

JUNE/JULY \$1.50

BANKHEAD MONITOR

TAKING THE PULSE OF THE BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST



"The Mandate of The People"



Lamar Marshall

The Bankhead Monitor is a grass roots phenomena of the people of Alabama. It is the voice of the land and its forest. It is and will forever stand as a Champion of the public lands of our citizens. We will fight for our rights to maintain a natural representative of native woodlands in the face of a conspiracy that would rob us of that right.

We do not want, nor will we accept a tree farm on our public property.

The United States Forest Service is our government agency that should protect this right. The New South will not

accept any other plan. The Land and Resource Plan will have to be modified to reflect this mandate of the people.

We have presented our design to John Yancy, the Forest Supervisor of the National Forests of Alabama. It is up to the Forest Service to make the next move. We await their decision. A long fight is not necessary. We have a Plan.

The biological and botanical makeup of each of the National Forests of Alabama are different. The Bankhead is unique. The Appalachian Canyons which riddle this forest total 400 miles if put end to end. They must be protected from the bulldozer and chainsaw. The blufflines must not be stripped. The waters must not be filled with silt. The rare ferns and plants must not be exterminated.

The roads must not be overlooks of vast stumplands and pine saplings. Those who drive the backcountry must not be greeted with deforestation. The hardwood ridges must not be decimated and replaced with pine plantations. Beauty has its price. We would have old giants reining over the hollows rather than log trucks pulling our trees out for chips and boards.

The US Forest Service is on a collision course with the people of Alabama. They have lost their direction. They are blinded by the ambitions of a special interest group - the timber lobby. They are owned by a people other than the American people.

Last week I met a man in the forest who ordinarily does not go into the forest anymore. He was about 70. He said that unless you were raised in the forest as he was, you just couldn't understand how the forest has been ruined. It literally makes him sick to see the Forest Service destruction. A while back he cut himself a walking staff out of the woods. Later, a Ranger had the audacity to attempt to incriminate him for extracting the pole from the forest. That is the pinnacle of hypocrisy. Imagine an agency that clearcuts with utter devastation, 25 square miles in the Bankhead every 10 years, that has the nerve to accuse an elderly man of cutting a walking stick. Can such an agency retain the respect of the public? It is time for our government to reel in the chain that controls this agency, and to redirect it's attitude toward our environment.

Lamar Marshall

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Cartoons resembling any living persons is strictly a wild coincidence.

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ABOUT THE COVER

PHANTOM BLUFF - Not far below Kinlock Falls in upper Hubbard Canyon is one of the few places that this gorge may be entered easily. Climbing down the west slope through a dense thicket of mountain laurel, we view the east wall. Of course this is another of Charles Seifried's Bankhead Collection.

THE MEDICINE MAN

MEDICINAL PLANTS OF THE CONFEDERACY

by Darryl Patton

While not complete, the Northern strangle hold on Southern ports and the ships serving them proved so successful that by the end of the war there were few people in the beleaguered South who had not felt its effects.

One area that was particularly and severely affected by the blockade was the importation of the botanical and chemical medicines so desperately needed by our troops.

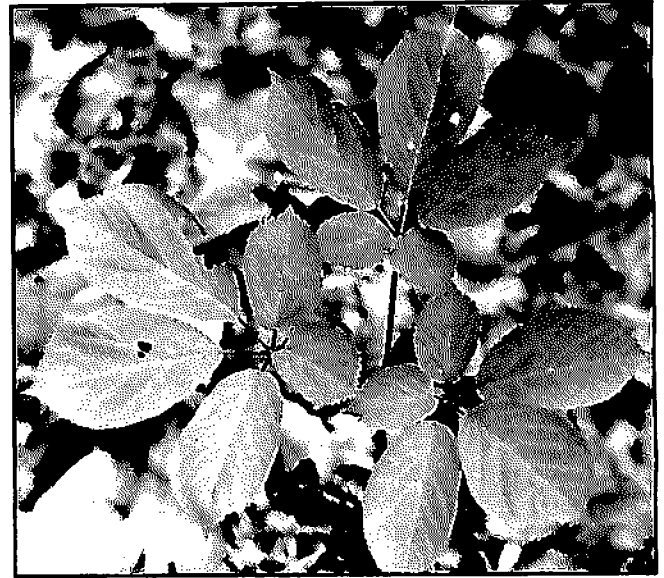
Yellow fever, malaria and a host of other insidious bacterial and viral diseases lurked in the wings waiting for the chance to attack. Scurvy and ricketts ran amuck through troops subsisting on a diet of hard tack, moldy fat back and parched corn. Open latrines and polluted drinking water, along with a general ignorance of proper hygiene on the part of the average soldier, served to compound an already serious problem.

Life was not easy for the confederate soldier. He was as likely to die from disease as from a Yankee mini-ball. If the mini-ball didn't kill him there was a good chance of gangrene or sepsis developing and finishing the job. At the very least, stomach disorders, the flux (bloody diarrhea), trenchfoot, measles, chicken-pox, small-pox, typhoid fever and a myriad of other lesser, though no less serious ailments, made constant forays through camps already debilitated by the hardships of war.

In an attempt to blunt the effects of the Northern blockade, the Surgeon General of the Confederate States enlisted the services of Dr. Francis Porcher in the war effort. Dr. Porcher was commissioned to develop a list of all potential resources to be found indigenous to the Southern States. This list was to cover everything from the manufacture of gunpowder from bat guano and saltpeter found in the thousands of caves dotting the South to the production of paper from native reeds and yes - MEDICINE.

Dr. Porcher was a doctor of medicine as well as a large land owner and planter in the Charleston, S.C. area. He was well respected among medical circles of his time and presented many scholarly papers to the AMA both before and after the war.

Dr. Porcher, being the true patriotic son of the South that he was, set forth with a zeal to produce



AMERICAN GINSENG

this list in time for it to be of use in the war effort. In the course of researching and preparing this list to be presented to the Confederate High Command, he wrote an immense tome titled: Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests...

This 700 page manuscript was the most complete of its time to be found in the South or North. To this day its scope and magnitude have not been excelled.

Being a doctor, Porcher was particularly interested in native substitutes for the medicines failing to make it through the Yankee blockade. What few medicines such as Cinchona bark used to treat malaria made it through the gauntlet of fleet Yankee raiders usually ended up on the black market at prices out of the reach of the average person.

Dr. Porcher's work proved to be a life saver to confederate soldiers, many who had resorted to using old home remedies in a desperate attempt to both prevent and treat the multitude of attacking diseases.

One interesting approach to the prevention and treatment of disease at this time was the use of "BITTERS". The more bitter a tonic, the better. Herbs such as gentian, goldenseal, chicory, boneset, yellowroot and dogwood gained much popularity for their bitterness. Many a soldier imbibing these bitter witche's brews soon



GOLDENSEAL

developed a liking for the taste and drank them liberally as a substitute for coffee which more often than not had been unavailable for months and years.

Bitters proved to be of limited usefulness. While they did help in many cases due to the chemical properties found in the plants, the overindulgence of the brews tended to negate their overall effectiveness. It was sort of like building up a tolerance to the excessive use of aspirin.

The following information draws mainly from the work of Dr. Porcher but is not confined to it alone. Many other manuscripts were written during the war years of 1861 - 1865. Some proved to be valid while others were only quackery very scholarly written.

When you see an asterick in front of an herb, please take note that it is very potent and potentially deadly. It may be a useful herb but is not to be used without caution and training.

VIRGINIA SNAKEROOT - A general tonic, much used as a diaphoretic in the treatment of fevers. Slaves used this plant in the treatment of pneumonia and typhoid fever. V. Snakeroot was commonly infused in alcohol along with gentian, boneset etc., to make "bitters". It found some use as an antiseptic. The effects of this plant were increased when combined with either camphor or opium.

WHITE OAK - Became a vitally important plant

to the Confederacy due to it's high content of tannic acid. It was used with great success as an astringent wash for gangrene. A decoction was used for cases of dysentery, pulmonary hemorrhage and intermittent fevers. It was considered an effective treatment for gonorrhea which was a common disease of the 19th century (still is it seems). A side use during the war for White Oak was in the production of a cement as hard as marble and impervious to water. It was made by combining two parts white oak ashes, three parts clay, and one part sand mixed with oil. White Oak was preferred in the production of contracted lye for soap.

SPICEBUSH - A wonderful stimulant and tonic, used in the treatment of fevers and as a substitute for "green" tea as a beverage. It found some use in the treatment of bruises and for rheumatic limbs. A hot infusion of the twigs and leaves caused profuse perspiration and was used for pneumonia, coughs and colds. It was also used as a substitute for Allspice.

GOLDEN SEAL - Well known to the Indians, golden seal as a dye plant used to produce a brilliant yellow. When combined with indigo it yielded a rich green. As a medicine it was employed by the Confederacy as an extremely powerful bitter tonic and wash for severe eye problems. In its fresh state it was considered narcotic and emetic. Some confusion exists due to its common name of yellow root which it holds in common with shrub yellowroot, another powerful bitter tonic.

GINSENG - Held in high esteem in China as a drink of last resort for any disease, ginseng gained a degree of popularity during the war it had not previously held. Great confidence was placed in it due to its ability to act as a restorative after great exertion and fatigue. It was also considered an antispasmodic and, of course, as an aphrodisiac. It gained use for invigorating and stimulating power within those who used it. It was thought that it could be used as a substitute for licorice.

UNICORN ROOT - Absolutely the king of the bitter tonics, it knew no equal. It was considered an excellent remedy for fevers, chronic

rheumatism and dropsy. In small doses it was imbibed freely as a general tonic to the system and was thought to have a beneficial action upon the stomach and intestines. Occasionally, large doses would be employed when a purgative was desired. For intermittent fevers, an infusion with vinegar was used.

The BNF is the ideal place for nature lovers to see these medicinals. If you can get down into the hardwood hollows away from the clearcuts, it is still possible to find these beautiful and useful plants.

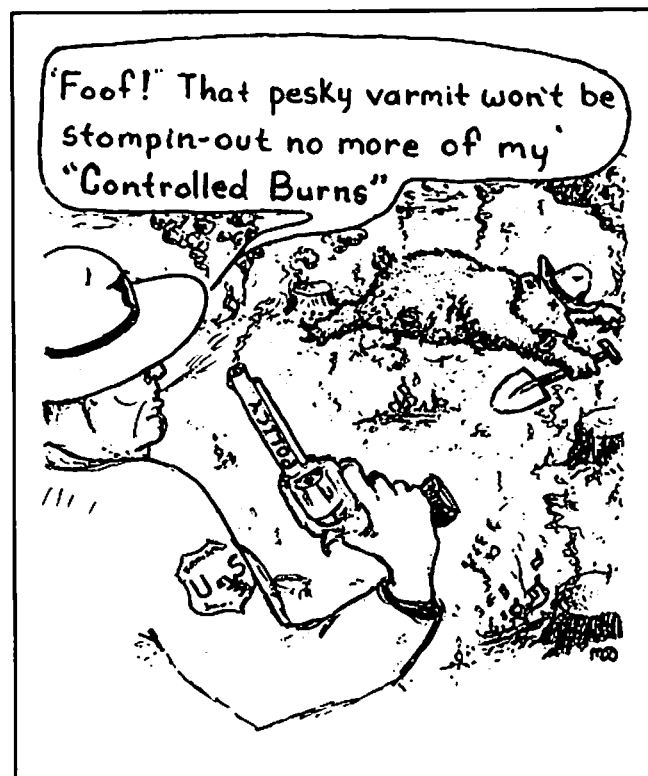
TO BE CONTINUED.....



OAKLEAF HYDRANGEA OR SEVEN BARK



YELLOW LADYSLIPPER



HOW SMOKEY REALLY DIED



VIRGINIA SNAKEROOT

DUNCAN BRIDGE MARINA
 SMITH LAKE
 JASPER, ALABAMA
 LARGEST DRY STORAGE ON SMITH LAKE - WET STORAGE
 NEW AND USED BOATS
 CAMPING - PICNIC AREA - BOAT LAUNCH - BEACH
 PONTOON BOAT RENTAL
 TERRY AND JEAN GOODRICH JASPER (205) 367-1208
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NATIONAL TREASURE - BRUSHY CREEK

Brushy Creek comes by its name honestly since a majority of the canyons in Brushy's upper drainage are covered with a predominate undergrowth of hemlocks and mountain laurel thickets. The Brushy system has in excess of 500 waterfalls which are most numerous in Collier Creek, Brown Creek, and Rush Creek drainage areas. In addition to the falls, many Indian shelters lie along the blufflines of Brushy Creek's numerous canyons and many historic cemeteries are found along Brushy's ridges.

SIZE

The drainage of Brushy Creek north of highway 278 consists of a little more than 110 square miles or about 70,500 acres. Approximately 73.6% of the land covering some 81 square miles in the Brushy Creek drainage north of highway 278 is publicly owned land managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The land managed by the USFS is equivalent to about 52,000 acres. Of the 26.4 % of the privately owned land representing about 29 square miles or some 18,500 acres in the northern Brushy drainage, only a small fraction of the private acreage is in pastures with the majority of the private land being in timber production.

CANOEING

At present, none of the Brushy Creek drainage is protected from environmental degradation in the form of wild and scenic rivers designation or wilderness. However, Brushy Creek is the premier canoeing stream in the eastern portion of Bankhead National Forest. Five primary canoe routes which exist in the northern Brushy drainage are: (1) the Beech and Brushy route from USFS Road 245 to USFS Road 255; (2) from Brushy Lake to USFS Road 255; (3) Rush and Brushy short route from USFS Road 245 to USFS Road 255; (4) Capsey Creek short route from USFS Road 266 to USFS Road 255; (5) and the main Brushy Creek route from USFS 255 to highway 278. The route from USFS Road 255 to highway 278 will involve some two miles of slack water canoeing when Smith Lake is at full pool. Water conditions must be observed for the best canoeing conditions in the Brushy Creek system.

Additional canoe routes from the Big Bend area of Brushy Creek are some of the best in the forest; however, the gate on the Big Bend Road must be open in order to utilize these routes. The Big Bend Road has a gate located in T9S-R7W, Section 26, which leads off of USFS Road 124A and goes to a turn-around within 100 yards of Brushy Creek. The old log road continues from the turn-around to a few yards of the stream. The Big Bend Route to 278 will have enough water for canoeing the major portion of the year and is eight miles in length. Other down stream routes to Big Bend include the USFS Road 255 to Big Bend and USFS Road 266 to Big Bend. Remember to check with the USFS to insure the Big Bend gate is unlocked.

