic treasures through workplace giving campaigns.

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the largest workplace giving program in the world – for employees of the federal government, the postal service, and the uniform services. If you are a federal government or military employee and would like to support the Pinchot Institute through the CFC, please enter CFC code #2396 on your pledge card during the next campaign. Please check your guide for our CFC number for local, municipal and state campaigns.

Dollars can also be donated to the Pinchot Institute through other workplace charitable campaigns such through the CFC.

For more information on how to contribute through the CFC or to set up an independent, workplace giving campaign at your corporation, please call (202) 797-6580 or pinchot@pinchot.org.



Pinchot Institute for Conservation: a member of the Conservation and Preservation Charities of America federation.

Institute Welcomes New Assistant

The Pinchot Institute is pleased to welcome on board Laura Pollard as the administrative assistant at its offices at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark, Milford, PA. Her wide-range of duties will include administrative support for existing and emerging projects as well as general office maintenance.

Laura takes great pride in carrying out responsibilities in a friendly but

professional manner. "I am very excited about the mission of the Pinchot Institute and I hope to be a valuable team member," say Laura.

Born and raised in Bergen County, New Jersey, Laura completed her post-secondary education at Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School in Boston, Massachusetts in the advanced secretarial program. This led to her position as the administrative secretary to

the Vice President of Sales at Chiquita Brands, Inc. for 12 years before moving to Pike County, Pennsylvania with her husband and son.

Laura possesses a strong administrative background, as evidenced by her over 20 years of experience in a variety of different venues – from the large private corporate sector to the small, non-profit and church administrative duties.

Institute seeks Manager of Foundation and Corporate Relations

The Pinchot Institute is seeking to hire a Manager of Foundation and Corporate Relations to work with the many foundations and corporate partners that provide support for the Institute and its conservation programs. This position will be located at the Institute's office in the Resources and Conservation Center in Washington, D.C. and will work closely with communications, outreach and program staff.

The newly created position will partly succeed Kendra Miller, who stepped down as the Institute's Director of External Affairs in early June. During Kendra's tenure with the Institute, she helped expand the *Pin-*

chot Associates program, building a nationwide network of individuals who become more involved with the Institute's activities and provide continuing support of at least \$100 annually. Kendra also helped lay the foundation for the *Pinchot Legacy Fund*, the Institute's fledgling endowment, and worked with individuals considering a planned gift or bequest to support the Institute's efforts in the longer term. As part of the \$12 million renovation at Grey Towers, Kendra helped the Institute meet a major challenge opportunity, raising more than \$100,000 in private contributions to match a Saving America's Treasures challenge grant (a joint program of the White House and the

National Trust for Historic Preservation). These funds were used to renovate the "Letterbox" building at Grey Towers to serve as an environmental education center. Kendra has taken a new position fundraising for the arts, which was the focus of her work in Chicago and Washington prior to joining the Institute nearly four years ago. Kendra made many important contributions to the Institute's success, and we wish her well in her new endeavors.

For more information on the Manager of Foundation and Corporate Relations position, please contact Jennifer Becker at jbecker@pinchot.org.

101 Conservation Scholarship: Fostering the Next Generation of Natural Resource Professionals

Years ago, active and retired U.S. Forest Service personnel—the Institute's public partner—established the 101 Conservation Scholarship to help educate future natural resource professionals. Overseen by the Pinchot Institute's Board of Directors, this annual, \$1,000 award provides much-needed book or tuition assistance to Forest Service offspring.

In preparation for the agency's centennial celebration, we hope to raise \$100,000 for this fund. As such, we are looking for 991 active and retired Forest Service personnel, and others interested in supporting future natural resource professionals, to make a gift of \$101.00 or more to help keep this tradition alive. Please send your gift, noted as a contribution for the 101 Conservation Scholarship Fund,

in the enclosed envelope or make a credit card donation online.

You can also call (202) 797-6580 or pinchot@pinchot.org for more information on other tax-advantaged ways to make a tax-deductible contribution to this invaluable fund.

An Overview of Nepal's Community Forestry Program

*Prakash Mathema
Hubert Humphrey Fellow
Cornell University*

Forests and scrublands, which cover nearly 40 percent of Nepal's total land area, are an integral part of the country's farming system. Sustainability of mountain farming system depends on the transfer of nutrients from the forest to cultivated land by means of tree fodder and leaf litter. Leaf litter is used as bedding material in animal sheds and mixed with dung to make compost, which is the major fertilizer used on farmlands. Nearly every rural household depends on fuelwood for cooking and heating. Apart from fodder and fuelwood, forests also provide a range of other goods and services. Forests make a significant contribution to the subsistence of rural population. Consequently, the sustainability of mountain agriculture places a heavy demand on forests. Given the enormity of the forest degradation problem, it was realized in the late 1970s that sustainable forest management was not possible without the participation of local people. Furthermore, the forests in the mountains of Nepal are fragmented into small patches surrounded by habitation and cultivation, and are not amenable to conventional industrial forest management practices. The only practical alternative is community forestry, i.e. protection, management and utilization of forests through the participation of the local communities.

NATURE AND SCOPE OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM

The Forestry Sector Master Plan, which was approved in 1989, gives the highest priority to community forestry, which is evidenced by the 47 percent of the total forestry sector

investment during the next two decades earmarked for community forestry. Forest Act 1993 and Forest Regulations 1995 are the current forestry legislation. These legal instruments provide a basis for implementing the policies spelled out in the Master Plan. The current community forestry policy is a result of an evolution of forestry policies over two decades. The government gives responsibility and authority to local people by forming Forest User Groups (FUGs) to protect, manage and utilize the forests for fulfilling their needs of forest produce.



In the context of Nepal, community forests are state-owned forests that are handed over to a group of local people organized into FUGs. Depending on localities, community forest areas may be bare land, plantation, scrubland or even well-stocked forest or a combination of these. There is no limit as to how much forest area can be handed over as community forests, and the only criterion considered is whether the user group is able and willing to manage the given area of forest.

