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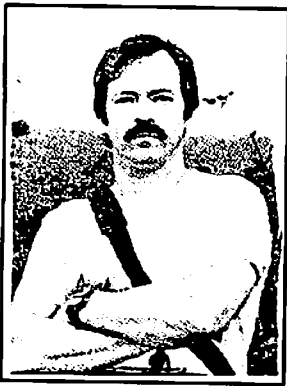
# BANKHEAD MONITOR

TAKING THE PULSE OF THE BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST





*"Monitor Momentum Accelerating At One Year"*



Lamar Marshall

The Battle For The Bankhead celebrates its one year anniversary. We are prepared to carry on for as long as it takes. The new Ecosystem Management Program is looking to be a great farce. Same game - different name! We will bring you the details of the "New Perspectives" which appears to be a plan to rob you of the remainder of your public forests. The USFS intends to buy time in any way they can. They ask for our input in their decision-making only to override our suggestion every time. They never seriously consider public input. The truth is, their decision

is made before hand. The bottom line is 20 to 25 million board feet will come out of Bankhead each year no matter what. They will tell you that they have reduced clearcutting by 80% since 1988. It is a lie. The replacement for clearcutting in Bankhead is seedtree cutting which is clearcutting also. To say that they are not tree farming is plainly another lie. Any book on silviculture will attest to the definition. Now, they assure us they will "manage the forest to preserve the ecosystem". If you fall for that line, you are naive. They are buying time.

The timber industry attempts to neutralize the most powerful opposition groups by having their foresters masquerade as environmentalists who preach that clearcutting is beneficial to the forest. There is no such thing as an environmentalist clearcutter. The two words are opposites; like night and day, east and west.

There can be no compromise. Clearcutting and its variations must be eliminated in Bankhead. The cut must be reduced to a reasonable 2 million bd. ft. per year by selective harvest only.

Our momentum has not slackened. It is accelerating. The Monitor is a full time job for someone. From an 8 page photocopied newsletter that was passed out by hand, we are now approaching 500 subscribers, 2000 regular readers, and organizations whose combined membership are over 20,000.

That is a victory for any grass roots organization. We are an educational force that is destined to have a major impact on the future of our forests in Alabama. Our goal is to enlist 10,000 Alabamians to stand with us. 10,000 Alabamians whose demands for change will be heard by our government.

In the last 12 months we have put on 36 programs from public schools to state universities, outdoor clubs, social groups, senators and even churches. We have shown our video documentaries and slide shows and distributed thousands of dollars of educational materials. The Monitor operation requires \$1,500 per month to operate. The magazine goes to 13 states and Europe. The vast majority of members are common folks. We are farmers, doctors, Native Americans, lawyers, store owners and government officials and timber cutters. There is no doubt that we are right in what we are doing. And because of that, we will prevail in the end.

May the higher echelons of the USFS/USDA be GORED into submission by the new presidential administration.

Lamar Marshall

Printed on recycled paper.

Any cartooned likeness in this magazine is merely wild coincidence or perhaps only a freak of nature.

**THE BANKHEAD MONITOR, INC.**

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**ABOUT THE FRONT COVER**

The leaves of autumn were outstanding this year. As usual, Charles Seifried was stalking through the forest with his magic machine capturing God's creation in all it's glory.

# NATIONAL FOREST NEWS

## **22 ROADS TO BE GATED OFF IN BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST**

The US Forest Service plans to gate off 22 logging access roads in the Bankhead to curtail poaching and erosion.

Some experts believe that there are far too many roads being built in the forest and that a much better solution would be to rip up the 22 roads and seed them. This would reconnect the fragmented sections of the forest as the trees replace the openings and re-establish the natural bio-diversity.

## **FIFTY EIGHT NEW CUTS TO BE SOLD IN 1993**

The program of work calls for 14 new clearcuts; 15 seedtree cuts ( basically the same thing ); 28 thinnings and only 1 shelterwood cut to be made in the Bankhead. James Ramey, District Ranger, said " That due to changing situations and increased emphasis on Ecosystem Management, this schedule is subject to change to better accommodate policy shifts towards other methods of harvesting to accomplish silvicultural goals."