ROADS AND TRAILS

The Brushy Creek drainage area includes approximately 130 miles of improved rock roads and numerous miles of log roads, skidder trails, and fire lanes all of which contribute to erosion and siltation of Brushy Creek and its numerous tributary streams. In addition, within the Brushy Creek drainage is the Owl Creek Horse Camp which has approximately 40 miles of connecting horse trails. Another trail system for Off Road vehicles (ORV) of some 40 miles is planned for the Brushy Creek Drainage with part of the ORV trail already constructed. All the roads and trails within the Brushy Creek system causes increased siltation which creates enormous sedimentation problems for the Brushy Creek drainage system.

TIMBER HARVEST

The 1991 and 1992 program at work identifies 11 compartments which will be cut of the some 45 compartments that make up the Brushy Creek system. This cutting rate is equivalent to about 1/4 of the compartments within the Brushy system every two years. Even though an entire compartment is never cut, several timber harvest activities (road building, burning) and cuts usually occur within each compartment scheduled. Some compartments may have clearcuts, thinnings, and seed tree cuts within the same year.

The USFS 1991 program of work included timber

cutting in compartments 17, 33, 36, 131, 132 and 140, within the Brushy Creek Drainage system. Within these compartments some 668 acres were scheduled for timber harvest regeneration (clearcutting) and some 362 acres of thinning (two stage clearcutting) creating a total in excess of 1,000 acres stripped of timber and subject to erosion and siltation of Brushy Creek. The 1992 program of work included timber cutting in compartments 4, 22, 29, 39, and 43 which lie within the Brushy Creek Drainage system. The 1992 program of work did not include an individual break down of acreage to be harvested in each compartment.

Within the last few years, the USFS has begun a policy of clearcutting the deep canyons and steep ridges of the Brushy drainage. In addition, some clearcuts authorized by Mr. James Ramey and developed by Mr. Robert Taylor, completely cut away any stream side management zones such as in the west fork of Beech Creek.

CEMETERY DESTRUCTION

During the Spring of 1992, James Ramey of the USFS authorized the clearcutting of a historic cemetery a short distance east of Capsey Creek Bridge on USFS Road 266. The cemetery which was bordered by some huge old age pine trees contained some 20 graves which were well marked. The large border pines were cut and felled directly across the cemetery knocking down and scattering many tombstones. After realizing the mistake, a bulldozer was sent to the cemetery and used to push the debris into large piles. Most of the individual tombstones had to be reset and some of the stones were left scattered across the graveyard.

These same mistakes have been repeated over and over with little or total disregard for historical sites or burials. An example includes the bulldozing of a young child's tombstone into a debris pile. The stone was found and replaced in its approximate position by a concerned citizen. Another example includes a site many people claim was an Indian mound located just east of Brushy Creek on USFS Road 124A. A road was bulldozed through the mound while building an access road to be utilized for timber harvest.

SEDIMENTATION

All timber harvesting activities contribute to soil loss and the sediment accumulation in Brushy Creek. The cumulative effect of sedimentation adversely impacts the nine endangered or threatened

species in Brushy Creek, because of the siltation and sediment deposited in the creek's naturally rocky bottoms. Yet, no environmental impact studies are conducted and the USFS utilizes FONSI (Finding of no Significant Impact) to continue their clear cutting.

The following data on soil loss and sediment yield was obtained from USFS Silvicultural Examination and Environmental Analysis and Prescription Reports for ten compartments within the upper Brushy Creek drainage. The data represents only a small fraction of the compartments cut within the Brushy Creek system since 1988.

<u>Compartments</u>	<u>Soil Loss</u>	<u>Sediment Yields</u>
C-132	2854	742
C-17	3000	3879*
C-24	4809	1547
C-30	3886	1610
C-140	1997	677
C-131	6733	3116
C-33	6785	2728
C-129	4345	2166
C-18	<u>4647</u>	<u>2842</u>

TOTALS 42,261 TONS/10YR 20,394 TONS/10YR

*Sediment yield was actually listed in the Silvicultural Report as being greater than soil loss.

It should be noted that none of the 1992 compartments or all of the Brushy Creek compartments since 1988 are not included in the above data on soil loss and sediment yield; therefore, the actual soil loss and sediment yield will GREATLY EXCEED this report. According to the above data, the average sediment yield for each compartment cut is some 204 TONS/YEAR which will accumulate in Brushy Creek.

Brushy Creek cannot flush the sediment from its water courses when siltation is constantly added through clearcutting practices. Even if the sediment flushes from the upper streams it constantly accumulates in the upper portion of Smith Lake and thereby fills up the old creek beds of both Brushy and also on Sipsey River above Highway 278.

HISTORICAL EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS

Prior to and during the early 1960's, my dad and I would wade Brushy Creek and fish for bass and

bluegill. Brushy's stream bottom, at that time, was clear of sedimentation and contained deep rocky holes of crystal clear water. During the years of the 60's, it was no trouble catching large stringers of bass and other sunfish. Now the rocky bottoms and the deep clear holes are unable to flush the vast amounts of sedimentation. According to Rayford Hyatt who was a state conservation officer in Bankhead for some 37 years, the streams of Bankhead have drastically changed from their rocky clean nature to streams laden with silt and debris. He attributes the increased accumulation of sedimentation to the clearcutting and control burning practices utilized by the USFS since 1960.

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED AQUATIC ORGANISMS

What have we got to lose from the sedimentation of the Brushy Creek System? The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report the following nine endangered or threatened species affected by the **ACCUMULATION OF SEDIMENTATION** in Brushy Creek:

Flattened musk turtle; Upland combshell mussel; fine-lined pocket mussel; orange-nacre mucket mussel; Alabama moccasinshell mussel; Coosa moccasinshell mussel; dark pigtoe mussel; ovate pigtoe mussel; and the triangular kidneyshell mussel.

The Endangered Species Act requires protection of endangered and threatened species. In addition to the endangered and threatened species listed above, Brushy's aquatic flora and fauna will also be destroyed by the accumulation of sediment in the stream and also in the upper portions of Smith Lake. Within the silt, poisonous residues of herbicides that are used on a regular basis by the USFS will adversely impact the aquatic organisms and degrade the water quality.

ECOSYSTEM CONVERSION

For years the USFS has been in the process of converting the old growth hardwood ridges of the Brushy Creek system to even age pine plantations. The establishment of a monoculture pine forest not only effects the diversity of the terrestrial flora and fauna but also effects the aquatic environments

which contain endangered species of mussels.

The conversion of the ecosystem from a native hardwood forest to a pine plantation will eventually cause a decrease in the pH (increase the acidity) which in turn will adversely effect the water quality. Acid conditions, such as acid-mine drainage, are very detrimental to the entire aquatic ecosystem impacted and causes streams to become void of all forms of aquatic life. Sediment containing large amounts of pine needles will definitely decrease the pH or increase the acidity of the water; therefore, a decrease in pH will cause fish and other aquatic organisms to die.

AUTHORIZED DESTRUCTION

Mr. James Ramey, Bankhead Ranger, has blatantly ignored federal laws and has pleaded ignorance to the fact that endangered organisms, unique habitats, historical sites, and biotic diversity is systematically being destroyed. Regardless of Federal Laws, James Ramey continually authorizes clearcuts in Bankhead National Forest that jeopardizes the integrity of the whole ecosystem. Ramey continually calls anyone wanting to protect the area from his pure timber production-ecosystem destruction approach a special interest group.

We, in the Bankhead Monitor, hope to see the individual who authorized the Brushy Creek clearcuts in violation of Federal Laws, sentenced to Brushy (not the creek, but Brushy Mountain Prison).

Rickey Butch Walker



RARE AND ENDANGERED MUSSELS FROM BRUSHY CREEK

Walking The Sipsey Wilderness: Part 3

by Jim Manasco

The Sipsey's Turkey Foot Canyon

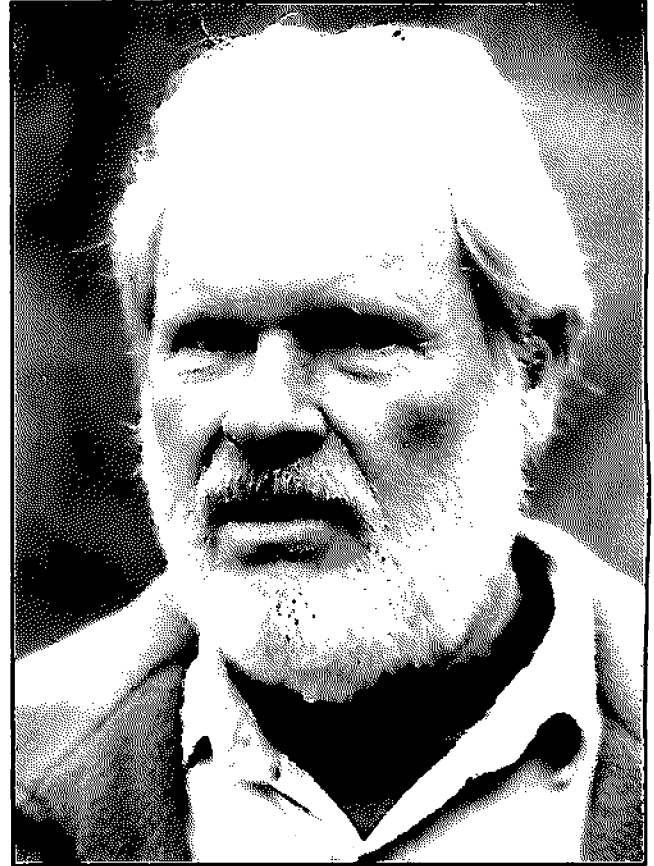
The bridge at Sipsey River Recreation Area is in the southeast corner of wilderness. From here, going west, the south boundary of the wilderness is 66 feet from the center of the blacktop on the right-hand side of the road. This section of Cranal Road was built in 1960. Prior to that, the road was a single-track gravel road that crossed this section of the forest following the route of the least resistance. It is here in this corner of the wilderness that Turkey Foot Creek enters the Sipsey River.

Wilderness areas are required to have at least 5,000 acres, which makes large portions of them hard to reach. A place like Saltpeter Furnace requires a six mile hike. So some people think they cannot see wilderness without more trouble than it is worth. Turkey Foot Creek will change their minds.

Once you have arrived at the parking lot, you are already there. A person standing on the bridge between the parking lots can see the creek coming in from the west, right under the bridge. It does not look like much here, and neither does the cut over the hollow it comes out of. Most folks walk by it quickly as possible to get to prettier places up the river. You never see anyone in this canyon, yet it is the most scenic little canyon in all the wilderness.

Start walking up the creek from the bridge and notice that it appears to get bigger as you go up it. A lot of the water is absorbed by the sand on the river bank and makes it look that way.

The bridge is out of sight after a few minutes and the walls of the cliffs start to close in. The brush suddenly changes to virgin hemlocks. It stirs you inside and you don't know just what caused it. By following the bluff along the south side of the creek, you soon find yourself in an old Indian shelter. There, standing by the milling stone, you look down into the hollow along the creek that has changed little since the Indians sat here making their acorn meal bread and hickory nut butter.



JIM MANASCO

You say to yourself, "What a surprise!" and walk out the other end of the shelter, directly into the rear end of a 1936 Ford sedan.

The old road came around this side of the mountain before the new road was built. The old gravel road circled to the old bridge, following the very lip of the canyon.

More than two decades ago, the old Ford came roaring down the road, became airborne in the loose gravel, and sailed over the cliff. The steep bluffs that kept timber men from cutting the trees also kept the owner from removing the car.

The driver later told me he was unable to get the car out and was compelled to dismantle it and snake the parts out with a mule, leaving the body. The car had come down on it's wheels, receiving little damage and looking as though it had just

been put there. The body became home for the forest birds until one night when the sky turned green. The tornado dropped a tree across it. That night will be long remembered in Guin, Jasper and Huntsville.

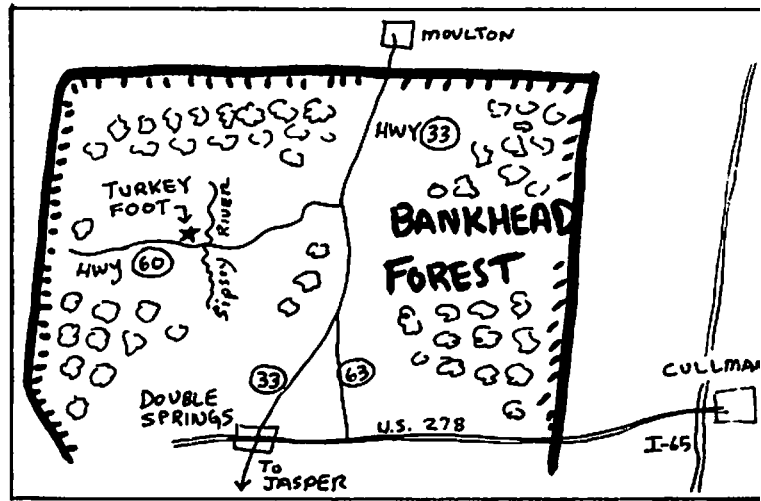
A little farther up the bluff, across the canyon, a nameless creek falls into the canyon. This waterfall is possibly the most photogenic in all the wilderness. This whole canyon is a photographer's dream.

By now you might wonder just what else this little canyon could offer. Walking a little further up you see Turkey Foot Falls. Here at the head of the canyon, the cars can still be heard on the highway above the falls. Here, under the bluffs, once creaked the waterwheel of Mize Mill.