Members of a FUG are households that have residential proximity to a particular forest area and have historical affiliation to it. The FUGs are registered with the concerned Dis-

trict Forest Office (DFO). The handed over forest areas are managed on the basis of rules and arrangements spelled out in the group's Constitution and Forest Operational Plan. The day-to-day business of the FUG is handled by the Forest User Committee, which is formed by the assembly of the users. However, the assembly of the member households is the supreme governing body of the FUG and this assembly makes all major decisions.

Although the management and use rights are transferred to FUGs, the ownership of the land is not transferred and remains with the Department of Forest (DOF). The DOF, through its field offices, plays a catalytic role by getting the process started and ensuring continuity. The field forestry officials help the users by organizing the FUG; preparing its Constitution and Operational Plan; registering the FUG; and providing continuous support to FUGs.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Currently, nearly 13,000 FUGs are managing over 1 million hectares of community forest area. A total of 1.5 million households are participating in the program. Community forestry program has been acclaimed for its success in bringing back greenery to the once denuded mountains of Nepal. Its major achievements are as follows:

- ✿ Local control of community-managed forest has led to **increased productivity and biomass** because of protection from fire, grazing and uncontrolled cutting. Improvement in water regime (both yield and quality) has been



observed in many community-managed forest areas, due to the increased forest cover in the watershed.

✿ At present, FUGs are getting a **regular supply of forest produce** in terms of timber, fuelwood, leaf litter and fodder. In addition, the FUGs producing surplus forest products are also generating increasing amount of cash in their funds. Some FUGs are also cultivating cash crops and medicinal plants as ground cover in their forest areas. This is also helping in the income generation of FUGs. For example, many FUGs in eastern Nepal are planting cardamom under alder forest, and are making money through the sale of cardamom.

✿ A positive outcome of the program has been the **change in attitude of local people towards foresters**. The feeling of antagonism that existed in the past has now been replaced by amity, and foresters now feel that they are getting the social prestige that they so deserve! Similarly, the attitude of the forestry staff towards the people has also changed.

✿ Apart from utilizing the **FUG fund** in forestry activities, it is also used for construction, maintenance and operation of rural infrastructure like schools, foot-trails, drinking water projects, irrigation canals, etc. Thus FUGs are becoming effective local institutions that are **supporting various rural development works**.

CHALLENGES

Nepal's community forestry program can be considered a success in terms of forest protection; increased production and availability of forest products; improved water regime; community development works; and empowerment of local people. How-

ever, there are some challenges that need to be tackled to prevent the dilution of the program's successes.

✿ *Voice*. The policy and law provide opportunity for full participation of all members of FUG. However, because of the ingrained traditional cultural factors, the village elite tend to have a major say in the decision making process. The poor and disadvantaged groups do not voice their interests in FUG assemblies and have to accept the decisions made by the elite.

✿ *Conflicts*. Many kinds of conflicts have surfaced while implementing the community forestry program. Most of these conflicts are related to land encroachment by individuals; unclear community forestry boundary between FUGs; and violations of Operational Plan by the users themselves. Some conflicts are among the users of the same FUG, some involve two or more FUGs and others involve FUG and outsiders.

✿ *Wildlife Attacks*. News about wildlife attacks on villagers and their livestock is becoming more and more frequent. This is a clear indication of the increase in the diversity and number of wild animals due to the protection of forests by the community. Though increase in biodiversity is a positive outcome, it also has negative effects like crop damage by wild animals, and hazard to the life of man and his livestock.

✿ *Increased need for field staff support*. After handing over a forest area to an organized FUG, it needs post formation support and frequent visits by technical field staff. As the number of registered FUGs goes up, the pressure on the forestry field staff also increases. This has resulted in the reduction of frequency of field vis-

its by the field staff.

✿ *Civil unrest*. The ongoing Maoist insurgency in Nepal is an overriding concern not only for community forestry but also to all development efforts in Nepal. Despite civil unrest FUGs in most areas are exhibiting resilience by continuing their activities even during a period when most government agencies are not functioning in rural areas. It is heartening to note that in the absence of elected local government bodies, FUGs are the only grassroots organizations with elected office-bearers and resources that can be used for local development.

LESSONS LEARNED

Community forestry program has been implemented in Nepal for more than two decades now. From this exercise, many lessons on participatory approach to natural resource management can be drawn, many of which may be useful to other countries as well. Most important lessons are:

✿ *Empower local forest users*. Forest resources will be better protected and managed, but the users must be assured of benefits that accrue from the resources they are protecting and managing.

✿ *Identify the real users*. Hasty formation of FUG tends to leave out some users and this invariably leads to conflicts during the implementation phase. Proper identification of the real users of the forest areas is the key to the success of community forestry.

✿ *Provide continuous support*. Continuous post hand over support to FUGs is very important. Without this the FUGs may lose track of the program.

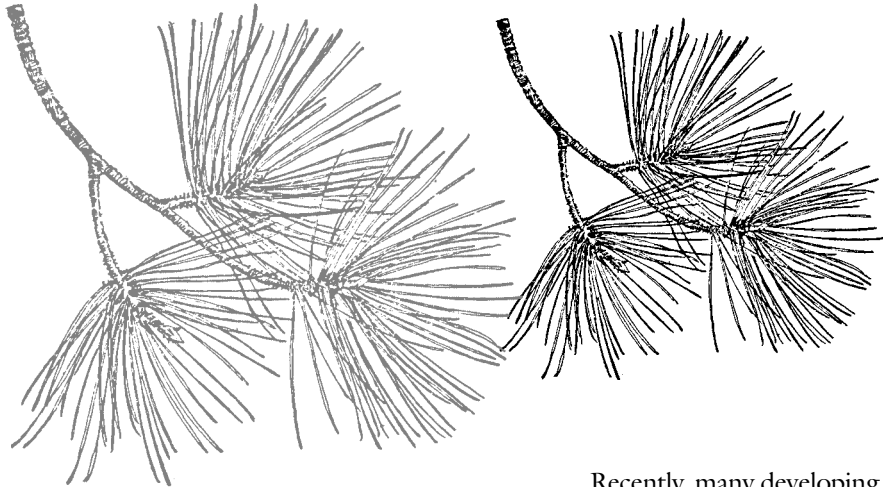
✿ *Provide a training program.* Rigorous and continuous training program has been instrumental in changing the attitude of the forestry staff to play the role of community forestry facilitators.