## **NEW, FROM THE MAKERS OF AGENT ORANGE AND OTHER WONDER DRUGS- CHEMICAL ROADS IN BANKHEAD.**

Among other proposed actions being analyzed in Double Springs include spraying herbicides on 34 sites to control vegetation that would compete with farmed trees. But by far the worst idea they are now contemplating is the proposal to defoliate the forest roadsides with herbicides. It's not bad enough that we are subjected to green pine tunnels in autumn, now we might also be subjected to driving along poisoned roads of shriveled, brown plants. It's enough to make you wish Al Gore was president. Dale Robertson would be history and the US Forest Service would quickly be transformed into an agency that lives up to it's motto " Caring For The Land

And Serving People " instead of destroying the land and serving the timber industry.

The chemical runoff will go into the creeks to the rivers to the lakes to the bodies of water drinkers.

## **FALL COLORS OFF 50%**

That's right, folks. It does not take a mental giant to figure out that if over half of a hardwood forest has been put into pines, that half of the forest stays green while the other half explodes into color. You are the proud owners of over a hundred square miles of lovely green pine clones.

## **DEVASTATED FOREST MAY NEVER RETURN**

**Appalachian clear-cuts struggling after decades**

Associated Press By Paul Raeburn

Blacksburg, Va. - Appalachian forests that were clear-cut nearly a century ago and allowed to grow back still have not returned to their former condition, and may never do so, according to a study.

"It strikes us that it will probably take a very long time to return to an old-growth condition - if ever," said one of the study's authors, Albert Meier of the University of Georgia.

Meier and a colleague, David Cameron Duffy, compared old-growth forests that had never been cut to forests in nine areas that had been clear-cut from 45 to 87 years ago.

The sites that had been cut 87 years ago were no closer to returning to their original condition than the sites cut 45 years ago, Meier said Tuesday.

What was missing was the forest ground cover, which includes many of the most spectacular spring wildflowers, such as trillium and wild ginseng, Meier said.

Meier's findings appear in the current issue of the scientific journal Conservation Biology. He discussed them at the annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology.

Glenn Matlack of Harvard University said Meier's work was "an incredible study" that illustrates "the concept that a forest is more than trees - it's a complex community."

"You get something that looks like a forest in 30 to 40 years," Matlack said. But Meier showed that these forests are far different than what they are replacing, Matlack said.

The forests Meier studied are the so-called cove forests of the southern Appalachians. Coves, also referred to as "hollows", are narrow stream beds eroded into the mountainsides.

They are prime timberland, and nearly all of the old-growth areas have been cut, Meier said. Less than 1 percent of the old-growth forests that once covered the eastern United States remain, Meier said, and only a few small patches of old-growth cove forest are left.

Meier's findings are likely to fuel conflict between environmental activists and the U.S. Forest Service, which plans to sell timber rights to some of the remaining old-growth forest.

Old-growth cove forests contain yellow poplars up to 6 feet in diameter, along with other valuable timber species, including maples, red oak and black cherry, said Meier.

The cove forests are also treasure troves of biological diversity, said Bart Johnson of the University of Georgia.

That is, they contain among the largest number of different plant species of any forest north of the tropics, he said.

"These cove forests are incredible, with five times as many species of trees as you have out West - 20 to 25 tree species per hectare," Johnson said. A hectare is about 2 and one half acres.

Meier said the extremely slow recovery of the ground cover, or "herbaceous flora," is due to the slow growth of many of these plants.

The dwarf ginseng, for example, takes seven years to reach maturity and several more years before it produces seed, Meier said. It then produces only about 10 seeds, he said.

Ginseng can live 30 years. Trillium plants can live for more than 100 years, Meier said.

## **FOR HARVESTING OR HIKING**

**Jim Young executive editor**

**Pulp and Paper Magazine July 1992**

According to USA Today, 59.4 million visitors are projected to visit our national parks this year, some 2 million more than last year. Adding national seashores, historic monuments, etc., the projected figure is 276 million visitors, up 10 million from a year ago.