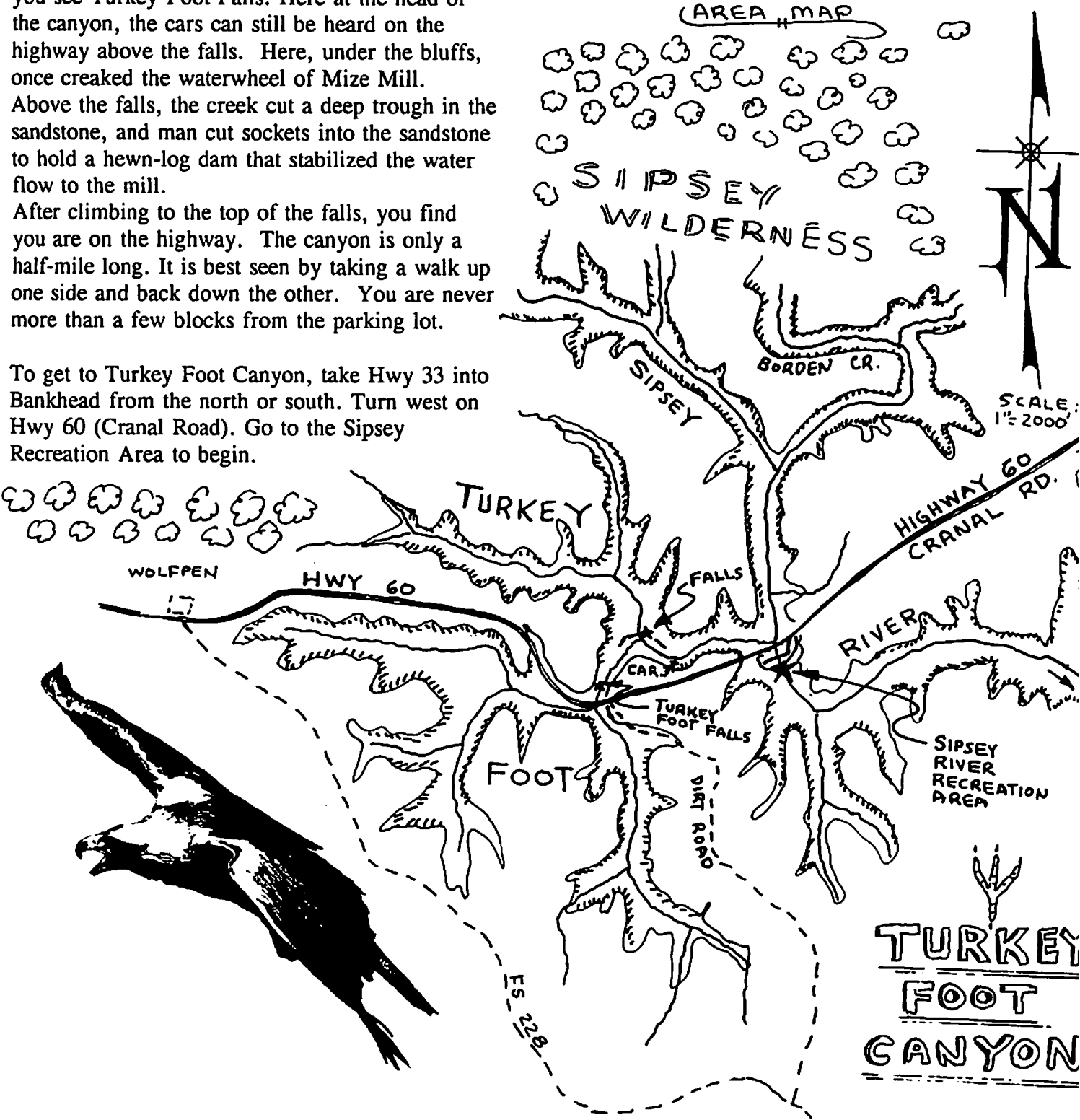
Above the falls, the creek cut a deep trough in the sandstone, and man cut sockets into the sandstone to hold a hewn-log dam that stabilized the water flow to the mill.

After climbing to the top of the falls, you find you are on the highway. The canyon is only a half-mile long. It is best seen by taking a walk up one side and back down the other. You are never more than a few blocks from the parking lot.

To get to Turkey Foot Canyon, take Hwy 33 into Bankhead from the north or south. Turn west on Hwy 60 (Cranal Road). Go to the Sipsey Recreation Area to begin.



AREA MAP



THE PEOPLE SPEAK

Dear Mr. Marshall,
Many thanks for the "Monitor". Well-written and the facts need to be wide-spread. Love the cartoons. We were not aware so much wanton destruction was going on - 3 in my family completely support the stopping of clear-cutting and I talk it up with anyone I see. I am surrounded with pine plantations - I live between Haleyville and Double Springs. We have enough pine.
I am writing to people (elected) this week to protest. Mainly to support hardwoods - the positive side needs to be stressed.
Many thanks. Betty Hooper

Dear Lamar:
I am pleased to see you stand up for what you believe. The Monitor can be a very good tool for the public and the individuals that will not be heard.
I am enclosing \$12 for the subscription. Please try to locate other issues since I only have the first one.
I am very much interested in the coalition's action and believe there are many more people who could help out. There are many federal programs that the public is not aware of. Some thoughts you may have already pondered.
Create a Coalition with By-laws.
Create different committees to get information.
Let these committees meet.
Establish educational objectives.
Hold public Meetings.
Involve various resource people for facts.
Sincerely,
J.C. Eutaw, Al.

\$24,000! We Don't Want To Pay

Taxpayers are paying \$24,000 for something most of us don't want done.
Trees, beautiful trees, hundreds of years old are being chopped down. This is called timber management. Well, this timber management is ruining our National Forest. People need to learn there are only so many trees left. "It's not fair!" That's what you'll hear a kindergartner say. Well this isn't fair either. By cutting down trees we are further endangering the gray squirrel and the eagle. In other words we are paying for the destruction of Bankhead Forest. Trees give us oxygen which we need to live. Now maybe you'll think more about the death of a tree.
Maria Sanders
12 years old
Moulton Middle School

Dear Bankhead Monitor,
I recently received my first copy of the Bankhead Monitor from my Father, David V. Goodlett, who lives in Moulton. Our family first moved to the area in the early part of the nineteenth century. Goodletts have either lived in Moulton

or retired to Moulton for the past 175 years. We have of course enjoyed the nearby forest.
I was appalled to read of the destruction of hardwood stands in the Bankhead National Forest. Even more disgusting is the replacement of a beautiful and heterogeneous hardwood forest with monotonous rows of pine. The park service in Alabama and other states, such as Washington where I live, appears to be more concerned with the preservation of itself rather than the preservation of our forests. I presume that the reason for funding for the park service to administer the forest. However, would it not be better to leave the forest underfunded, but alive? To leave the natural heterogeneous forest alive without hiking trails and without recreational facilities would be far better than to have a pine forest which serves only to propagate the park service.
Are there not plenty of privately managed pine forests in Alabama? If the people of the state of Alabama want to visit, hike and refresh themselves through recreation in a pine forest, then most need not travel far. I do not believe that the replacement of our natural forests with tree farms is what the founders of our system of National Forests had in mind. Perhaps the mandate of the national park service needs to be changed to include as a prime directive the preservation of wilderness areas and forests in their natural state. I believe that we need more recreational and wilderness forests in their natural state, not fewer.
It appears to me that Bankhead Forest would be better preserved and the people of the state of Alabama better served by an organization other than the Park Service. What can I do to help your organization change the administration of the forest to the Department of the Interior as you suggest in the February/March issue of the Bankhead Monitor? I am basically naive about the administration of our national lands and would like to change that. Perhaps you can enlighten me in a future copy of the Bankhead Monitor.
I enthusiastically support your organization. As one who might someday spend a portion of my retirement years in Moulton, I would like to think that Bankhead National Forest and the Sipsey Wilderness will still be around to be enjoyed. Please send me a subscription to your newsletter. I have enclosed a check for \$12.00 which is, I believe, the cost of one year's subscription.
If I as a Biochemist/Chemist can advise you on scientific matters which may affect the future of Bankhead National Forest, then please contact me at the address given below.
Sincerely, David R. Goodlett, Ph.D.
Richland, Washington

Dear Mr. Marshall,
The latest issue of the Winston County News included an article about your Bankhead Monitor. My husband and I are very concerned about clear-cutting of the national forests and consider it a crime against man and nature. We support your viewpoint and all your efforts. Enclosed is a check for a subscription. Please send any back issues available.

Thanks-
Mr. and Mrs. Roderick Hooper
Double Springs
P.S. People complain about cutting in the Amazon forest
and can't see their own back yard!!

Dear Sirs,
I am glad to see a publication like yours arrive to this area.
I have seen the destruction the clear-cutting has done in the
Bankhead and was appalled that the Forest Service would
allow this to happen. It is insane that our precious, natural
resources be decimated in such a way. I am glad that I am
not alone in my belief that clear-cutting should be banned.
Enclosed is my check for a subscription to your periodical.
Thank You,
Rick Hubert
Hazel Green

Mr. Marshall,
A friend of mine recently lent me a copy of your
publication, "The Bankhead Monitor" and I really enjoyed
it. The publication is very informative and educational.
My wife, children, and myself spend as much free time as
we can in the forest and wilderness area and enjoy it
immensely (hope I spelled that word right. I don't write too
many letters). In my opinion there is no place with so much
to offer for those who enjoy nature as the Bankhead forest
and Sipsey Wilderness area. The natural beauty of the
woods and wildlife touch something deep within my soul.
It's a place we can to and not be in a hurry as we are in
everyday life in the city, a place we can go look, listen, and
explore. Like you and your readers, I am sick of what I'm
seeing that's going on in this beautiful place. And that is
the clear-cutting! In my opinion the same thing is being
done to the wildlife of the forest as was done to the Indians
telling them to find another place to live. It's terrible and
has got to be stopped! Please start my subscription to your
publication and if there's anything I can do to help please do
not hesitate to ask! Thank you and keep up the good work!
From a friend of the forest
Michael R. Graham
Decatur

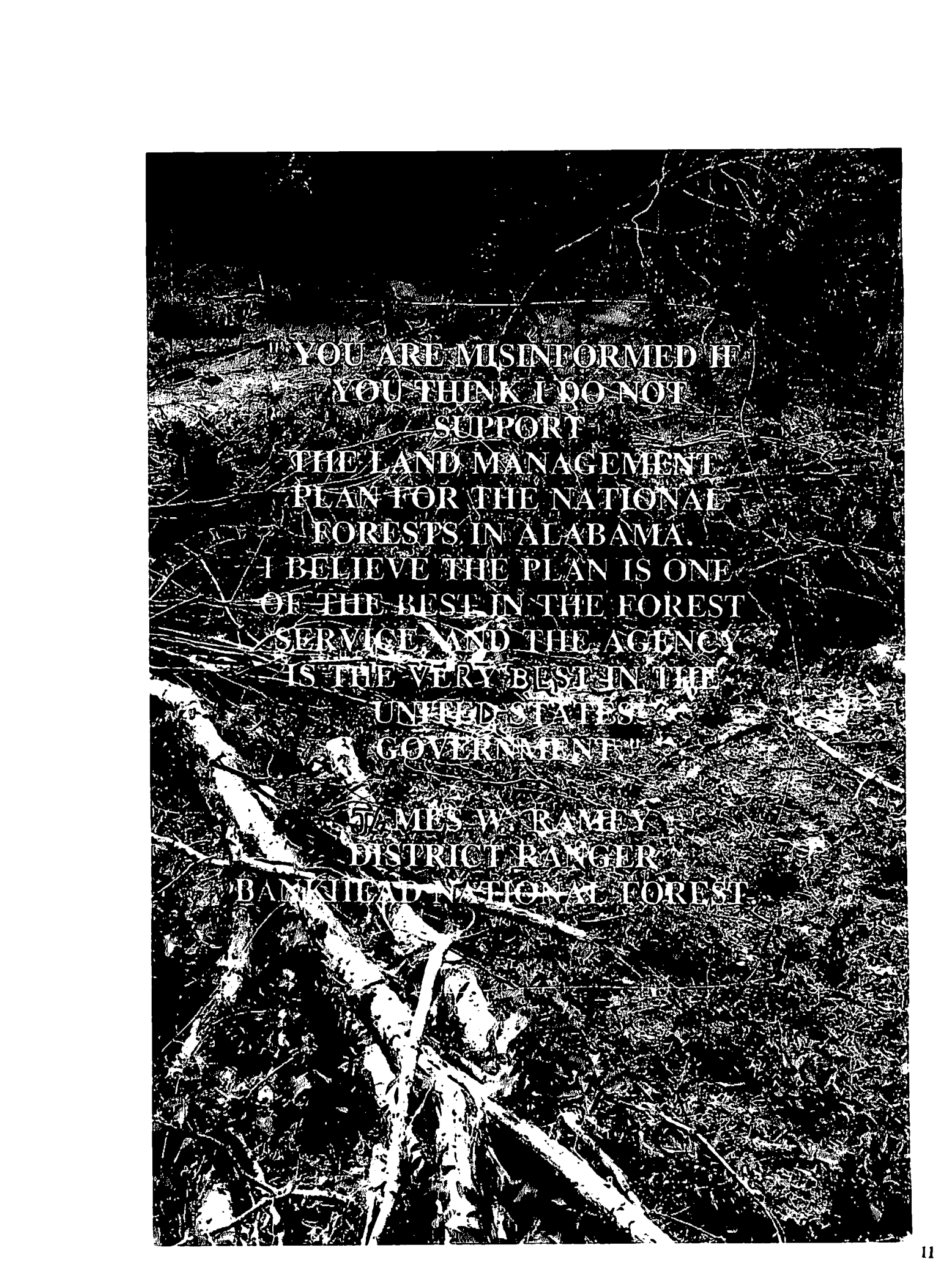
Dear Lamar,
It was great meeting you and Jim Manasco at the Black
Warrior Lookout Tower.
Thank you for the copy of the Bankhead Monitor. I read
even the article on horses and I don't ride. I found it so
interesting, it answered so many questions about Northern
Alabama. I agree 100% with the CREED. I only hope I
am doing my part to save the Bankhead by subscribing.
Thank you also for directions to "The Big Tree in Bee
Branch", what a beautiful hollow. Jim's article gave an
excellent description of it.
Last summer I hiked 550 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail in
Washington and Oregon. The old growth was under attack
by the timber industry as the countryside looked like
checker-board squares from the high vistas.
I only hope and pray we leave our children a forest instead
of a tree farm. Thanks for helping a confused Northerner

find his way. I look forward to seeing more of the
Bankhead.
Sincerely
Brian D. Campbell
Nashua, New Hampshire

