

PINE RIVER TRANSPORT, LTD.,  
Long Lake, WI, November 30, 2000.

Inventoried Roadless Area in Florence County

The 18,000 acre closure to timber cutting when coupled to all the other forest service set asides is going to further exacerbate the rapid drop in volume harvested from the Nicolet National Forest.

This in addition to the new Administration Rules on hours and the 95% reduction in the amount of sulfur in diesel fuel will make the continued operation of this trucking company very questionable, as fuel costs will soar.

Good management of our National Forests can provide all the multiple use benefits that we all value so highly. At the present time "Mother Nature" in the form of fire, wind and disease has taken over the management of the forests from the Forest Service.

It is my understanding that the so called "Roadless Area" in Florence County is actually fully roaded and is far from the inaccessible pristine areas referred to by Chief Dombeck.

We need some sort of common sense restored versus this high handed rule making of the Clinton-Gore administration.

Sincerely,

RICHARD CONNOR, Jr.

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY AND  
PARKS, NATURAL RESOURCES CENTER,

Florence, WI, November 30, 2000.

To: Representative Mark Green.

From: David S. Majewski, Administrator,  
Florence County Forestry & Parks, Florence, Wisconsin.

Subject: Federal Roadless Initiative.

As I understand there is a need to comment on the proposed "Roadless Initiative" and send the comments to your office.

The present Administration is trying to ram through an effort on behalf of the "preservationists" that will affect many people and communities. Most of the people in this group live far away from the lands that are proposed in this effort and it does not impact their day to day lives or affect their livelihood.

This proposal is a smokescreen, to create more wilderness in the very near future. It is an attempt to stop timber management in these areas. It will affect the economy of many communities surrounding these National Forests. It will also cause many serious problems for forest protection, which include control of insects, disease, and fire.

The proposal is not good for the health of the forests, the economy of the areas, or the many recreational opportunities that are presently available when the forests are managed for multiple use. It is also not good stewardship of the land.

The Public Forests in the Lake States have been managed very conservatively since the early 1900's, the "Early Logging Era". Keeping healthy diverse aged forests is better for our environment than over-aged unhealthy forests. The Forests are used by a wide variety of recreation users and the current management provides for a sustained economy for these rural communities and the Nation. The current multiple use management also provides for healthy forests and very good habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. Many of the present wildlife species could not exist without it.

This initiative will: restrict if not eliminate timber management, cause deterioration of health forests, constrict all recreational opportunities, and inhibit habitat for the majority of the present wildlife. This initiative will not preserve these Forests for future generations but will cause more environmental damage when insects, diseases, and fires rage through these areas.

Thank you, for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

DAVID S. MAJEWSKI.

GOODMAN FOREST INDUSTRIES, LTD.,  
Long Lake, WI, December 1, 2000.

Re Florence County Roadless Area

I attended a meeting today of the MI-WI Timber Producers Association and found that the 18,000 acre "Roadless" area in Florence County has been heavily logged in recent years and is well roaded.

Who is the Forest Service trying to fool on this? We in the industry believe in "multiple use" of our forest lands, however we can not tolerate any more "lockout" set asides to occur. Stumpage prices are already skyrocketing because of the fact the Forest Service is not even offering 50% of its operating plan on the Nicolet National Forest.

Please let me know if you think Congress can intervene. If not, then industry will have no choice but to take the U.S. Forest Service to court to stop this ridiculous set asides formation.

Sincerely,

RICHARD KRAWZE.

SHAWANO, WI, November 29, 2000.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MARK GREEN: I have been reading, with growing concern, about the Administration's efforts to restrict the use of our public lands and waterways. While I applaud the government's desire to ensure that our natural resources are there for future generations to enjoy, unilaterally cutting off access to these lands is misguided, wrong and in some cases, dangerous.

For example, if the goal of the Forest Service Roadless Initiative is to preserve these lands for our children and grandchildren to enjoy by not building roads and trails into these areas, how can they be expected to enjoy them when they cannot get to them?

By definition, the lands and adjacent waterways maintained by the federal land management agencies are public lands. They are maintained with funds provided by tax dollars as well as entrance and user fees. Yet, the public, as well as Congress, governors, local land managers and fire and rescue personnel, were not involved in the creation of these policies. Much of the Forest Service land has been statutorily designated as multiple-use land. By cutting off access to large portions of the land in its care, the Forest Service is defying a decades old congressional mandate.

Further, this type of thinking, returning our natural areas to what is being described as a pre-European state is very dangerous. As you know, much of our forest land in the western United States is burning out of control (in part as a result of other poorly designed policies). Without roads and firebreaks, the already difficult jobs of firefighters and other rescue personnel would be made even more difficult, if not impossible.

I do not believe that all public lands should be available for all uses. We all share a responsibility to treat our natural areas carefully and safely. However, if we all work together we can create a policy regarding our public lands and waterways that is fair, reasonable and physically and environmentally safe.

Please help us achieve this balance for this generation and those to come.

Sincerely,

KEVIN KING.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. EHRlich) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EHRlich addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. METCALF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SALMON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SALMON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN HENRY B. GONZALEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. RODRIGUEZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, I paid my last respects to a man that I knew since the age of 12, a man that I respected and admired immensely, Henry B. Gonzalez. I have called this special order so that we may honor Henry B., a friend and a former colleague.

I would like to express my condolences to his wife, Senora Gonzalez; my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CHARLES GONZALEZ); and the entire Gonzalez family. My heart and prayers are with them in this time of sorrow.

Henry B. was one of the hardest working men I have ever known. My father often referred to him as "El Compadre," the godfather. He was a true friend to all San Antonions and all Texans and throughout the country. From my father's radio I grew up listening to the words of Henry B. My dad's Compadre was famous for his blazing honesty, strong convictions, compelling oratory, and undying dedication to public service.

Long hours working at a Southside San Antonio gas station as a young man gave me the opportunity to meet dozens of people every day when I used to fill gas tanks. When I worked at the gas station and people came by, I checked their oil and washed their windows. I still vividly recall the day almost 40 years ago when I was working there at that gas station on Pleasanton