✿ *Encourage networking.* Forest users should be encouraged to interact among themselves by means of networking to share their experiences. This has proved to be an effective way of generating new ideas and learning from one another.

Based on the experience of Nepal's community forestry program, the following are the key components of success for participatory forest management:

✿ empowering legislation that ensures users' rights over the resource

✿ positive and committed officials



✿ simple procedures and clear guidelines to implement the program

✿ continuous support to the community groups

✿ training of staff and users

✿ regular review and improvement in policy and its implementation.

Recently, many developing as well as developed countries have realized the importance of participatory approach to forest management. The lessons learned from Nepal's community forestry program could be valuable to these countries for crafting more enabling policies, appropriate legislation, and practical implementation procedures.

ABOUT PRAKASH MATHEMA

The Pinchot Institute extended an affiliation to Prakash Mathema as a Research Fellow at the Institute, and hosted him for a period of six weeks. During this time, Mathema had an opportunity to work with Pinchot Institute staff on topics of mutual interest in environmental and natural resource policy.



Mathema is currently an Undersecretary level officer at the Nepal Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, and was on study leave as a Humphrey Fellow at Cornell University. He has a Masters degree in Environmental Forestry from the University of Wales, UK. His work experience, spanning 15 years, includes: forestry research, field implementation of community forestry, forest planning, and participatory watershed management.

His Humphrey Fellowship objectives were to learn about policy processes and institutional arrangements for forestry and natural resource conservation in the U.S.; learn about the latest approaches and methods in forestry/natural resource management from the U.S. academia and practitioners; and establish collaborative professional networks with U.S. professionals.

Mathema's featured essay presents an overview of the community forestry program implemented in the mountains of Nepal. Together with the achievements and challenges of the program, some pertinent lessons learned have also been identified.



Sustainability and the Pathway Hypothesis

“Conservation is clearly a world necessity not only for enduring prosperity but also for permanent peace,” said Gifford Pinchot, who helped shape the nation’s forest policy and natural resources conservation as we know it today. John Fedkiw, a prominent scholar in forestry management, thinks it is important to provide a model to understand the roles and processes of sustainable development not only for forestry in the United States but for all resources and all nations of the world. Sustainability needs to be understood as a long-term, ongoing process as well as a goal for past generations as well as for present and future generations.

What does sustainability mean anyways? Fedkiw offers several definitions: It is an abstract term used to wrap up three of the most powerful motivations of humanity into a single one word concept: 1) Human survival, 2) an acceptable or better quality of life, and 3) a supportive environment for present and future generations. Or better yet, the United Nation’s definition: “Development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Furthermore, Fedkiw offers Aldo Leopold’s definition of conservation: “our attempt to put human ecology on a permanent footing.” Fedkiw thinks Leopold’s explanation is the essence describing what we are about in today’s pursuit of sustainability.

In his essay in the recently published book, “Pathway to Sustainability,” Fedkiw offers a systems model for understanding sustainability as a goal and process with forest management as the means for shaping a sustainable forest landscape. He believes that the bottom line of that learning experience was the finding that forest

management has been on a pathway toward a more fully holistic approach to forest ecosystem management and sustainability from the beginning of professional forestry practice in America. We were put on that pathway by the forest sciences and structural aspects and relationships of ecosystems and ecology as well as a long-term horizon.

The following are excerpts from his essay:

“The Pathway Hypothesis states: We have been on a path toward a more holistic, ecological approach to sustainability since the beginning of professional, science-based resource management in the United States. It elaborates a framework of understanding about the nature, characteristics, and dimensions of that path.

Our present debate, however, has been more persistent and resistant to a general solution than past experience. This is partly because we confuse the bounds of the pathway with the social choice for the preferred course within those bounds—the particular mix of natural beauty, biodiversity, and nature’s multiple utilities that best serve the amenity, environmental, and material needs and preferences of the public and its various interest groups for the present and for the future. Instead of sorting out the long-term policy issue of the bounds of the pathway from the short-term choice of courses within those borders, we try to address them simultaneously. The Pathway Hypothesis helps identify this source of confusion, but it does not provide a solution. That is the role of the public and its policymakers.

The distinction between policy bounds and the courses to sustainability also reveals that ecological, economic, and social tradeoffs are fair considerations in determining society’s preferable course to the future.”

In the book, Fedkiw’s photos show different the effects of forest management consistent with his pathways model to help illustrate the “we are on a path” theme. The main progress of forest management in the United States is a broad path leading us to sustainability. The bigger problem is human welfare—we need to repair this first or will not be able to fix the environment. Sustainability can substitute for world conflicts and help the quality of life.

In a separate paper published by Society of American Foresters, Fedkiw illustrates in a graphic representation that shows the pathway drivers and dimensions from the conservation movement in the early 1900s to the sustainability movement of today. These models help define the path to sustain uses and services for the benefit of future generations. This is the legacy of Gifford Pinchot.

To order your copy of the *Pathway To Sustainability: Defining The Bounds on Forest Management*, please visit www.foresthistory.org. This book includes four essays from four scholars offering their views on the evolution of forestry have been adapted from papers presented at “Making Environmental History Relevant in the 21st Century.” This was a joint meeting of the American Society for Environmental History and the Forest History Society held in Durham, North Carolina March through April 2001. The papers provide a thoughtful framework for discussing issues about sustainability.