So it's not surprising that one perceptive writer for a timber industry magazine has already replaced "preservationist" with "backpacker" as the pejorative term for those who have successfully challenged the clearcutting conversion of public forests into tree farms. Faced with these recreational pressures, replacement of timber harvesting as the dominant use of our national forests is a given. The question is when. My guess is before the decade is out.

Some advance the argument that we shouldn't be concerned about saving trees because they allegedly are a renewable resource and to make an issue of this plays into the agenda of the preservationists/backpackers. But those taking this position never distinguish between privately owned and publicly owned trees, instead lumping them together conveniently and possessively as "commercial forests". Failing to make this distinction blinds us to the shifting priorities on the public side of the equation.

In no way is nonwood fiber going to come near replacing wood fiber in large pulp mills, but as with recycled fiber, it could augment it.

I hope that it and similar projects succeed. The preservationists/backpackers aren't going to wait.

## **CHIP MILLS COULD WIPE OUT 30 PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES**

**Associated Press**

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. - Nearly 30 species of plants and animals face extinction if wood chip mills are built along the Tennessee River, a biological assessment says. The assessment is part of the Tennessee Valley Authority's 63 page draft environmental statement that considers the impact of three chip mills to be built between South Pittsburg, Tenn. and Bridgeport, Al. In addition to the 30 species that could become extinct, the statement says 60 species, including some already listed as endangered or threatened, could drop in population if the chip mills are built.

The statement was released Tuesday.

The mills also could damage wildlife species not mentioned in the report, its summary says.

Hardwood mast - things like acorns, beech nuts and the like - would be harmed in proportion to the amount of hardwood harvesting.

Clearcutting timber, the report says, "would remove a stand from meaningful hard mast production for 40 years ... Decreases from current levels of mast production could range from 27 to 44 percent within 20 years."

### **OBSERVATIONS**

**" A CLEARCUT LOOKS LIKE A WAR ZONE. IT IS THE RADICAL SURGERY OF THE TIMBER BUSINESS. THE SOIL WASHES OFF LIKE BLOOD."**

**Ned Fritz attorney**

# Walking The Sipsey Wilderness

## Learning Some Names For The Wilderness

King's Cove is a little  
Thompson Creek  
is a small  
across

Believe it or not, there is a sign, a map and marked routes that will allow you to drive around the boundary of the Sipsey Wilderness in your car. But for some reason, the sign was placed so far off the road you cannot find it, placed on a road that no one uses to get to the wilderness. To find this secret sign, follow Highway 33 north from Double Springs. After entering Lawrence County, you will pass Cranal Road to the picnic grounds and go to the next road on your left. This is Northwest Road and is marked with a small green sign that reads BLACK WARRIOR WILDLIFE EQUIPMENT SHED. Turn left, or west, on this road and you will find the sign about a quarter mile into the woods.

It would be wise to just drive these routes to familiarize yourself with the boundaries before you do any hiking in the wilderness. This is a very scenic drive and seeing the forest is well worth the trip. The road was built in the 1930's and is a gravel all-weather road with turn-outs. It would also be to your benefit to learn some of the landmarks in the wilderness proper by name. In the event you ever need help, the names on the accompanying map are those recognized by the rangers.

When the first white settlers came to this forest it was uninhabited. Nothing had a name with the exception of Sipsey River. The word sipsey is an Indian word that means poplar tree and is the only Indian name in the whole wilderness. Sipsey River Canyon cuts the wilderness in half, east to west. You have to refer to the name of the stream coming into the Sipsey to be able to locate anything in the canyon.

Bee Branch is the name applied to the longest arm of this Y-shaped canyon. Big Tree Canyon is the shortest arm of Bee Branch Canyon and is the arm that Bee Branch Trail enters.

Salt peter Furnace is a horseshoe bluff located on the first branch on the north side of Sipsey River up stream from Bee Branch.

Turkey Foot Creek gets its name from the shape of its three branches.

Borden Creek was named for a family that lived in the area and was formerly known as East Fork.

Bunyon Hill Branch drains from name.

Wolf Pen Branch heads up at the canyon of the same name and flows north into the Sipsey River. Wolf Pen Cemetery was once the site of an old log school. The name likely comes from some sort of a wolf-proof cage.