Dear Mr. Marshall,
The Bankhead gets to be less of a forest every trip I make
through it. There are hardly any trees left on the
"Wilderness Parkway".
Sincerely,
Shirley Cunningham

Dear Mr. Ramey
District Ranger
I understand that the US Forest Service is concluding their
plan (with your encouragement) to abolish horseback riding
throughout Bankhead except on the pitiful designated trails
and overcrowded Owl Creek horse camp. Are not you the
same man who is constantly preaching the "Gospel of
Multiple-Use?" You are straining at a gnat after swallowing
a camel.
Your logic is that horses in the forest will cause silting at
stream crossings.
I guess that your 25 square miles of clearcuts every 10
years don't cause siltation, do they? I guess that all those
100,000 ton bulldozers, log skidders and chains don't cause
siltation, do they?
You are responsible for turning our national forest into a
wasteland and you have the audacity to tell me that my
horse will destroy the forest?
You are the "Ultimate Hypocrite" and a disgrace to wear
the uniform of the US Forest Service.
Are you from the Pacific Northwest? Go back to wherever
you came from. We appreciate our forests in Alabama.
Bill Weatherford

Dear Lamar,
Just recently I learned of the clearcutting that is going on in
the Bankhead Forest and I feel outraged. Although I haven't
lived in Alabama for several years, I return to Lawrence
County frequently to visit my family. From the time I was a
very young child Bankhead Forest has been a very
important part of my life. My experience with the forest
goes beyond the fact that some of my best childhood
memories originated there. I realize that all the time I spent
there enjoying the natural beauty and solitude of the place
was instilling in me a love and respect for all nature and a
feeling of connectiveness to our earth. This forest is a
formative part of who I am as an adult.
To me, the callous, greedy, heartless abuse I have just read
about (abuse committed by people who have obviously lost
their sense of oneness with nature and have as much
conscious and sensitivity as the desks they sit behind and the
heavy machinery they mindlessly operate) feels like a
personal assault.
Sending subscription money and writing congressman seems
like very weak weapons in this war.....
Janice G. Moore



YOU ARE MISINFORMED IF
YOU THINK I DO NOT
SUPPORT
THE LAND MANAGEMENT
PLAN FOR THE NATIONAL
FORESTS IN ALABAMA.
I BELIEVE THE PLAN IS ONE
OF THE BEST IN THE FOREST
SERVICE AND THE AGENCY
IS THE VERY BEST IN THE
UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT.

JAMES W. RAMBEY
DISTRICT RANGER
BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

RED WOLVES OF THE BANKHEAD

RESIDENTS IN THE INTERIOR OF BANKHEAD BELIEVE THAT THE RED WOLF IS ALIVE AND WELL IN THE FOREST. WE HAVE PHOTOGRAPHIC PROOF THAT A WOLF WAS HERE AS LATE AS 1989.

Recently an article appeared in a local paper which indicated that all species of the wolf are extinct in the Bankhead National Forest. The local residents that live in the forest say that is not true.

They say that some specie of the wolf has always been and still exists in the interior of the forest. They call it a red wolf.

It's not hard to find old-timers who claim to have seen the wolf. At least one old, now-deceased trapper trapped and photographed a wolf in 1988. The trapper's name was Leonard England. He lived near Pine Torch Church. Leonard claimed that the wolf weighed 90 lbs. In the photograph we have reproduced, the paw of the animal appears to be about 3" across. The weight and paw size alone rule out the possibility of the animal being a coyote. Any trapper who had dealt with coyotes for the number of years that England had, would have no trouble telling a wolf from a "yodel dog".

Coyotes are much smaller than a red wolf. Their snouts are shorter. The red wolf has a larger nose pad. A coyote might go 40 lbs + where a red wolf will go 80 to 90 lbs.

One game warden suggested that the beast was a hybrid coyote and german shepherd. These are called coydogs. Red wolves will readily breed with a coyote. So the question arises as to why a few red wolves hidden away in Bankhead didn't breed themselves out of business over the years with the coyote? Well, the answer to that is that the coyote is a newcomer to Alabama. They have been in this part of the state no more than 25 years. This wolf may well have had a monopoly over the lonely and desolate canyons of the Bankhead wilderness.

I am not arguing that there is a hidden wolf population in Bankhead. I am merely raising the

question of possibility. At one time, the red and gray wolf covered wide ranges of this continent, including Bankhead.

Wolves are an essential part of the natural scheme of the wilderness. Their purpose is to keep the population of herbivores (plant-eating animals) in check. Therefore, they are carnivores (meat-eaters). They are not merely scavengers that eat already dead animals, as some people like to portray them. They don't feed mainly off of old and sick animals as others like to believe. The simple facts are that wolves must feed off the flesh of other animals to survive, and to do so they will kill whatever animals they can catch with the least effort and danger to themselves. Wolves seldom make a fresh kill until after the previous kill has been completely consumed or tainted by human scent. In the Bankhead their diet would consist of rats, rabbits, deer, turkey, and the cattle of outlying farms.

It was for this reason that the wolf was almost exterminated over most of the United States. In the early days of the Great Plains the wolf preyed on the buffalo and antelope. When the ranchers moved in, the wolf naturally ate the cattle and sheep. Bounties were placed on the wolf and the war began.

Don't think that wolves were not an intimate part of life in Birmingham or Bankhead. Check out the following:

ACTS OF ALABAMA 1835 SESSION

ACT NO. 123 PAGES 119,120

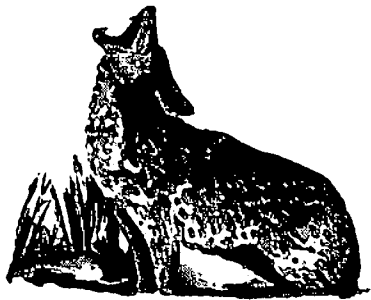
AFTER PASSAGE OF THIS ACT, IT SHALL BE LAWFUL FOR TAX COLLECTORS OF FRANKLIN AND LAWRENCE COUNTIES TO RECEIVE ALL WOLF SCALPS IN PAYMENT OF ANY COUNTY TAX DUE FROM ANY PERSON IN THE COUNTY, ON PRIOR AFFIDAVIT MADE BEFORE AN ACTING JUSTICE OF THE PEACE THAT THE WOLVES WERE KILLED IN FRANKLIN OR LAWRENCE COUNTY, AS THE CASE MAY BE - SCALPS RECEIVED AT THE FOLLOWING RATE:

**ALL SCALPS UNDER ONE YEAR \$1.00
ALL SCALPS ONE YEAR UPWARD \$1.50**

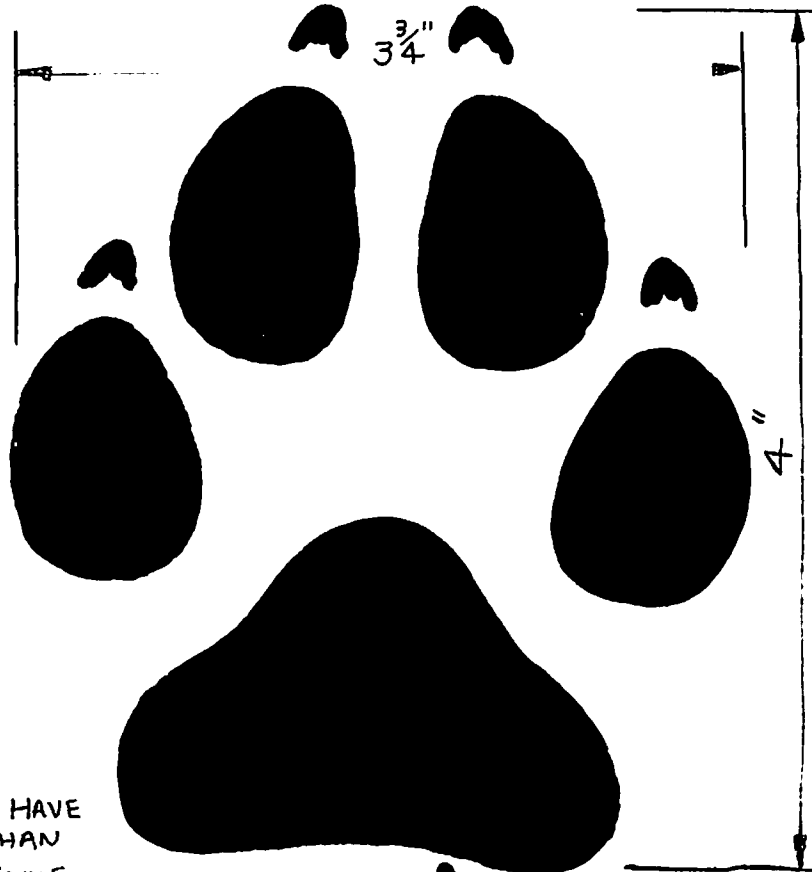
TAX COLLECTOR OF EACH COUNTY TO RETURN AFFIDAVITS WITH SCALPS TO THE COUNTY TREASURER AS MONEY FOR ANY COUNTY TAX DUE FROM THEM AS TAX COLLECTORS - NO MONEY TO BE PAID OUT FOR SCALPS; ONLY RECEIVE SCALPS IN PAYMENT OF TAXES.

My, my, how this old world has changed in 150 years. No wonder those old wolves hid themselves in the rocks and the dens of the Bankhead. Who wants their hair lifted and paid to the I.R.S. for taxes?

The photo is poor as the original was stuck to the glass of the frame. Don't write me about the evils of trapping. I merely report facts. Our stand is, if there are Red or other wolves in Bankhead, we want them protected as rare and endangered, as well as their habitat.

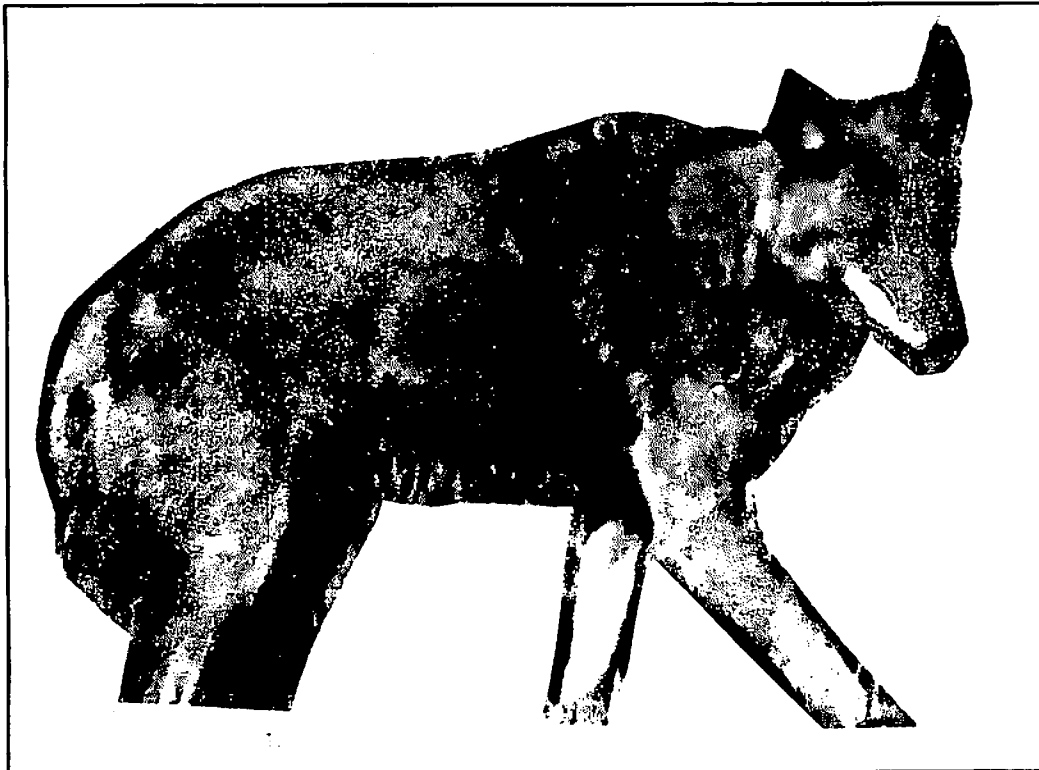
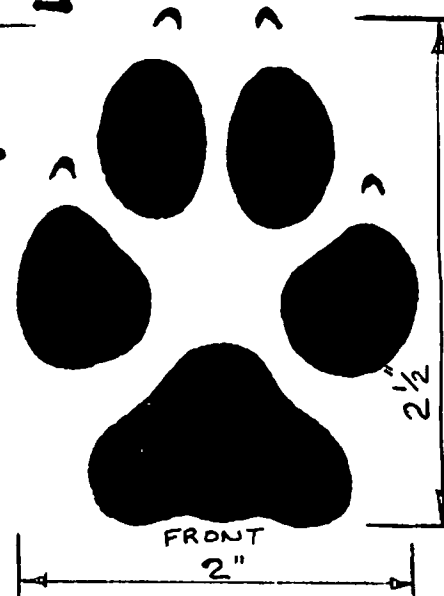


GRAY WOLVES HAVE LARGER FEET THAN RED WOLVES. SOME ARE 4 3/4" LONG. SOME RED WOLVES FORE FEET MEASURE 3 3/4" TO 4".



WOLF ↑

COYOTE →



WOLF CAUGHT IN BANKHEAD - 1988



HIND

FORMER DIRECTOR OF US FOREST SERVICE INSTITUTE URGES CHANGE IN POLICY

Retired Director of the U.S. Forest Service's Pinchot Institute for Conservation Studies gives advice for management of the Southern Region.

Dr. John Gray made a presentation to national forest supervisors and regional staff of the U.S. Forest Service's 13-state Southern Region at a meeting on the Ouachita National Forest in western Arkansas. The following are some important excerpts from his speech. His perception of the South's National Forest turmoil and demands should be well taken by the USFS.

" The Service is preaching the same old-time religion it did in 1958 - timber primacy... But today's South is far different. It is far more urban, cosmopolitan, and diversified economically as a result of radical shifts from agriculture to manufacturing and services.

The population is more affluent, better educated, employed in areas other than farming and manufacturing, and has different expectations for forests.