Sharing Big Fire Lessons Learned

During the summer of 2000, wildfires burned approximately 307,000 acres of the 1.6 million acre Bitterroot National Forest, as well as 50,000 acres of private and state forestlands and 70 homes in Ravalli County, Montana. The portion of “the fires of 2000,” as they are commonly referred to, that burned near the East Fork of the Bitterroot River was the largest fire complex to burn in the United States in 2000. As a result, the Bitterroot fires of 2000 have garnered much attention nationally as well as locally.

With support from the Bitterroot National Forest and the Ford Foundation, the Pinchot Institute prepared a report to share some of the lessons learned from the Bitterroot Valley’s experience with the fires of 2000. These lessons were primarily distilled from in-person and telephone interviews with a diversity of stakeholders, including representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, Ravalli County, the Bitter Root Resource and Development Council, the environmental community, the timber industry, and others. It is hoped that this report will help other

communities benefit from the knowledge gained by those in the Bitterroot Valley who learned firsthand what worked well and what could be improved upon when dealing with an historically intense fire season. Some regions that instantly come to mind are those affected by the Biscuit, Hayman, and Rodeo-Chediski fires that burned many acres in Oregon, Colorado and Arizona, respectively, during the summer of 2002.

Entitled “Big Fire Lessons Learned in the Bitterroot Valley,” the report can be found on the Pinchot Institute’s website at <http://www.pinchot.org>. While it may not capture every aspect of what has occurred in the Valley in relation to the fires of 2000, this report indicates which issues linger in people’s minds four years later.

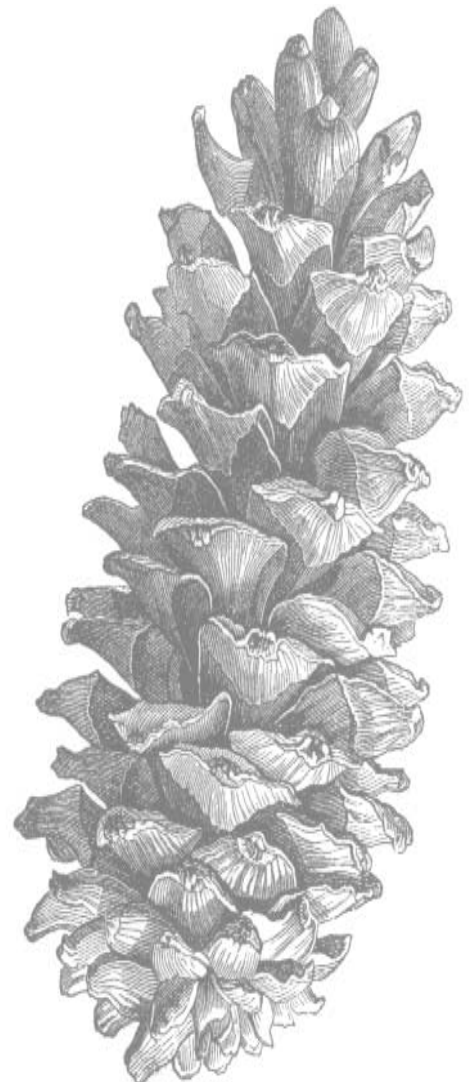
Set within the context of the National Fire Plan (NFP), the collaborative 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy, and the 10-Year Strategy’s corresponding Implementation Plan, “Big Fire Lessons Learned” presents a range of perspectives on actions that have taken place or are currently taking place in the Bitterroot Valley to

address the following issues: fire prevention, hazardous fuels reduction, burned area restoration and rehabilitation, and community assistance. As these topics correspond to the goals of the National Fire Plan and the 10-Year Strategy, this report also hints at how these initiatives are perceived to be working in the Bitterroot Valley.

For more information, please contact Naureen Rana at nrana@pinchot.org or (202)797-6584.



Bitterroot Valley, July 2003. Photo by N. Rana.



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 \$2,500 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 future opportunities. 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.

Recent Publications

The Pinchot Institute is pleased to announce the following recently produced publications available for distribution:

POLICY REPORTS

- ✿ *Exploring Barriers to Collaborative Forestry*, A report from a workshop held at Hart Prairie, Flagstaff, AZ, September 17-19-2003, sponsored by Ecological Restoration Institute, Society of American Foresters, Pinchot Institute for Conservation, and American Forests

BOOKS

- ✿ *Forest Conservation Policy: A Reference Handbook*, December 2003, by V. Alaric Sample and Antony S. Cheng
- ✿ *Pathway to Sustainability: Defining the Bounds on Forest Management*, 2004, by John Fedkiw, Douglas W. MacCleery, V. Alaric Sample, with introduction by Hal Salwasser

Single copies of any publication will be

sent **FREE** of charge. Multiple copies of free publications are available at the cost of shipping/handling. Requests can be made by mailing a Publications Request form (found on our website at www.pinchot.org): Pinchot Institute for Conservation, 1616 P Street, NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20036. Requests can also be emailed to publications@pinchot.org or sent via fax at (202) 797-6583.

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Edgar B. Brannon Conservation Fellows Program

After many years of promoting the legacy of Gifford Pinchot through programs at Grey Towers and through his service to the Pinchot Institute, Ed Brannon will be leaving a significant legacy of his own when he retires at the end of 2004. Through his own single-minded efforts, and his inspiration of others, Grey Towers has been faithfully restored to its former glory, and will continue to serve the Forest Service, the Pinchot Institute, and the American people as a place where thoughtful individuals can come together in civil dialogue, and craft solutions to some of the most important natural resource conservation challenges of the day.

To honor this dedication and accomplishment, the Pinchot Institute for Conservation is establishing the Edgar B. Brannon Conservation Fellows program at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark. This fellowship will provide opportunities for natural resource decision makers and leaders in the public sector to reside at Grey Towers for short-term study, idea development and personal reflection. The Pinchot Institute Board of Directors has established a goal of \$150,000 to fund this new program, and enable the Institute to offer at least one fellowship annually.