Salt peter Well is a glade down on the river with a spring in it. The wells are the trenches dug to collect water used in the manufacture of gunpowder.

Buck Rough is a term applied to a section of rough backcountry inhabited by deer and is hard to get in and out of. This is the canyon east of Bee Branch. The two canyons between Buck Rough and Falls Creek have no names.

Ugly Creek is not ugly. Unless you compare it to Parker Branch. Compared to Parker, every creek in the wilderness would be ugly. None of the branches that make up this creek have names.



MANASCO DRUMS FOR DANCE TEAM

Needle's Eye is a hole that penetrates the high bluffs that separate Sipsey River from Thompson Creek. This ridge is also known as Herron Point and Boat Rock.

...the obscure. Some say it is all of the  
 ...Canyon south of the bridge. I think it  
 ...ve on the south side of the Sipsey River  
 ...om the mouth of Thompson Creek.

Thompson Creek is bound to have been named for  
 someone associated with the creek. The family that  
 lived here, however, was named Peoples.

White Oak Hollow is named for the most numerous  
 species in the forest. The second-most numerous tree in  
 the natural forest is the hickory.

Quillian Creek bears a proper name but was the  
 stomping grounds of the notorious Brooks Boys and  
 Aunt Jenny Brooks Johnson.

Parker Branch, the hardest to get to and the prettiest to  
 look at, from the upper falls to the lower falls and on  
 down to the river.

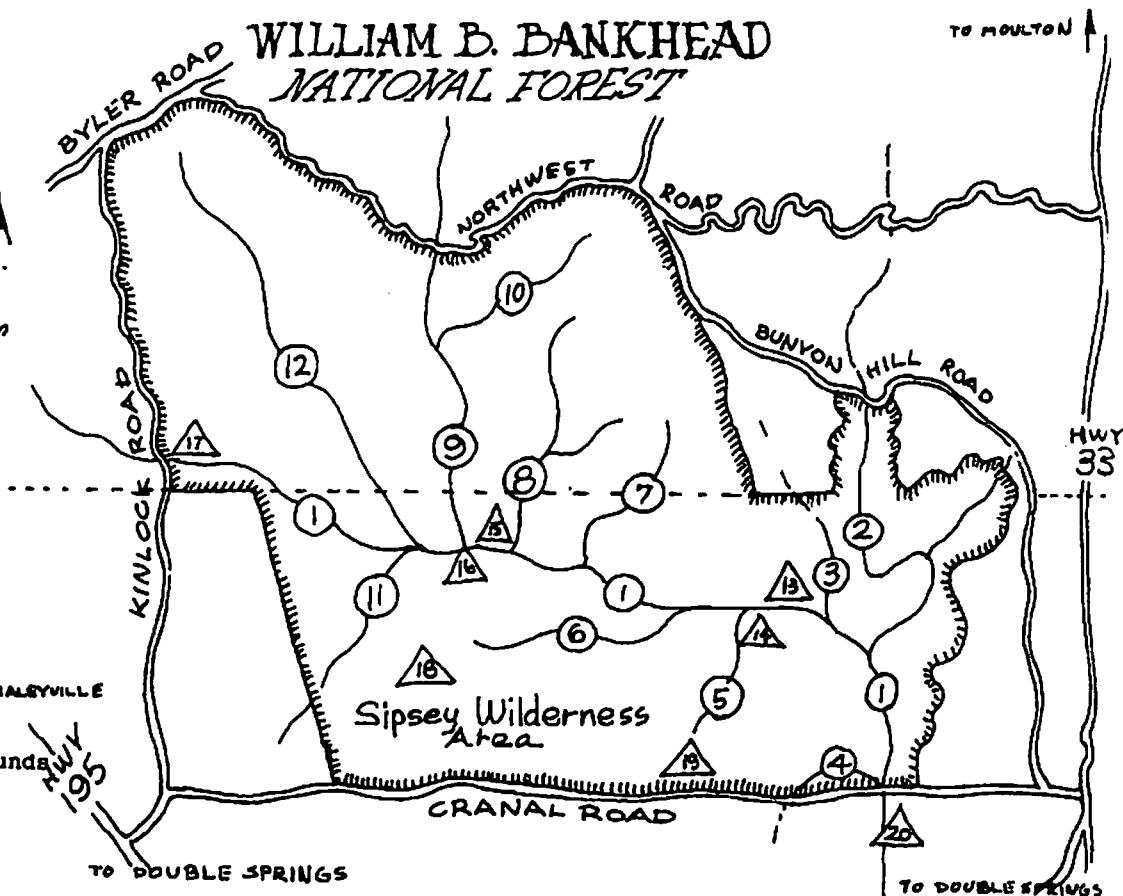
Kinlock Falls is just off the Kinlock Road and is on the  
 Sipsey River. Kinlock was the name of the old plantation  
 house that stood off the mountain above the falls.