Timber primacy in national-forest multiple-use management in the South (where it still exists) will be an almost impossible row to hoe and justify. Only 10% of the South's forestland is publicly owned. National forests make up more than half of that 10%. Their regionwide contribution to timber has been minor - 3 to 4 % of total harvest. We are well past being able to convince the public that expansion of this supply source is critical to, and a major option for, survival of the industry in the South.

The system will have to innovate in any event if national forests are to continue to be managed rather than simply preserved.

NEW FORESTRY DIMENSIONS

What changes should be considered to better fit national forests to the New South that has grown up around them?

Here are four I would flag:

Naturalistic Forestry: I believe Region 8 (that's our region of southeastern USFS governing)

national forests will have to, and can, serve as large-scale testing and demonstration areas for what I call a "naturalistic forestry" that minimizes environmental impact.

Smokey Bear wears the soft hat of the conservation ranger, the forest protector, the dedicated natural-resource steward. Why do our image makers put us in the hard hat of the logger or mill worker in every forest scene that we appear, regardless of activity?

I would not abandon clearcutting. But I see clearcutting and planting as a regeneration method of last resort. I see it conducted for habitat management.

I don't believe the use of herbicides must be abandoned, but that use must be even more selective and conservative.

Landscape Design: A second major element should be landscape design for scenic enhancement along viewsheds on heavily used land and water-travel routes.

Environmental Education: I would go all out to promote the use of southern national forests as facilities for a greatly expanded environmental education program.

The Forest Service and its National Forest System can and should play the lead role among federal resource agencies in education involving environmental management.

In summary, I believe a decision to mount a new or expanded southern national forest initiative, which would incorporate naturalistic forestry natural-beauty enhancement, large-scale systems research, and environmental education, would find wide public favor in the South. I believe it would be supported by professional societies, scientists, the public education community, travel and tourism interests, public agencies, and the moderate conservation and environmental organizations."

Monitor comment: Herein lies the common ground for the USFS and the public at large to negotiate. This man is a Forest Service Visionary who sees the only alternative for Forest Service management of public lands in the future. The present course of destruction will one day lead to violence as the citizens of Alabama move in desperation to defend the Land of their Heritage.

NATURES LAST LAUGH - PINE BEETLES

PINE BEETLE EPIDEMIC STRIKES BANKHEAD

It is no larger than a grain of rice, yet the southern pine beetle has become one of the most destructive insect enemies of southern pine trees. On the Bankhead National Forest, this beetle has developed into epidemic populations which are destroying valuable trees.

This small, reddish-brown beetle has earned the reputation as being the most feared insect by southern forest managers.

The southern pine beetle attacks all species of pine trees, but prefers loblolly, shortleaf, virginia, pond, and pitch pines. As you travel through the Bankhead National Forest, you can see southern pine beetle damage. The first sign is usually discoloration of tree foliage. The needles appear yellow, then change to a red color, and within one to two months become brown.

Another sign of beetle damage is the appearance of small, light-yellow or white pitch tubes which have formed on the bark's surface. The masses of pitch, which can be seen along the entire length of the tree's trunk, resemble popcorn in size, shape and color.

Typically, pines are killed in groups ranging from a few trees to those covering several acres. In a matter of days, the southern pine beetle can silently gnaw away healthy chunks of pine stand. Usually, thousands of winged adults will attack a single tree, bore through the bark, and hollow out S-shaped egg galleries or passages.

The females lay eggs in niches beside the galleries. In a week or so, larvae hatch and start chewing their way through the living tissue around the tree. This feeding girdles the pine and cuts off the normal flow of moisture and nutrients throughout the tree's system, quickly sapping its strength and causing its death.

The beetle goes through four life stages - egg, larva, pupa, and adult while in the inner bark of the attacked pine tree. In a month, the beetle becomes an adult and the tree in which it was hatched is dead or dying. It then flies to another pine tree and starts the life cycle again.

For the past few years, southern pine beetle damage has affected timber in the national forests in Alabama. To control the spread of the

southern pine beetle, forest managers usually practice the "salvage" or "cut and leave" method. In the salvage method, infested trees are removed from the forest and utilized by the lumber industry. Therefore, beetles that have not emerged from the trees are also removed. This process stops the beetles from infesting other trees.

The "cut and leave" method is used where beetle infestations occur in stands that are too small to be merchantable or the area is inaccessible to logging operations. The trees are cut and not removed from the area.

According to Timber Management Assistant John Creed, "The Bankhead National Forest cut 7.2 million board feet of salvage in 1991. At this date, the forest has already cut 1.5 million board feet of salvage timber. These numbers are expected to rise dramatically as summer brings an increase in southern pine beetle activity."

The real loss is the economic impact on the Forest Service's return to the individual counties in the Bankhead National Forest. Infected trees are sold at salvage rates which reduces the value and many receipts by approximately 50 percent. According to Claude Moody, timber sales forester in Montgomery Alabama, 19.4 million board feet of timber was salvaged last year in the national forests of Alabama due to the southern pine beetle epidemic. The pines contained enough board feet of lumber to build 162 new houses.

The southern pine beetle may be small in size, but it has a large appetite, and it can have fatal effects on infested pine stands. If you have questions about beetle activity, please contact your local Alabama Forestry Commission representative, your county agent, or give the Forest Service a call.

from Forest Notes by Tammy Freeman and John Creed

MONITOR COMMENT

The USFS is responsible for this loss of taxpayer money. They cut our hardwoods and replaced them with pine plantations. They have embarked on a "GREAT PINE GAMBLE" and we will be the ones to pay. Never put all your trees in one basket!



TO CO. RD. 86
AND HWY. 36

INDIAN HIGH HOUSE HILL
TOMB HOLLOW

LEOLA PATH
LEOLA PATH
OLD TENNESSEE HIGH DIVIDE
OLD TENNESSEE HIGH DIVIDE
FS 266

FS 249
FS 249
BEULAH RD
BEULAH RD

LEOLA ROAD
LEOLA ROAD

BRUSHY

TO MOULTON
TO MOULTON
HWY 33
HWY 33

COAL BRANCH
COAL BRANCH

OWL CREEK HORSE CAMP
OWL CREEK HORSE CAMP

OWL CREEK
OWL CREEK

FALLS
FALLS

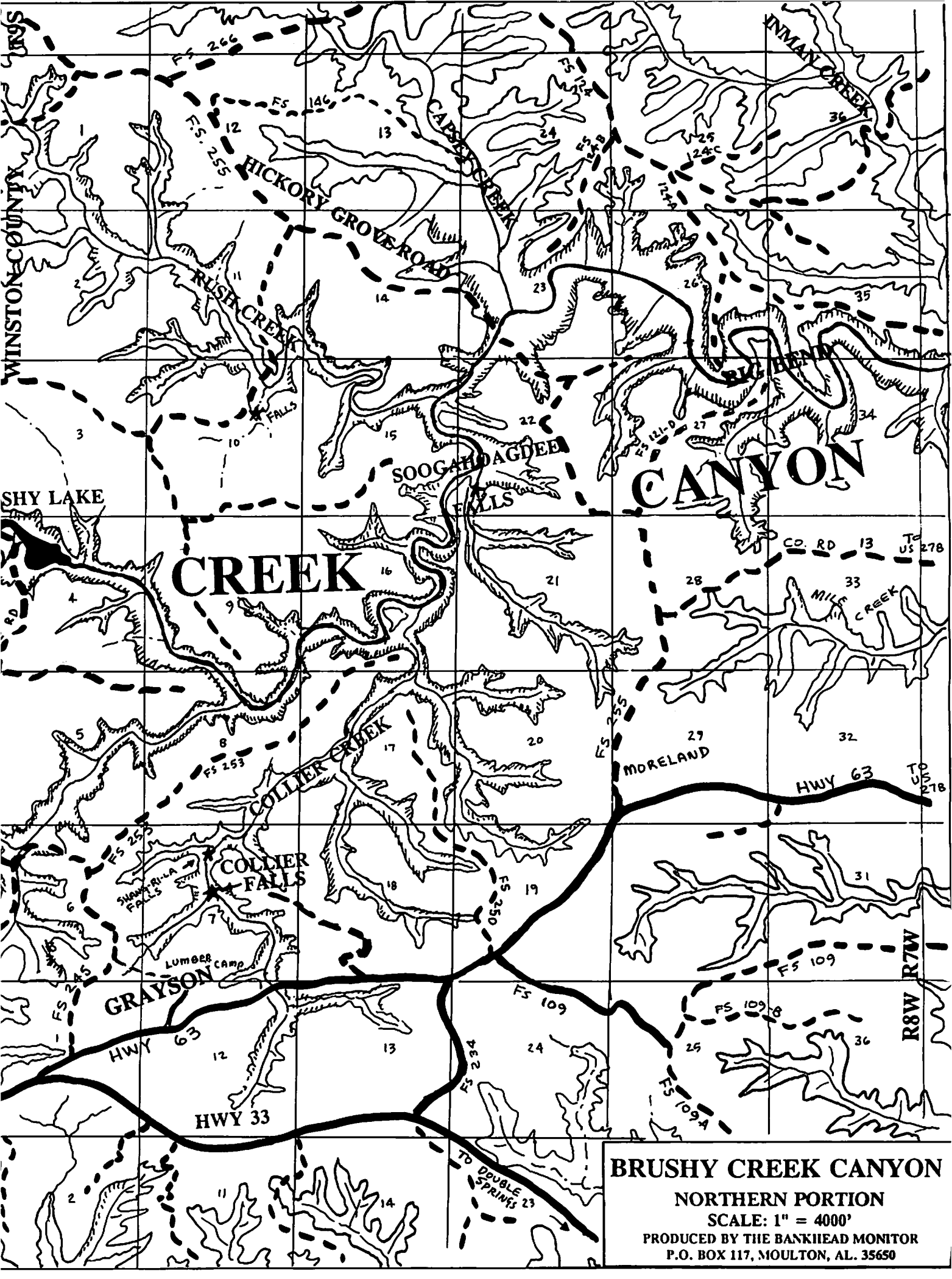
SHIRLEY'S SAWMILL CREEK
SHIRLEY'S SAWMILL CREEK

PINE TORCH CHURCH
PINE TORCH CHURCH

EAST BEECH CREEK CANYON
EAST BEECH CREEK CANYON

WEST BEECH CREEK CA
WEST BEECH CREEK CA

HWY 60
HWY 60



CREEK

CANYON

BRUSHY CREEK CANYON

NORTHERN PORTION

SCALE: 1" = 4000'

PRODUCED BY THE BANKHEAD MONITOR
P.O. BOX 117, MOULTON, AL. 35650

DICTIONARY OF THE OUTDOORS

The Monitor is proud to bring you the first of a new series of words used by the people of the outdoors. You might call this the jargon or terminology of the outdoor world. We will try to present the collection by category or group such as words having to do with woods, swamp, rivers, weather, orienteering (finding your way by compass or sun) etc. If you know any of the old words describing the outdoors, send them in so we can add them to the dictionary.

THE WOODS

SLASH - An area logged out and strewn with tree tops and debris. Usually grown up in briars and is next to impossible to cross on foot.

A TANGLE - A snarl of tangled, twisted, mass of interwoven vines and young trees. Also nigh impossible to get through.

GLADE - An open space surrounded by woods.

STAND - A group of plants growing in a continuous area. As a stand of pines or a stand of mixed hardwoods and pines. It also can be a pure stand as in a stand of magnolias.

OLDGROWTH - Old, mature timber as a stand or individuals. The woods are usually semi-open and easy to walk or ride horseback through.

TO BUSHWHACK - To travel cross country where there is no marked trail or road.

BUSH - A term for wild and wooded backcountry.

DRY-KI - A stand of dead timber killed by fire or beetles. They eventually fall in every direction making for hard traveling cross country or trail.

LAUREL THICKET - Thick stands of the gnarled mountain laurel plant. Acres of these thickets grow along the bluffs of the Bankhead canyons. Have you ever crawled through one? In the Great Smokies they can cover square miles. The mountain people there used to call them laurel hells.

RABLASH - Rocky outcrops that has little soil. In the Bankhead cedar and prickly pear cactus inhabit these rock gardens.

TOPOGRAPHY OF THE LAND

CANYON - A deep, narrow valley with precipitous sides. Many canyons have rock bluff walls and most have a creek or stream running through it.

RAVINE - A small, narrow, steep-sided valley that is larger than a gully and smaller than a canyon. It is usually worn by running water.

GULLY - A trench worn in the earth by the rain's running water. May be associated with the erosion of clearcutting.

GORGE - A narrow passage through land; a narrow, steep-walled canyon or part of a canyon.

DRAW - A gully shallower than a ravine.

HOLLOW - A small valley or basin.

VALLEY - An elongated depression of the earth's surface. Usually between ranges of hills or mountains. A hollow; an area drained by a river and it's tributaries.

BASIN - (A) A large or small depression in the surface of the land or ocean floor.
(B) The entire tract of country drained by a river and it's tributaries.

PASS - A passable depression between two large hills or mountains.

KNOLL - A small, round hill or mountain.

HILL - A rounded, natural elevation of land smaller than a mountain.

MOUNTAIN - A landmass that projects above it's surroundings and is higher than a hill.

NATIONAL FOREST NEWS

FORESTRY LAND-USE MANUAL REJECTED

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has refused to approve forest land-use guidelines that were adopted by the Alabama Forestry Commission over the objections of other state officials and environmentalists.

"The draft manual does not provide adequate guidelines to enable forest landowners and managers to manage forest land to reduce pollution loadings," Ira Linville, chief of EPA's watershed unit, wrote the Alabama Forestry Commission earlier this month.

The "best management practices" rejected by EPA are suggestions for loggers, foresters and forest landowners for environmentally sensitive use of forest land.

Officials from the state departments of Environmental Management and Conservation and Natural Resources, as well as environmentalists, have complained that timber industry interference led the Forestry Commission to weaken the guidelines and shrink the manual outlining them from 39 pages to 11 loosely-spaced, illustrated pages, plus definitions.

In a detailed review of the best management practices, Mr. Linville wrote that they should be more specific and should address clean water issues and wetlands.

The EPA comments also criticize the guidelines as vague and weak.