This fellowship program evolved from an idea put forward by Ed Bran-

non himself more than a decade ago, so it is in many ways a fitting way to commemorate his contributions, and to carry forward his efforts to support the development of future conservation leaders in the public sector.



Ed Brannon

Your contribution to the Edgar B. Brannon Conservation Fellows program is important to providing such opportunities. Please send your gift, noted as a contribution for the Conservation Fellows program, in the enclosed envelope or make a credit card donation online at www.pinchot.org.

Catalyst for Conservation Laurance Rockefeller Passes Away

Laurance Rockefeller, one of the few conservationists and philanthropists in history with intense vision and commitment, passed away on Sunday, June 11, 2004 of pulmonary fibrosis. Mr. Rockefeller was one of the founding board members of the Pinchot Institute when it was dedicated by President John F. Kennedy in September 1963 at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark in Milford, Pennsylvania.

Laurance Rockefeller along with the Pinchot family and other members of the founding board of the Pinchot Institute, represented a generation of far-sighted and public-minded leaders whose legacy will still be serving the public interest of this nation and the world for many generations to come.

Mr. Rockefeller was deeply committed to wilderness, recreation and environmental conservation. Mr. Rockefeller served on dozens of federal, state and local commissions and advised every president since Eisenhower on issues involving recreation, wilderness preservation and ecology. He founded the American Conservation Association and supported scores of other environmental groups.

Grey Towers was the former home of forester and conservationist Gifford Pinchot, and in 1963 the Pinchot family donated the estate to the American people to serve as a place where individuals representing a diversity of perspectives could come together to work out solutions for some of the most pressing natural resource conser-

vation issues of our day. Grey Towers continues to play this role, and continues the practical conservation legacy of Gifford Pinchot, through the work of the Pinchot Institute.

Today, the Pinchot Institute continues to be a leader in forest conservation thought, policy and action. We will remain ever grateful for the many contributions Laurance Rockefeller made to the Pinchot Institute in its formative years, and for the many broader contributions he made toward our common goals in natural resource conservation.

YOUR PARTNERSHIP TO ENSURE THE FUTURE

Though the economic climate has improved, nonprofit organizations across the country are faced with new fundraising challenges. The recession had a major impact on philanthropic foundations that provide much of the support for the nonprofit sector. Furthermore, public support for nonprofit organizations is still at an all-time low. The cumulative effect is that this is the first time in a decade that nonprofits have had to raise funds for operating and project support during a depressed economy.

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* in 2001 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, contributions via the Combined Federal Campaign, matching employer gifts, credit card or vehicle donations made through a secured server on our website, 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, especially as a Pinchot Associate and/or major donor, 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.

Over the last three years, the *From the Professionals* column in this newsletter has explained various ways in which to leave a legacy. We can easily help you establish one of the following vehicles that offer significant tax savings beyond making an outright gift via check, payroll deduction or credit card:

- ✿ **Bequest in your Will** – one of the simplest ways of making a planned/deferred gift, which is done by naming the Pinchot Institute for Conservation in your will as a partial or full beneficiary of your estate.
- ✿ **Retirement Plan Gift** – another simple gift in which the Pinchot Institute for Conservation is named as one of the remainder beneficiaries after your death.
- ✿ **Life Insurance Gift** – a gift of an old or new insurance policy that names the Pinchot Institute for Conservation as the beneficiary and/or owner.
- ✿ **Real Estate Gift** – a donation of real property, either in full or with a retained life estate, the latter meaning the option for you to continue living in the property though you have transferred ownership to the Pinchot Institute for Conservation.
- ✿ **Charitable Gift Annuity** – a contract in which the Pinchot Institute for Conservation invests your gift, then agrees to pay you back a percentage of it annually throughout your lifetime.
- ✿ **Charitable Lead Trust** – a trust that pays an income to the Pinchot Institute for Conservation for a period of years before you or your heirs receive the remainder of the trust.
- ✿ **Living Trust** – a trust you can create to take effect during your lifetime.
- ✿ **Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust** – a trust that pays a *set* income to you or those you name before the Pinchot Institute for Conservation receives the remainder of the trust.
- ✿ **Charitable Remainder Unitrust** – a trust that pays *variable* income to you or those you name before the Pinchot Institute for Conservation receives the remainder of the trust.

For more information on the different ways you can donate to the Pinchot Institute, please call (202) 797-6580, pinchot@pinchot.org or visit our website at www.pinchot.org.

FROM THE PROFESSIONALS

From the Professionals is a tri-annual column of finance and investing tips from different members of the professional services industry. The opinions represented here are authorized by the following firm, and may not reflect those of the Pinchot Institute for Conservation.

Getting the Most Out of Your Appreciated Assets: The Charitable Remainder Trust

Andrew R. Wilshinsky
Senior Portfolio Manager
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Vice President - Investments
Smith Barney



Andrew R. Wilshinsky

Do you own highly appreciated assets, such as stocks, real estate or a closely held business? If you do, a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) may play a crucial role in your estate plan, helping you achieve any or all of the following objectives:

- Diversify a highly appreciated asset without incurring immediate capital gains tax on the sale
- Create a potentially lifelong payment stream
- Receive a possible income tax deduction
- Reduce your estate tax liability
- Provide for a charity of your choice

THE CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST

Through a Charitable Remainder Trust, you can contribute appreciated assets to charity while you (or another non-charitable beneficiary) have the right to a fixed payment stream from those assets for a predetermined period—your lifetime, the combination of your lifetime and another per-

son's, or a term of up to 20 years. When the payment stream terminates, the remainder of the trust assets passes to charity.