Johnson Cemetery is still in use and is at the end of the  
 gated road on the Cranal Road. The roads were formerly  
 called motorways by the forest service. Falls Creek is  
 just what the name implies.

The Bankhead National Forest belongs to you. Use it  
 wisely and insist that the forest service does the same. If  
 you do drive the roads in the forest, you are likely to see  
 things that have happened that you won't like.

NOTE: THIS MAP  
 WAS MADE BEFORE  
 THE SIPSEY WAS  
 EXPANDED.

1. Sipsey River
2. Borden Creek
3. Falls Creek
4. Turkey Foot Creek
5. Wolf Pen Branch
6. Ugly Creek
7. Buck Rough
8. Bee Branch
9. Thompson Creek
10. White Oak Branch
11. Parker Branch
12. Quillian Creek
13. Saltpeter Wells
14. Invisible Trees
15. Saltpeter Furnace
16. Needle's Eye
17. Kinlock Falls
18. Johnson Cemetery
19. Wolf Pen Cemetery
20. Sipsey Picnic Grounds



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# OSPREY, THE FISH BIRD, RETURNS

by Rickey Butch Walker

On Monday of the Labor Day weekend, my dad and I launched our boat at Bankhead's Houston Campground on Smith Lake. In the early morning, a heavy shroud of fog covered the lake so thick that one could not see the other side.

Near mid-morning, the fog lifted to display a perfect day for fishing in one of my favorite places of North Alabama.

---

**" Now the creatures of Bankhead  
have the powerful fish bird to  
to deliver those prayers."**

---

As usual, I was watching for the "fish bird" of the forest which also frequents the waters of Smith Lake. Not long after the skies had cleared, I noticed a familiar figure of what I regard as one of the most beautiful birds of the forest.

The large black-and-white osprey was in search of an early morning meal and was hovering at great heights above the water. Shortly, the Labor Day holiday came alive with the activity of many who had come to the lake to do the season's final day of water sports, and the great bird drifted south toward the wooded hills of Smith Lake. I saw the osprey fishing around the Houston Island just one mile south of the boat ramp and campground. This is the same area I have observed the bald eagle for the past several winters. The osprey ventured overhead gliding into the distance toward Corinth and was not seen for the rest of the day because of the heavy boat traffic.

Last weekend, I again watched the fish bird as it made vertical bombing dives into the clear blue water of Smith Lake. On one occasion, the fish bird plunged from several feet in the air to catch what appeared to be a shad.

As the graceful bird hit the water, the only thing visible were the tips of its huge wings. The osprey is an excellent fisherman and survives solely on its ability to make those pinpoint catches.

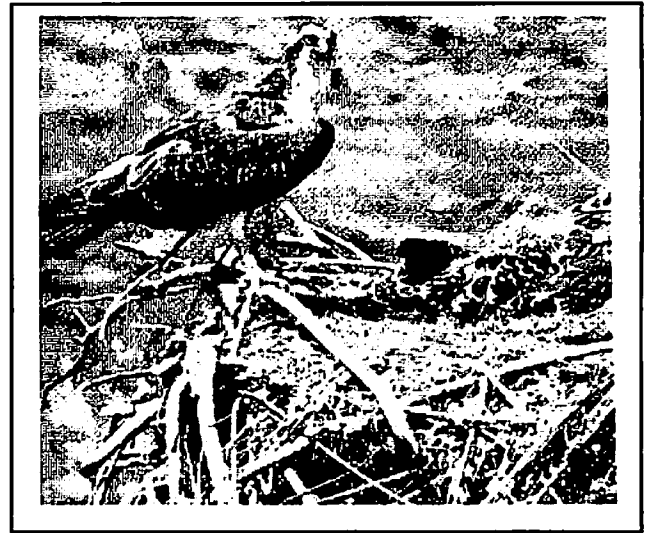
In recent years, the ospreys have made a remarkable return to our area. I have observed ospreys fishing the waters of Oakville Pond, the Beaver Pond, Spring Creek, and just below Wheeler Dam.