"If this document is intended to be used by foresters and non-technical landowners, loggers and producers, it should be more specific in terms of recommendations," Mr. Linville wrote. "The right to make on-the-ground adjustments can be preserved to take advantage of site characteristics, but qualifying statements such as 'when practical,' 'feasible' and 'applicable' only provide excuses for inaction."

Tim Boyce, a spokesman for the Forestry Commission, said the commission plans to distribute copies of the EPA recommendations to various officials and other interested people.

"We're going to ask them to respond to a committee of the commissioners, and then the commissioners are going to meet with ADEM and develop what amendments need to be made to the draft."

He said Forestry officials also will have to meet with EPA representatives to find out exactly what they want.

"We need a clarification of how much detail they want to put in this manual," Mr. Boyce said.

The EPA criticized the best management practices' omission of wetlands, the most controversial part of the document.

"There is a definition of wetlands in the glossary but little reference to them in the text," according to the EPA comments. "The BMPs should address this issue."

Mr. Boyce said the Forestry Commission purposely omitted wetlands from the best management practices.

"The definition of wetlands seems to be up in the air on a national level," Mr. Boyce said. "We need a definition of

what would be a wetland."

Pat Byington, executive director of the Alabama Conservancy, said the best management practices are inadequate because they were written to protect industry, not the environment.

"It's what environmental groups and even state agencies have been saying all along, and that is the proposed BMPs did not protect

water quality, and EPA has affirmed that," Mr. Byington said. He said the burden of regulations should fall on the industries using the timber, not the private landowners who lease their land. "Every business in Alabama that uses Alabama's natural resources -- farming, fishing, hunting and mining -- they accept the fact that they should be regulated to protect the environment," Mr. Byington said. "Our question is, 'Why is the forestry industry exempt, and why do they not pursue a more progressive path of protecting Alabama's ecosystems?'"

Other EPA suggestions include:

A clear statement that water quality standards must be maintained and who is responsible if they aren't.

A streamside buffer larger than 35 feet in some cases.

A statement that fragile areas should not be harvested.

The Montgomery Advertiser - 4/29/92

VANISHING WILDERNESS

STARTLING FACTS: More than 60% of the Pacific Northwest coastal forest, the planet's greatest conifer forest, has been cut down.

More than 95% of Brazil's Atlantic forest has vanished. Every year, 5,335 square miles of forest is destroyed in Brazil.

Canada predicts that within 16 years all the old-growth forests of British Columbia will be gone.

Every decade, the USFS clearcuts 25 sq. miles in the tiny Bankhead National Forest in Alabama.

Nation wide, federal agencies are wiping out our forest ecosystems with even-age practices at the rate of 5,500 acres per day, (the equivalent of 5500 football fields) by end-of-rotation cuts or by interim practices aimed at reducing a mixed forest to a tree crop of one or two species.

Since 1964, they have halved 80 million acres of previously mixed forest. In another 10 years, they will fragmentize the rest, unless we put an immediate ban on even-age logging, as proposed in bill H.R. 1969 by Congressman John Bryant (D-Tx).

from Newsweek and Forest Reform Network

H.R. 1969

H.R. 1969 now has a respectable 33 cosponsors from both parties, coast to coast. Write your representatives and tell them to support this important piece of legislation.

TOM BEVILL SPEAKS TO THE BANKHEAD MONITOR

Opponents of the U.S. Forest Service's timber-cutting practices and recreational use policies in Bankhead Forest found a sympathetic ear... and one attached to a powerful member of the U.S. Congress... on Monday when 4th District Rep. Tom Bevill met with around 30 of them at Moulton City Hall.

Bevill was in town for a joint reception with 5th District Congressman Bud Cramer on Monday evening at the

Moulton Recreation Center.

The event, hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Authority, introduced Lawrence County's new Washington House delegation to local civic, business, and elected leaders. Over 200 people attended. Before the formal ceremonies, Bevill had some informal talks, and one of the groups he met with sought his help in the local struggle to ban or reduce clear-cutting in Bankhead National Forest.

A 10-minute video, entitled "Bankhead: A Dying National Forest" produced by the publishers of the "Bankhead Monitor," was presented after Dr. Charles Borden of Moulton had set the stage for Congressman Bevill.

Dr. Borden said those involved with the grassroots effort to save historic and environmentally delicate areas of Bankhead believe the U.S. Forest Service's timbercutting has violated the Sustained Yield Use Act passed by Congress.

The video talked about the "Bankhead National Tree Farm," clone forests of planted pine trees, and "plant genocide," all warnings sounded by those trying to save Bankhead's old growth hardwood from the loggers' chain saws and what they perceive to be a flawed Forest Service management policy.

Dr. Borden said the Forest Service is even prepared to curtail horseback riding in the national forest through adoption of a new restricted trail system policy.

Borden said Bevill's work in Washington on behalf of the Little River Canyon preservation effort is known in Lawrence County, and he hopes the congressman will take a similar interest in Bankhead.

"We are concerned about the tourism and recreational potential in Bankhead Forest. We feel there needs to be a reassessment of the management policies of the U.S. Forest Service."

Although Bevill did not say how--or even if--he could help, he indicated a growing displeasure with clear-cutting on national lands and the talk of certain officials responsible for public lands "about how many board feet of timber they are going to produce."

He said clear-cutting has been going on for years, but even he can remember when select-cutting was the accepted practice.

He referred to recent discussions with officials, who he told of constituent letters he has been receiving "about streams silting up and other things" due to clear-cutting.

"Frankly, I don't like it. I think it's terrible, but it's going to be a tough fight."

He reminded the group that the state's two U. S. senators and other officials must be involved in any plan or bill to improve the situation.

Bevill also asked for the group's support of the Little River Canyon legislation he has introduced.

from the Moulton Advertiser 6/3/92

FOREST SERVICE PLANS TO REDUCE CLEARCUTTING

Washington (AP) - Forest Service Chief Dale Robertson is unveiling a new timber management policy for U.S. national forests that he says will reduce clear cutting by 70 percent.

But environmentalists said the policy is full of loopholes that will allow clear cutting to continue at current levels. They called it an attempt to deflect attention from the Bush administration's violation of forest protection laws.

An Agriculture Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Robertson would announce the new policy today in a memo to regional foresters nationwide. The Forest Service is a USDA agency.

"An ecological approach to managing the national forests and grasslands is the right way to go because forests are dynamic and complex ecosystems," Robertson said in the memo, obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday. "We must accelerate the reduction in clear cutting as a standard commercial timber harvest practice on the national forests. In making future forest management decisions, clear cutting is to be used only where it is essential to meet specific forest plan objectives...."

Scientists have found clear cutting to be among the most environmentally damaging ways to harvest timber. The practice, favored by many timber companies because it is less costly than selective logging, accelerates erosion, which can harm streams and forest habitat.

From the Decatur Daily 6/4/92

WEATHERFORD DECLARES THE MONITOR CHAMPION FOR FOREST

Bill Weatherford, the noted old time forester, said that the grass roots organization which calls itself the Bankhead Monitor, is a "Champion of the last of Alabama's remaining forests", and that "every citizen of the state of Alabama should become a member." The elderly man told how that this generation must somehow regain its attachment with the natural flow of life, which, he said, is found in the heart of the woods. "Almighty God created this universe with man an inseparable part of the great chain of life. He can survive only in his place among the green of nature. When the last forest of planet earth disappears, it will be the end of mankind."

The National Forest News

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GUIDE TO SCENIC CLEARCUTS

REGISTERED CAVES CLEARCUT - GINSENG GROWING AT THE ENTRANCE

Another outrage and crying shame was committed by the USFS in the Bankhead National Forest. Two beautiful cave entrances were clearcut very close to their entrances. I'll not give directions to the caves unless you are an official interested in investigating violations of law.

The two caves are a couple of hundred yards apart. The easternmost is clearcut to 50 feet from the entrance. Several specimens of American Ginseng are growing within 10 feet of the entrance. How did the habitat of a sensitive and rare plant happen to end 40 feet from where it is growing? It didn't. The forest killers disregard the presence of rare plants that get in the way of their tree farm. Cave number two is a worse example of USFS mismanagement. The clearcut is right up to the hole into the earth. In fact, the timber was cut onto, and is still lying on the entrance. As this was a natural sink into the earth, we have another example of environmental destruction. The pinetops that dammed the drainage into the cave have already accumulated over one foot of silt that would have washed into the bowels of the earth. The entire clearcut looks to be at least 20 acres. These caves were beautiful. The area was beautiful. It was a rich botanical area. It is in shambles now. This is how the Forest Service manages the national forests in the interest of it's citizens.

They left a 100 yard retention zone along the Forest Service road to hide their artwork. But those who return to visit their public caverns will curse those who are responsible. Write your senators and congressmen today and demand an investigation into criminal acts such as this.

Don't believe the District Ranger when he tries to baffle you with his rehearsed bull. Call us and we will show you the hard facts and the living scars on your public land. The truth is evident and we have nothing to gain by lying to you. On the other hand, the USFS has much to gain by selling your trees to the clearcutters. It's properly called the "love of mammon".

When we come across violations such as this, we can only think of two things - cameras and news

media. Believe me, we are documenting violations such as this, as well as arranging tours for schools and groups and the news media. If the Forest Service only knew the vast amount of footage taken by the news teams from all over the state in the month of June, 1992, they would croak. I am wore out from carrying writers, reporters, lawyers, and environmentalists to the gross violations of law in Bankhead. But I won't stop. The IRS has lost the No. 1 position as most hated agency in the U.S. Gov. to the USFS. And I would never think to report this violation to the National Speleological Society or to a Cave-loving prosecutor who has memorized all 12,000 words of the National Caves Act. I just am not that kind of a person. Or am I?



THE EAST CAVE

The west cave has a brass marker embedded in concrete on it's face. It is registered. I went into the caves several yards with my penlight, but plan to return with proper equipment to explore for a dark trail to China.

PLANTS OF THE BANKHEAD: THE YELLOW MAGNOLIA

by Rickey Butch Walker

RARE YELLOW MAGNOLIA GROWS IN FOREST

Recently on a hiking trip along Rush Creek, I found a beautiful but small tree which is exceedingly rare. The young tree had a brownish gray-colored bark. The twig buds were about one inch long and were obviously hairless. The buds were a dark brown with a slick shiny coating.

The sprout of this rare tree was some four feet in height and was growing on the bank of Rush Creek. It was the first yellow magnolia I remember seeing in the Rush Creek area of Bankhead National Forest. The tree is one of the rarest of the magnolias. The scientific name of the yellow magnolia is *Magnolia Cordata* or *Tulipastrum Cordata*. The classification of these trees present a challenge to any dendrologist who is not familiar with the yellow magnolia. Most people experienced and qualified in the classification of yellow magnolia are also a rare breed of plant lovers.

Regardless of the exact species of rare magnolia trees that grow near Rush Creek, the hardwood bottom is scheduled for clearcutting for about a mile along the canyon and within a few feet of the beautiful creek. The planned clearcut will be to the east of the creek near Hurricane Branch in the area of the rare yellow magnolia.

For many years on numerous hikes into Bankhead National Forest, I have seen similar magnolia trees growing in rich alluvial soils adjacent to streams. The yellow magnolia tree usually grows in deep gorges which contain moisture close or near the surface of the ground.

It seems to especially like the areas where the rich forest soil is of a sandy loam consistency.

The tree appears to be more common along the upper Sipsey River and especially the Borden Creek drainage area. However, I have not seen this tree abundant in any location and these are the first I remember seeing along Rush Creek.

Usually, only a few specimens are locally scattered throughout an area and are usually isolated to deep shady hardwoods groves.

Never have I found the tree growing on sunlit southern slopes of the forest. Now, on Rush Creek, a few of these rare forest magnolias are standing near

an area to be devastated by clear-cutting.

Most general textbooks on trees do not even list the yellow magnolia. In Blanch Dean's book, "Trees and Shrubs in the Heart of Dixie," the yellow magnolia is described in detail. Ms. Dean states the small tree was first discovered in the 1700s by Andre Micheaux took the yellow magnolia to Europe for their gardens, and it was brought back to the United States in 1801 where it was reintroduced and planted in gardens of northern states.

According to Ms. Dean, Dr. Charles Mohr discovered some native yellow magnolia trees on the east fork of Sipsey River in northern Winston County in 1882.

Bankhead truly has some rare flora and fauna which should be protected. We should be concerned how some one-fourth of our county's public land in the southern part of Lawrence is managed. In the future, the promotion of tourism and the protection of our precious hardwood forest ecosystem in southern Lawrence County will have greater impact than management practices presently carried out.

If you have questions about the future of your county's public lands, the answer lies not in the small amount of money but in concern of people. Lawrence County has not gotten rich since the first clear-cut in 1960, nor has our wildlife seen a population explosion; however, we have seen the degradation and destruction of our last remaining stands of old growth hardwood forest.

If we lose total control of our county's public land, the yellow magnolia along with great varieties of Bankheads's plants and animals will also perish! Mature timber should be cut in a wise and protective manner through selective cutting and good stewardship. Rare plants and animals along with archaeological, cultural, and historical sites should be protected and preserved.

If Lawrence County's heritage and old growth forest are not saved, our children and grandchildren will lose because we failed to provide a beautiful birthright for future generations.

Will your grandchildren see and smell the blossoms of the rare and fragile yellow magnolia growing in the wild? The answer lies in your concern and input on the management of Lawrence County's forest lands.

A HOLY ALLIANCE

by Terra Manasco

Those who think the alliance between the hunter and the preservationist is an unholy one should think again. I have long been involved with the preservation of wild and scenic places as well as historical and sacred sites, and for all practical purposes can be called a preservationist. Yet my training as a biologist and my affinity towards personal freedom prevents me from being a hard-liner against hunting.

In an age where there is a trend towards morality to be dictated/legislated, more and more people are unwilling to have their decisions made for them. The founders of our country long ago saw the need to structure a legal and political system that would protect the rights of all and yet at the same time allow for the rights of an individual.

This sound policy that has its roots in the Constitution applies today to the differing philosophies of the hunter and non-hunter. In the past there has been a tendency for these two groups to regard one another in suspicion, with each group thinking the other was infringing on their rights.

Today however, those lines have rapidly blurred with these two groups coming together as allies for a common purpose. This new attitude is reflected in the philosophy behind the Bankhead Monitor. We are a grassroots coalition of all people, backgrounds and philosophies, and are truly non-partisan in all aspects but one: the united purpose to stop the wholesale disappearance of things wild and natural in our native forests.