TAX BENEFITS

Because a CRT is a tax-exempt entity, assets sold within the trust are not subject to capital gains tax at the time they are sold. While capital gains tax may be imposed at a later date on distributions from the trust, the ability to defer these taxes allows the full value of the assets to be reinvested to immediately work for your benefit. Thus, you may be able to convert the full value of assets that may formerly have provided you with little or no income into a significant payment stream.

When you contribute assets to a CRT during your lifetime, you may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based on the present value of the remainder interest that passes to charity after the non-charitable payment stream terminates. This deduction cannot exceed a certain percentage of your adjusted gross income, but may be carried forward five years after the initial year of your contribution. Therefore, you may receive the benefit of an income tax deduction for up to six years. Further, because of the gift tax charitable deduction, the amount remaining in the trust transferred to charity is not subject to federal gift taxes.

Contributing highly appreciated assets to a CRT also reduces your estate by removing both the asset and all future appreciation on that asset (exclusive of any payments you receive from the trust). This may save you considerable estate taxes.

PROVIDING FOR YOUR HEIRS

Suppose you are concerned about providing for your heirs as well as your favorite charity. You can replace all or part of the value of the property transferred to the CRT with an asset replacement strategy like this:

- Establish an irrevocable life insurance trust (ILIT). The trust would purchase a life insurance policy on the life of the donor. At the donor's death, the life insurance proceeds could be distributed to the trust's beneficiaries—presumably family members.
- Make annual gifts to the ILIT. You can use some of the payment stream from the CRT and the income tax savings from the charitable income tax deduction for this purpose. If the trust is drafted with particular provisions, the gifts may qualify for the annual gift tax exclusion or they may count toward one's \$1 million lifetime gift tax exclusion amount.

(continued on page 19)

Revised June 2003

This article is based, in whole or in part, on information provided by the Planning Services Department of Smith Barney.



GREY TOWERS NEWS NOTES

NEWS OF PROGRAMS AND INFORMATION AT GIFFORD PINCHOT'S ANCESTRAL HOME, GREY TOWERS NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK (MILFORD, PA)



PHASE IV: VISITOR SERVICES CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Phase IV: Visitor Services construction project at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark is scheduled for completion in November 2004. When completed, this phase of the overall renovation project will enable Grey Towers to fully serve the public as it was intended. The new pavilion, parking area, pedestrian walks and improved lighting will help to accommodate increased and simultaneous public usage, enhance the visitor's educational experience and improve safety and security. Phase IV is a collaboration between the U.S. Forest Service, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and private partners, including the Pinchot Institute for Conservation.

CENTENNIAL PLANNING UNDERWAY

2005 marks the 100-year anniversary of the U.S. Forest Service. Grey Towers is planning to share the history and culture of the agency throughout the year with a number of programs and projects. The Pinchot Institute for Conservation will be collaborating on a number of these events, includ-

ing a Centennial Forum, which will explore organizational history and philosophy, and a Festival of Wood, an all-day festival that will educate participants about the importance of and many uses of wood in our everyday lives. Other Centennial events include a presentation by historian Char Miller, author of *Gifford Pinchot and the Making of Modern Environmentalism*, a showing of the documentary, "The Greatest Good," and the burying of a time capsule. For more information, call 570-296-9630 or contact us through our web page at www.fs.fed.us/gt.

SPECIAL PROGRAM PRESERVES HISTORIC TREES

Historic apple trees planted by Cornelia Pinchot in the 1920s at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark will now live in perpetuity thanks to a unique program launched by the U.S. Forest Service, the Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation and the National Park Service.

Grey Towers Horticulturist Elizabeth Hawke noted that many of the 14 original apple trees planted on the estate grounds have naturally reached the end of their life expectancy. This program involves propagating cuttings from the original trees to preserve the original grid of the orchard.

This past winter when the apple trees were still dormant, Hawke and Grey Towers Gardener Richard Gilbert took cuttings or scion material from eight of the Grey Towers apple trees. In 2007, when the new trees are ready to "come home" to Grey Towers, staff will dig, ball and

burlap their nursery material for the drive home to Milford.

When planning for the new Visitor Services Project at Grey Towers, there was an effort to preserve as many of the original apple trees as possible. Only three apple trees had to be removed for the construction and extra effort is being made to protect the others from the stress of construction.

GREY TOWERS HOSTS FOREST SERVICE WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS AND MEETINGS

The renovation of Grey Towers has enabled a number of different Forest Service units to use the Grey Towers Conference Center to work on strategic planning, training, leadership development and more. Each group that spent time at Grey Towers noted how their programs and experiences were enhanced by the uniqueness of the facility and the historic significance of the site. "These types of meetings really help Forest Service employees from across the nation connect with their conservation roots," said Ed Brannon, Director of Grey Towers. "At the same time, these sessions help us at Grey Towers fulfill our conservation mission as a natural resource education center and furthering the Gifford Pinchot legacy."

Some examples of the sessions held this year include:

- **Incident Command Type 3 Evaluations:** Grey Towers was one of five U.S. Forest Service Incident Command Type 3 (ICT3) evaluation sites identified in the eastern region to host sim-



ulation exercises intended to test, evaluate and certify current ICT3s. The objective was to ensure that all ICT3s are able to perform to expected professional safety and operational standards under stress. Through role-playing, participants were required to react to such things as the fire "blowing up," personnel issues, medical emergencies and more.

- **New Century of Service:** Regional coordinators for the U.S. Forest Service New Century of Service met recently at Grey Towers to plan the upcoming national programs that will celebrate the agency's 100-year anniversary and plan for the next century of service. Forest Service employees representing each region of the agency, the Washington headquarters and partners met to share their plans for the 2005 programs. One of the highlights of the year will be the annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival, planned for July 2005 on the national mall in Washington, DC, which will focus on the history of the Forest Service. A national web site with information about the Forest Service centennial is located at www.fs.fed.us/newcentury.



LECTURES EXPAND ARTS AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Conservation and Arts program at Grey Towers expanded its 2004 season by including lectures that explore the connection between the arts and natural resource conservation. These lectures are linked to the existing Kindred Spirits Music Program and are sponsored by the Pinchot Institute for Conservation and the U.S. Forest Service at Grey Towers.

To kick off the 2004 season, Dartmouth professor Dr. Robert L. McGrath discussed the connection between the Hudson River School of landscape painting and the emergence of the American Conservation Movement. In a lecture entitled *Art and Actuality: Landscape Painting and Public Policy in 19th Century*, he explored what prompted many artists of the Hudson River School to advocate conservation, and whether this advocacy contributed to the creation of actual conservation practices. He also illustrated the important role that the Pinchots played in this process.

A second lecture, *Can Art Influence Nature in the 21st Century?* is planned for October 9, 2004. Chicago Art Institute professor Dr. Claire Pentecost will address this question and encourage a dialogue among participants.

GREY TOWERS FORESTRY TRAIL GETS SPRUCED UP, NEW SIGNS

Junior Girl Scouts from Milford Troop #229 are volunteering their time at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark working toward earning the Girl Scout Bronze Award – the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can earn. The scouts recently completed work on the Grey Towers Forestry Trail and assisted in the gar-



dens by creating potting soil and helping to "deadhead" thousands of daffodil blooms. The improvements made by the girls will benefit the students and visitors who hike the trail and will help provide a visibly beautiful and manicured landscape throughout the season.

Also along the Forestry Trail, Richard Gilbert with the U.S. Forest Service at Grey Towers recently put the finishing framework on new signs that are now installed on the Grey Towers Forestry Trail, an interpretive trail through the woods that provides hands-on education about forest ecosystems. The trail includes activity boxes and is designed to be self-guided or can be used for naturalist-led group programs.

FORESTERS MEET AT GREY TOWERS

The Gifford Pinchot Chapter of the Allegheny Society of American Foresters (SAF) held their annual meeting at Grey Towers National Historic Landmark.

The meeting focused on invasive species and included several presentations. Guest speakers discussed the threat that such invasive species as



multiflora rose and *Japanese honeysuckle* pose to native plants and animals. They emphasized how foresters who work with timber companies and small private landowners can play an important role in controlling the spread of invasive plants.

The group also discussed plans for its 2005 annual meeting, when the Gifford Pinchot Chapter of SAF will host a larger, regional session.

GREY TOWERS BEGINS FEES FOR TOURS

Beginning Memorial Day weekend, the U.S. Forest Service began charging a nominal fee for house tours. These fees will help fund improved and expanded visitor services, including interpretive and educational programs, and can be used to help offset the cost of maintaining the historic site. The majority of fees collected at Grey Towers will be spent at Grey Towers.

The fee will be charged only for guided house tours. Access to the gardens and grounds will remain free of charge. Four "fee free" days will be scheduled throughout the year. School groups and conference attendees will not be charged a fee and the Forest Service reserves the right to waive fees for individuals and groups assisting in the accomplishment of the mission and goals of the Forest Service at Grey Towers.

For more information on the Grey Towers tour schedule or the new fees, please call 570-296-9624 or visit us on the web at www.fs.fed.us/gt.

NY-NJ HIGHLANDS WEB PAGE

A new Internet site that enables anyone with an ordinary computer the ability to view and query digital mapped data of the NY-NJ Highlands Region is now available. Developed by Rutgers University's Center for Remote Sensing and Spatial Analysis, the interactive site is located at: <http://crssa.rutgers.edu>.

The new internet map server has far-reaching benefits for audiences, including decision-makers, educators, and the general public. This resource is maintained and up-dated by CRSSA with funding from the U.S. Forest Service. Those whose computers are suitably equipped can also find digital maps in GIS format available for download.

For more information phone the NY-NJ Highlands office at Grey Towers at 570-296-9625.

(continued from page 15)

- The trustee of the ILIT may then use the gifts to purchase life insurance on your life, or a second-to-die policy on you and your spouse. The trustee is both policy owner and beneficiary.
- Life insurance proceeds received by the beneficiaries of the ILIT generally are not subject to income taxes and are not included in your gross estate at death. Thus using the CRT and the ILIT, you may be able to contribute significantly greater assets to charity and actually pass on more of your wealth to your beneficiaries!

Estate planning can help you preserve the assets you have carefully accumulated. Bear in mind that these strategies are subject to the complex laws and regulations governing estate and gift tax, income tax and private foundations. To be effective, an estate plan should be designed and implemented by specialists. As with all such matters, you should consult with your attorney and tax advisors to help devise a plan appropriate for you.

Selecting a trustee for your CRT is an equally important decision. The trustee may be responsible for investing and reinvesting trust assets, making periodic accountings and filings to trust beneficiaries and appropriate tax authorities, and numerous other administrative functions. You should consider using a professional trustee receive the benefits of ongoing relationship management, objectivity and proper trust administrative services.

Smith Barney does not provide tax or legal advice. Please consult your tax and/or legal advisor for such guidance. Smith Barney is a division of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Member SIPC



Restoration Surgery

*Dr. Char Miller
Professor and Chair, History Department
Interim Director, Urban Studies Program
Trinity University
San Antonio, TX*



Dr. Char Miller

The post-card sized broadside from Greenpeace slid under the hotel door at 4 a.m. “Sorry we couldn’t be with you in Arkansas this week,” the italic-script reads, “but we are busy addressing the threats to our public lands at our first U.S. Global Forest Rescue Station in Oregon.” All conferees at the U.S. Forest Service-organized Healthy Forest Conference, held in Little Rock in early June 2004, and focused on the Bush Administration’s Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (HFRA), received this small wake-up call from the environmental activist organization: “While you gather in Arkansas, we are gathering in Oregon to educate people about real threats to our public lands like – [HFRA].”