The groundswell of support for the Monitor has been almost overwhelming. People who have fought against the destruction of our natural resources for decades behind the scenes and people who are speaking out now for the first time in their lives are working side by side.

An Indian mound and burial site recently came up for sale in a coal rich area that borders forest land. Two private citizens, unwilling to take the risk that the slow wheels of government process would roll quickly enough to save this site, pooled their resources and purchased the land to protect it until such a time that appropriate protective action can be taken. A hunter who is heartbroken over the disappearance of game in the Bankhead put aside his personal distaste of rubbing elbows with people he had imagined to be "granola types" and has joined the ranks of those determined to save the Bankhead. A pulpwooder recently bought a copy of the Monitor, telling the clerk that 'things just weren't right; it may be his living (logging), but he had his kids' future to think about.' Technical experts

have volunteered hundreds of hours to consult and gather data to support the Monitor's claims of Forest Service mismanagement.

Almost everyone I come in contact with these days that has spent many years roaming in the forest is quick to point out that the Bankhead is changing and not for the better.

Is it mere coincidence that roads and subsequent clearcuts are being placed in an encompassing manner around the Sipsey Wilderness in such a way that should Wild & Scenic Bills be presented for legislation, the wilderness won't qualify for expansion? Coincidence that no Environmental Impact Statements were prepared several years ago during land exchange between the Forest Service and private industry, even though the area exchanged by the Forest Service was an area known to historically support the threatened Flattened Musk Turtle?

Is it coincidence that a person who has walked these woods twenty years or more no longer sees the quiet swagger of the mother turkey and her young in the tall evening grass? Coincidence that the canyons clearcut of their hardwoods and replanted in pine have had their annual mean temperature raised by several crucial degrees so that the delicate and rare Filmy Fern, an extraordinary one-cell thick, has shriveled from under its protective sandstone shelters like a hothouse orchid transplanted to an Arizona desert? Coincidence that the once thriving colonies of the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker have now totally vanished from the Bankhead?

Is it mere coincidence that even within the U.S. Forest Service a grassroots organization has formed that is dedicated to seeing that actions implemented by the Forest Service are both ethically correct and environmentally sound? Mere coincidence that the Native American community of Alabama was recently denied their right (guaranteed to them by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978) by the U.S. Forest Service, at the threat of arrest, to perform a drumming ceremony in Indian Tomb Hollow?

All of us, conservationists and preservationists alike, know this much: if it is not merely coincidence then in large part it must be due to stupidity which has manifested itself in decades of gross mismanagement by the U.S. Forest Service.

For the new members who are joining the ranks of the Bankhead Monitor everyday, I want to extend a welcome to all of you who have the ability to make your own decisions, who know that the forest and all public lands are your own and that you have the

unalienable right to participate in all decisions that affect public domain. I want to extend a welcome to people of all colors, religions, and philosophies who realized that wildness is disappearing off the world like fog in the morning sun. A welcome to all who believe that natural resources can be utilized but in a wise manner that takes into account the Forest Service's own Multiple Use-Sustained Act of 1960 in which "these resources or related services" shall "conform to changing needs and conditions...without impairment of the productivity of the land with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combinations of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output." [16 U.S.C. Sec 528 - 31]

I welcome all of you who no longer welcome the Forest Service's "good ole boy" philosophy of "this is how things have always been done." I welcome all of you who have joined this holy alliance to protect our Earth Mother and who know from the depths of your hearts and minds that antiquated Forest Service philosophy has no place in a world whose sky has holes in it, whose streams are poison, and whose rare flowers are shriveling under an unnatural sun.

Terra Manasco, a member of the Northeast Alabama Cherokees, is an artist, writer, and consulting wildlife biologist for the Bankhead Monitor and other non profit environmental organizations.

BANKHEAD CONVERSION

After denial after denial that the Bankhead is not becoming more pine and less hardwood, we find the proof that proves that we are not pine-phobic.

This is from the Five Year Review published by the Forest Service:

"Mixed to pine and mixed to hardwood conversions, over the last 5 year period, has not been within the allowed variance. Mixed to pine has exceeded the variance by 88%, and mixed to hardwood has fallen short by 54%. Analysis shows that the percentages used in the Forest Plan has proved to be erroneous for the Bankhead District and the Oakmulgee District."

So, the facts substantiate our observations in Bankhead. That is, that the Forest Service leans toward pines and is prejudiced against our hardwoods. We advocate a complete halt to converting any of their so-called forest types to pine, as 95% of Bankhead was historically hardwood. Hardwood is the climax tree type of this area. Think natural and native.... natural and native.



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TREE RACISTS

JUST WHEN WE THOUGHT IT WAS DEAD - IT REARS ITS UGLY HEAD!

"PINE SUPREMACISTS" INFILTRATE US FOREST SERVICE

Racial discrimination occurs in many forms. One of the strangest is that peculiar obsession that some foresters have with certain tree species. It's not that the pine tree is really superior to an oak. The venerable oak is much stronger than pine; produces far more food for wildlife than pine; and even makes better furniture than pine. If you will pull your dusty, old, Bankhead history book down from your shelf and look in the index under "Oak Holocausts of the Bankhead", you might be shocked at what you find.

Not too many years ago the ridges and deep hollows of Bankhead were covered with great oaks. Mighty specimens of oakhood. The old trees that filled Bankhead with life sustaining mast made deer plentiful. They were the "Natives" of the land.

In those days there was almost no demand for oak in the lumber industry. Only pallet makers and a limited furniture industry used it.

In the middle of the twentieth century a new breed of US Forest Service personnel began to infiltrate the ranks of those good rangers who protected and cared for our public forests. They were brainwashed by new forest philosophies from an old German school of tree farming that used a method of clearcutting and even-aged tree crops grown for one purpose - to make boards and paper. Little did they know that the German experiment would be proven a failure and denounced as such by today's German ecologists.

The Tree Racists took power through a silent but deadly coup. They saw the potential money to be made by growing a wood that would grow fast and saw easy. Pine was the logical answer to the wealthseeker's ambition. Where to grow it was a greater question. Land cost money. Aha! What about the public lands? There were thousands of acres of forest just waiting to be growing pine trees for the mill. The only problem was that worthless bunch of Natives living there. They must be eliminated.

A war on nature broke out. The USFS cut the oaks down and left them to rot. Just get them out of the way so pines could replace them. Never once did it occur to them that they were warring against not only hardwood trees, but against a thousand other plants and living beings. They were warring against nature itself.

The cut rings around the old giants to kill them. They put poisons around the trees to kill them. They pushed them over with bulldozers to kill them. Still they sprouted back.

The natural vegetation rebelled against the edict of the Forest Service that the land was an official Pine site. The young hardwood trees persevered amid the hallowed pines.

In a fit of rage the heavy artillery was called in. Helicopters were loaded with the Vietnam defoliant called Agent Orange. Over the rolling hills flew the Tree Racists on their mission of Genocide. Kill the Natives! Fill the land with a superior, fairer race.

It didn't matter that the American public didn't want their Native forest converted into an artificial tree farm with the natural diversity damaged. It didn't matter that the American public wanted an old beautiful forest as old as the Republic itself. Damn the Oaks and full speed ahead.



PINE SUPREMACIST RANGER

THE FOREST KILLERS



BANKHEAD INDIANS

by Rickey Roberts

INDIAN MYTHS

This is a new column that will cover some of the Indian myths and legends of the tribes who once inhabited the Sipse and Bankhead areas.

The Hit-chi-ti branch of Creek Indians who once lived in Bankhead had a myth of how fire came into the world. It is similar to many other North American Indian myths and goes like this ----

THE COMING OF FIRE

A dance was to take place on the village square where the Sky People were going to celebrate Pushkita, the Green Corn Festival of purification. They would make fire new. The dancing square was the only place where one was allowed to make fire. But Rabbit thought there should be fire in other places. He thought for a long time. Then he had his friends rub his head with pine until his hair stood on end. Everyone thought his new crested headdress looked so fine that they made him leader of the dance. The dancers followed him, circling the four directions of the sacred fire logs. As they passed the east, Rabbit bent low, as if to throw the offerings of tobacco to the fire. People said that when Rabbit danced he always acted extravagantly, and did not notice how low he bent. On the fourth round he set his headdress on fire and ran away so fast that they failed to catch him. Then the people worked magic and made a great rain which lasted four days. They thought the stolen fire would be put out by then and allowed the sun to shine again. Rabbit, however, had run into a hollow tree and made a fire there in shelter, emerging when the sun shone. So again the people made rain. Every time Rabbit came out he lit new fires, but the rain put most of them out. The first people saw these fires and were quick to light firebrands at them. After this they had fires in their homes and whenever the rains put them out the people who had fire, shared it with the others. In the end the rains stopped, everybody was allowed to have fire and Rabbit was remembered for bringing fire to Creeks.

among these giants of nature, they too have gone the way of the vanishing native forests. As we fight to save these remnants of Bankhead in its natural state, let us not forget the first people who called this area home. We will explore more of the myths and legends of the Indians of Bankhead.

The Natchez tribe from Mississippi eventually fled white aggression and was in part absorbed into the four or five tribes of Indians who lived in Bankhead. One of their myths of a flood tells of the dog who warned his master to make a raft because all things would be overwhelmed by a flood. As the water rose the dog and the man saw the mountains burst open and strange monsters emerge. But the waters drowned everything except man and dog, lifting them above the clouds where they saw a wonderful world of land and trees.

But dog told man that he must return to the place he had come from and that this would be impossible unless he threw dog into the flood. Much against his will, man threw dog into the waters and they began to subside. Dog warned man not to land until the ground had seven days in which to dry. When this had happened man saw people coming to him because he still had fire on the raft. Some were naked, some wore rays and some wore beautiful clothes. The three groups divided the fire between them. Then a noise was heard in the east and an old man appeared to say that although the bodies had been dead for various periods they would continue to live in spirit.

The myth reflects the Natchez custom of drying the bodies of the dead and keeping them on frames above ground in sacred buildings. You can see the influence of their myths and the Christian missionaries who previously lived among them. It became a blend of Natchez and Christianity.

to be cont'd next issue

As most of the old forests of Bankhead have already fallen, there was once a people who lived

ALABAMIANS DEMAND END TO CLEARCUTTING PUBLIC FORESTS!

IN ONLY A FEW WEEKS, 2000 PEOPLE HAVE SIGNED PETITIONS DEMANDING AN END TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR NATIONAL FORESTS. WE'RE LOOKING FOR 10,000.

NATIONAL FOREST LEGAL DEFENCE FUND GROWS.

Thanks to all who have already contributed to the Alabama National Forest Legal Defense Fund. Your dollars will go toward the legal council that is necessary to carry the environmental criminals in the USFS to court. Laws have been broken. These people who hide behind that slogan that says:

"CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING PEOPLE," must be weeded out and replaced with the good foresters who will carry out this pledge. At present a truer slogan would read "DESTROYING THE LAND AND SELLING OUT ALABAMA'S NATURAL RESOURCES". If you wish to make a contribution toward saving our national forests, send it to THE ALABAMA NATIONAL FOREST LEGAL DEFENCE FUND in care of The Bankhead Monitor, P.O. Box 117, Moulton, Al. 35650.

TALLADEGA MONITOR

Any persons in the vicinity of the Talladega National Forest who are interested in spreading the fight across the state, contact us. We want to expand our business "The National Forest News" to cover the entire state of Alabama. We will create a successful publication to Monitor the Talladega Mountains. The Bankhead Monitor is growing very fast. Next run will be 4000 copies.

I believe the peoples of your area will receive such a unique publication with open arms. We need people who can visit the destruction and report. We can't pay in money, but I guarantee you can sleep better at night knowing that you have done your part in caring for our land.

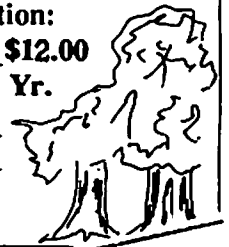
MONITOR PRESENTATIONS

If you would like for the Monitor to send one of it's noted speakers to your group to present a program entitled "Bankhead, the Destruction of a Native Forest", contact us. We will show you our video and slide show. The Bankhead Monitor, P.O. Box 117, Moulton, Al. 35650

SAVE THE BANKHEAD

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A PETITION
to the effect of the State of Alabama to prevent the destruction of their public lands, i.e. the National Forests of Alabama, by the process of clearcutting in order to transform the Native Forests into the...
Think About It! Sign Today!

LIFESTYLES Section B
Sunday April 19, 1992
Timber sales
'Monitor' editor is determined to save forest

Ramey responds to 'Monitor' criticism
By Dan Cobb
I recently had the opportunity to sit down with John Ramey, District Ranger of the Bankhead National Forest to get a response to the criticisms leveled by the Bankhead Monitor over such...
William B. Bankhead National Forest

Smokey under fire
Newsletter blasts U.S. Forest Service
Moulton (AP) — Lamar Marshall said if Smokey the Bear could see how the U.S. Forest Service is managing the National Forest, he would be...
To say that Marshall is a newsletter, "Bankhead" takes a critical view of the agency is, perhaps, lightly. The newsletter claims he is "Director of the Bankhead Monitor".
A few examples from the newsletter:
"Our Forest Service is...
"While...
"Removed...
"clear-cutting...
"by the Fore...
"whose primary job is working in...
"as an electrical and...
"designer, said many people...
"the state are...
"occurring in the Bankhead...
"to be a game...
"he said. Now he...
"in the FOREST, 211...
"Bankhead battle turns 'paradise' into 'war zone'
"congressional level and in the courts...
"The U.S. Forest Service and its...
"supporters are pitted against a...
"efforts to save the forest from the...
"of harvesting the timber in the...
"180,000-acre...
"Service District Ranger James Ramey...
"said he sees the controversy as...
"on a few special interest groups...
"to control the forest...
"A magazine, the Bankhead Monitor...
"has been very critical of the...
"Service, but its editor, Lamar Marshall...
"crosses the ranger's claim, Marshall...
"I got stopped last Saturday...
"I go, the he said."

FORESTSPEAK - Part 5

We have been telling you all for some time how the USFS speaks in a alien-like tongue in order to obscure their real intent. You could go to school and study Latin; or you could learn to decipher Egyptian hieroglyphics and neither would hold a candle to the ability to interpret $\text{Pt}\acute{\alpha}\Upsilon\text{C}\infty\sqrt{\text{i}\ddot{o}}\text{h}\text{♀}\nabla\text{[}\text{C}\text{]f}$, which means **FORESTSPEAK** in plain English. Today we bring to you a lesson in forestspeak straight from the Holy book of the USFS. They open it with reverence; they study it daily; they teach their young foresters to live by it's inspired principles. It is the Alabama Land and Resource Management Plan. From its pages come the master plan to rule the national forest world. From its pages comes the marching orders to cut down your great hardwood forests and exterminate your rare flowers and sensitive animals.

PRESCRIPTION - A prescription for a compartment of national forest land. It is written by our friendly USFS Doc who understands the silvicultural need of our trees. Among his scientific methods: Removal of all the trees by surgical chainsaws. Removal of that nasty humus by erosion; prescribed burns (drives out the evil spirits).

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT - A graduate from the USFS Ninja school of specialty in hiding clearcuts from the eyes of the public.

VISUAL QUALITY OBJECTIVE - Another term for Retention (a strip of trees that hide clearcuts); and a solution of the Landscape Architect who is plagued with complaints about deforestation.

REGENERATION - Deforestation. Clearcutting. Removal of the forest against it's will, the people's will, and the will of good judgement.

U.S. FOREST SERVICE - A special interest group.

THE BANKHEAD MONITOR - The public of Alabama, represented by millions of citizens.

ALLOWED VARIANCE - The catch in the Forest Plan that gives the USFS the liberty to break the rules and regulations in the Forest Plan.

FOREST TYPE - MIXED TO PINE - A hardwood stand that was cut years ago and now has more pines in it than hardwoods, no matter how unnatural. The decree is that this area will be clearcut and sentenced to an eternity as a pine monoculture hell.

MIXED TO HARDWOOD - A lucky stand that still has more hardwoods than pine. This area will be clearcut. A big sign will be stuck on the roadside that says " **HARDWOOD MANAGEMENT AREA**". I'm impressed. Aren't you?

INTERPRETATIVE SPECIALIST - Now that's what I call a real title. I can only make a conjecture as to what he, she or it does.

A. A USFS position that serves as Indian interpreter. I thought most of our Native Americans spoke English these days.

B. Maybe it's the guy who says "But you are mistaken, that is not a clearcut! That is a **REGENERATION**." I reckon that the "trained eyes" of an educated forester see things a whole lot different than we stupid citizens of the public.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER - I'm sorry, but I'll not touch that one.

INFORMATION SPECIALIST - Everyone has to have a title. A ditch digger today could be called an Earth Relocation Technician or a Soils Readjustment Specialist.

SOIL INDENTATIONS - Ruts.

MAXIMUM SIZE OF REGENERATION OPENINGS - How big the clearcut can be according to the Forest Plan. 80 acres for pine clearcuts and 40 acres for hardwoods. Here's the catch in fine print: Distance between clearcuts will be a minimum of 330 feet.

SILVICULTURAL EXAMINATION - This is performed on a pregnant forest by the FS Guynocologist after which is administered a Site Prep.

TEMPORARY ROADS - New bulldozed log roads. They are used temporarily but look like appendicitis scars 50 years later. Also, all those places out in the forest where all those old rusty oil cans litter previous cutover places.

RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER MANAGEMENT AREA - The Bankhead until all ours became extinct under the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Management Plan.

BORDEN ON HORSES

HORSE RIDERS TAKE HEED!

Presently National Forests provide fantastic opportunities for horse back riding with horses restricted only in designated recreation areas and most of the wilderness. Local riders often ride from their homes and disperse over hundreds of miles of old log roads.

As part of it's 5 year review of National Forest Management, the United States Forest Service has come up with a drastic proposal that would ban all horse riders from the general national forest areas state wide. Banning horses from the general forest would certainly curtail the growth of this wonderful family oriented recreational activity at a time when recreational demands are increasing tremendously.

We believe that this proposal would not only unnecessarily inconvenience riders would create a situation dangerous and hazardous for all riders by forcing horses now dispersed throughout the forest onto an already overcrowded and inadequate designated trail system. Accidents would be unavoidable and erosion increased. Unacceptable degradation of the wilderness would surely result as hundreds of additional riders are forced into that sensitive area.

We applaud USFS efforts to control erosion and recognize that some erosion is inevitable with horse use. However, with proper monitoring, preventive maintenance and rider education, we feel that erosion can be minimized and that banning horses is unnecessary, counter productive, and unduly restrictive.

The Bankhead Trail Riders Association has already signed a cooperative agreement with the USFS and assisted in trail maintenance and construction. We believe that such cooperative efforts can protect our forest resource and still provide ample opportunity for this most exciting way to enjoy the natural beauty of our forests from horse back.

For present demand and future growth, we need at least six more horse camps in the Bankhead and 500 more miles of trails. The Bankhead Trail

Riders Association has already submitted a proposal to the USFS with camp sites recommended.

If you wish to preserve horse back riding on National Forests, join the Bankhead Trail Riders and write or call immediately the people listed below:

Congressman Bud Cramer
1431 Longworth Bldg.
Washington D.C. 20515
Ph. (202) 225-4801

John Yancy
USFS Supervisor
1765 Highland Ave.
Montgomery, Al. 36107
Ph. (205) 832-4470

Congressman Tom Beville
2302 Rayburn House Office
Washington D.C. 20515
Ph. (202) 225-4876

Senator Howell Heflin
Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington D.C. 20510
Ph. (202) 224-4124

Senator Richard Shelby
2443 Rayburn Hse Office Bldg.
Washington D.C. 20515
Ph. (202) 225-2665

James Ramey
District Ranger
P.O. Box 278
Double Springs, Al. 35553
Ph. (205) 489-5111

To join the Bankhead Trail Riders Association, write:

Dr. Charles Borden
B.T.R.A.
627 Lawrence St.
Moulton, Al. 35650
Ph. (205) 974-4481



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WOODCRAFT

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN CORD FROM THE LAND

If the Indians had flown kites, they wouldn't have gone to the store to buy string. Making their own cord was as common as cooking supper. All it takes is a little knowledge of strong, natural, durable fibers; and the technique of twisting them together.

The Bankhead area had plenty of fibrous plants. Indian hemp (hemp dogbane) is one of the best. A close second would be the yucca or beargrass. Indian hemp grows more in the open along roadsides while beargrass grows in the woods, especially along rocky outcrops.

I'm going to describe a very simple method of making cord or twine. The twine can be used as it is or it can be twisted farther into rope.

I recommend the yucca or bear grass to begin on. It is strong and easy to shred into strands.

A. Shred a yucca leaf into small strands the full length of the leaf.

B. Tie two strands together in a knot. Hang over a limb or nail.

C. Twist the individual fibers clockwise between the thumb and forefinger of each hand.

D. At the same time, twist them together counter-clockwise

E. As you get to the end of the pieces, add new fibers as shown.

You can easily make a 25 foot rope in an hour or two. Remember that two strands are four times as strong as a single one.

In figure 2, you will see a familiar method of making braided line from your string.

In figure 3 is a good method of tying your cordage together. This method doesn't seem to weaken the cord at the point tied. You can soak cord if it gets stiff.

Other good fibers come from stinging nettle and the inner layers of the thistle.

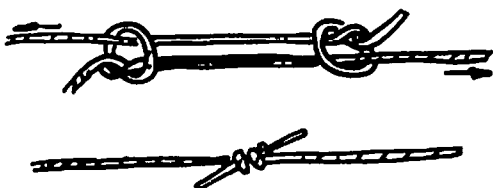
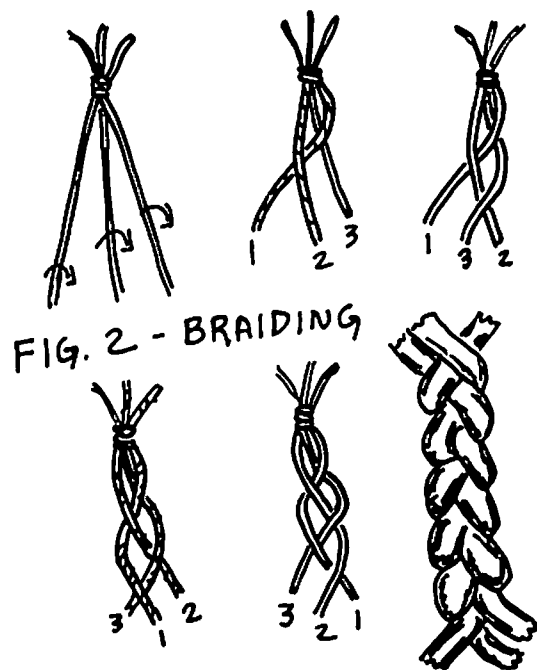
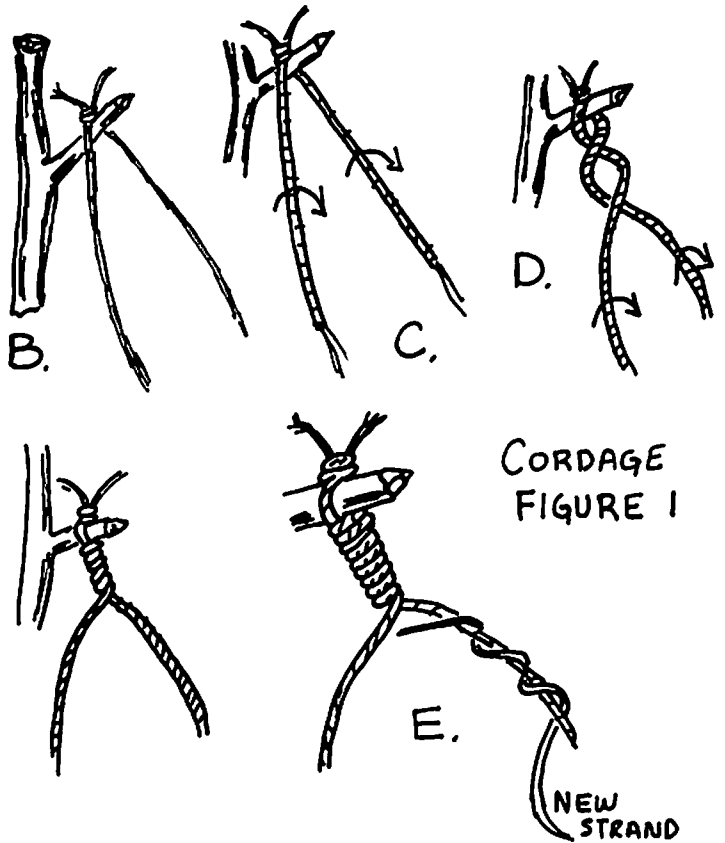


FIGURE 3

AROUND THE CAMPFIRE



Twilight is approaching; camp is made; the firewood is piled; and the center of the universe, as far as we are concerned, is the fire. It is time to sit and relax and reflect on the days journey. The evening cool is creeping through the canyon. The hemlock silhouettes hang between us and the ragged bluffs. Night is falling in the Bankhead. It is time to transcend beyond the physical accomplishments of the trail and let our minds search out the philosophical realm of the wilderness. This closeness to the natural world is a reality that not many can relate to anymore. It seems that our modern, technological world has pruned our traditional roots in the land. That is why it is so important that we preserve places where city folks can get away from the rat race and re-establish their connection with the earth.

I relate to country people. A farmer is far wiser than a smart-aleck know-it-all raised on concrete. Call them rednecks if you dare, but those raised close to the land will survive long after technology fails to support the "house of cards" that most people depend on today for food, clothing and shelter. As the song goes "Country folks can survive!"

Why? Because so many people today are "idealists," not "realists." There was a time when I believed that life in the woods would be a utopian paradise in harmony with nature. My family and I moved out into the woods, built a house with our own hands and lived almost five years with no electricity. I studied wilderness survival and became intimate with nature and the wild animals. We raised food and meat. One does not live so much in harmony with nature as one lives at the mercy of and subject to the laws of nature. Nature's laws are harsh.

Law number one: Mother Nature does not love you. She is beautiful, yes. At times the outdoors seems a paradise, and yes, you do have a place in the biological order.

Nature will kill you if you are not careful and never shed a tear. Where do you think the bacteria comes from that causes sickness and death? How many nature lovers have been drowned in the rapids of the river, killed by wild animals, frozen to death in the cold, buried in avalanche, perished in hurricane and tornado, or bitten by snakes and scorpions?

Nature can make you miserable. She will assault you with poison ivy, ticks, chiggers, flies, mosquitoes and a host of other woodland wonders.

As experienced woodspersons, we learn how to evade all that Nature can toss at us. We learn how to maneuver through the great outdoors and enjoy the beauty and peace that are the rewards of those who know the secrets of survival.

Law No. 2: the animals of the forests don't live happily ever after. This one eats that one. And that one eats another. Until you have seen the attack of the mink on the terror-stricken, screaming rabbit and watched it torn apart, don't call yourself a naturalist. I am talking about the real world. Don't teach your children to believe in the Walt Disney world of Bambi. That is fantasy.

At the same time, teach them to have a reverence for life. Teach them to be a good husbandman or husbandwoman of the land and its creatures.

THE LAND OF BEYOND

Have ever you heard of the Land of Beyond,
That dreams at the gates of the day?
Alluring it lies at the skirts of the skies,
And ever so far away;
Alluring it calls: O ye the yoke galls,
And ye of the trail overfond,
With saddle and pack, by paddle and track,
Let's go to the Land of Beyond!

Have ever you stood where the silences brood.
And vast the horizons begin,
At the dawn of the day to behold far away
The goal you would strive far and win?
Yet ah! in the night when you gain to the height,
With the vast pool of heaven star-spawned.
Afar and a gleam, like a valley of dream,
Still mocks you a Land of Beyond.

Thank God! there is always a Land of Beyond
For us who are true to the trail;
A vision to seek, a beckoning peak,
A fairness that never will fail;
A pride in our soul that mocks at a goal,
A manhood that irks at a bond,
And try how we will, unattainable still,
Behold it, our Land of Beyond!

Robert W. Service

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