This dark-of-night challenge had had its open-air component: the day before a small knot of protesters had gathered before the Statehouse Convention Center, toting signs that read: “Forest Health, Not Timber Wealth,” a catchy slogan that Glen Hooks, regional conservation coordinator for the Sierra Club, embellished upon. What the Forest Service “will not admit is that the Bush administration policies seek to increase logging at the expense of taxpayer dollars and are contrary to citizens’ desires,” he told the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*. “What they will not admit is that the Bush administration forest policies favor healthy profits for the timber industry over truly healthy profits.”¹

Within the quiet convention space, the rhetoric was every bit as politicized. Weighing the difference

between those on the inside and on the outside, I heard one attendee blurt out: “we believe in good science; they believe in bad management.” More measured were the words of Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman, dismissed those doubting the wisdom of the forest restoration act, asserting: the “strong, bipartisan support for Healthy Forest legislation sent a signal that people are tired of fighting old battles, that they are ready to work together for forest health as a common long-term goal.” That sea-change in public attitude was why Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee believed that the healthy forest initiative would emerge as one of the administration’s most significant actions, a sterling legacy for the nation. Bush is, Veneman trumpeted, our “conservationist in chief.”²

HFRA may neither be as important as its supporters believe or as benighted as its detractors allege. So few of its mandates are fully funded—a point of considerable discussion in corridor conversations during the two-day conference—that its ultimate, on-the-ground impact may be more muted than malevolent. As demonstrated in the much-ballyhooed, but cash-poor No Child Left Behind education legislation that the Bush administration passed in 2001, and in the almost budget-less Environmental Protection Agency that President Nixon launched in 1970, Washington budgetary politics is often something of a shell game.

There is this con, too, embedded in HFRA. One of its key provisions, Title 5, encourages partnerships

between federal, state, and local entities, NGOs, tribal groups, and non-industrial landowners. Like its official title, “Partnering for Healthy Forests,” the conference unabashedly spotlighted some of these successful ventures. Virtually every one of the breakout sessions was framed around the cooperative ethos, from turkey-habitat restoration initiatives in South Carolina to nation-wide, interagency partnerships for fire management; from tribal watershed-protection projects to the rehabilitation of longleaf-pine ecosystems. Yet the majority of case studies pre-dated the HFRA, some by many years. That’s consistent with the agency’s past: Even before there was a Forest Service, its progenitor, the Division of Forestry, announced through Circular 21 (1898) that it would aid private landowners in developing forest management plans for small woodlots or vast holdings, a crucial first step in establishing its now, more-than-century-long collaborative tradition. In this important respect, HFRA breaks no new ground.

Its success in partnership development will depend as well on an older ecological imperative, one Aldo Leopold brought to our attention in the mid-twentieth century. In *A Sand County Almanac* (1949), he challenged us to “think like a mountain,” a challenge that was designed to get us out of our skins, if only momentarily. Such an out-of-body experience would give us an opportunity to imagine the dense set of biotic interactions that make up any niche we might seek to restore; symptomatic of this heightened consciousness was his



family's efforts to regenerate their worn-out farm in Wisconsin. Skeptical that governmental agencies were capable of initiating, promoting, and monitoring land restoration, he was more certain that individual initiative and grassroots efforts had a better chance of success, a conviction as much born of his family's restoration of The Shack as of his disdain for big New Deal reclamation projects.

His wariness had (and has) its place. There were, however, hopeful signs at Little Rock that in small ways governmental agencies were getting what Leopold believed was the bigger picture. At some point during each presentation, the speaker would flash on the screen a PowerPoint page emblazoned with the agency seals and organizational icons of the broader partnership. Taken together, these heraldic emblems reflect the creation of the complex human ecology so necessary to the creation of a deeper understanding of the complicated environments these coalitions hope to repair and regenerate.

Most impressive in this regard is the woodland ecosystem restoration project in the Arkansas Highlands, and sited in the Bayou Ranger District of the Ozark National Forest. Determining how to restore a landscape requires knowing which past you want to recreate, and the Forest Service and its many partners concluded that the historic forest struc-

ture best adapted to the mountainous country was that which the first white settlers encountered when they pushed into the region in the early nineteenth century. The "park-like, oak-hickory and pine woodlands with a rich mix of wild flowers and grasses" was the result of several millennia of Native American-set fires, a regime that European settlers mimicked until the post-Civil War era. Then the forests were heavily logged, and a policy of fire suppression enacted on state and federal lands, such that what had been once a relatively open woodland, with an estimated 45-75 trees per acre, had become a tangle sustaining upwards of 1,000 trees per acre. Its density is but one marker of the upland forest's precarious condition—an estimated 300,000 acres of it are insect infested, and much of the larger stand is further weakened by drought and quite vulnerable to fire.

Restoration started small—a series of demonstration plots were thinned, burned, and closely monitored, activities that tested the hypothetical capacity to recreate historic forest cover and, not incidentally, evaluated the partnership that underwrote these initial steps. Emboldened by early signs of progress, the Forest Service, in combination with the Nature Conservancy, National Park Service, and Fish & Wildlife Service; the Arkansas Game & Fish, Forestry, and Natural Heritage Commissions; Quails Unlimited, National Wild Turkey

Federation, and the Southwest Fire Use Training Academy, have targeted an additional 60,000 acres for rehabilitation.

How judge its proponents' upbeat assessment of their chances for success? Leopold, once more, provides a measuring stick: "a thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." We will better able to judge outcomes in the Ozark Highlands if quail, elk, and turkey once more roam the open-canopy woodlands; if its fires are less catastrophic; and if a healthy ecosystem, and an equally salubrious human community, emerge. But to achieve such a tantalizing future, as Leopold knew well, requires something more profound than "letterhead pieties and convention oratory."³

NOTES

1. Kim McGuire, "Plans aim to cut wildfire threat," *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, June 8, 2004, p. 1B, 4B.
2. *Ibid*; "Remarks of Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman at the Healthy Forest Conference...June 7, 2004," USDA release No. 0229.04.
3. Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1968), p. 207, 224.



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