This summer on the Tennessee River near Mallard Creek, I watched a family unit of four ospreys. The two young birds would scream to their parents for a fish. After finally being filled, both the parents and young birds would glide so high above the river they were nearly out of sight.

The book "Alabama Birds" by Thomas Imhof states that in 1974 ospreys were uncommon-to-rare inland migrant birds in Alabama. It appears in North Alabama, the fish birds have become regular residents from the Tennessee River to Smith Lake.

Hopefully, the fish bird has recovered in numbers enough to where many of our generations to come can watch in awe as the black-and-white bird folds into an arrowhead form and plunges from lofty heights into our lakes and streams.

To me, the fish bird is very special since it is my Indian namesake. My Indian name "Fish Bird" comes from two of my great-grandmothers. One had the last name "Fish," while another of my great-grandmothers had the last name of "Bird", therefore, in honor of the osprey, my great-grandmothers, and also in honor of my dad, whose Indian name is "Fish Man" because of his love of fishing, I proudly claim my Indian name of Fish Bird.



**OSPREY, THE FISH BIRD**

According to Creek Indian legend, eagles and hawks, including the ospreys, fly closest to the Father Spirit. They have the ability to carry prayers of thankfulness for creatures who had not learned to speak for themselves. In Bankhead Forest, many prayers need to be carried to the Father Spirit because of the drastic changes occurring in the lives of the creatures unable to speak for themselves who struggle to survive in our rapidly declining old-growth hardwood forest.

Now the creatures of Bankhead have the powerful fish bird to deliver those prayers.

# FORESTSPEAK

There is nothing new under the sun. Shucks, after all this time we have been proudly exposing the weird language spoken by clearcutting foresters as if we were the first to discover their trick. The other day I was reading ole Webster to increase my editing ability and I stumbled across this word that I couldn't pronounce. No, it wasn't regeneration. It was EU-PHE-MISM.

(U - Fe - mizm.) It means Forestspeak! " A pleasing expression used in place of one which is plainer of more accurate but which might be offensive, as firm for pigheaded, or exaggerate for lie." Does this sound familiar? Now let's use our new word in a sentence so we don't forget it.

Forestspeak is euphemistic. And for a few true-to-life examples:

**VEGETATION MANIPULATION** - A euphemism for getting rid of unwanted trees, shrubs, herbs, wildflowers by cutting, burning, or poisoning with herbicides.

**ROADWAY MANAGEMENT** - Again getting rid of plants along roadsides by several methods. The current proposal under debate in the Bankhead is by poisons.

**PINE RELEASE** - Nope! It is not a bathroom spray scented with pine oil. This is the killing of vegetation that comes up around the tree farmers 3 to 5 year old pine trees. This releases the pines from the torments of the native hardwoods. Have you noticed how many different names they have for killing the forest? Maybe we should make a Monitorspeak term for foresters. How about **Vegetative Manipulators**. Or better yet, **Manipulated Vegetables**.

**SALVAGE CUT** - This is a term used as an excuse to perform an earlier than scheduled timber harvest, be it timber damaged by fire, bugs or wind. Once in, the clearcutters cut not only the damaged trees, but all the undamaged ones that lie in the painted death perimeter.

**CHANGE SPECIES COMPOSITION** - I'll bet by now you already jumping to conclusions about what these big words really mean. Take this one for instance. " The spraying or severing of stems with hand tools, poisons or fire to change the natural plant makeup to one that is more desirable." Yeah. Like genetically superior pines.

**TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT** - Now you

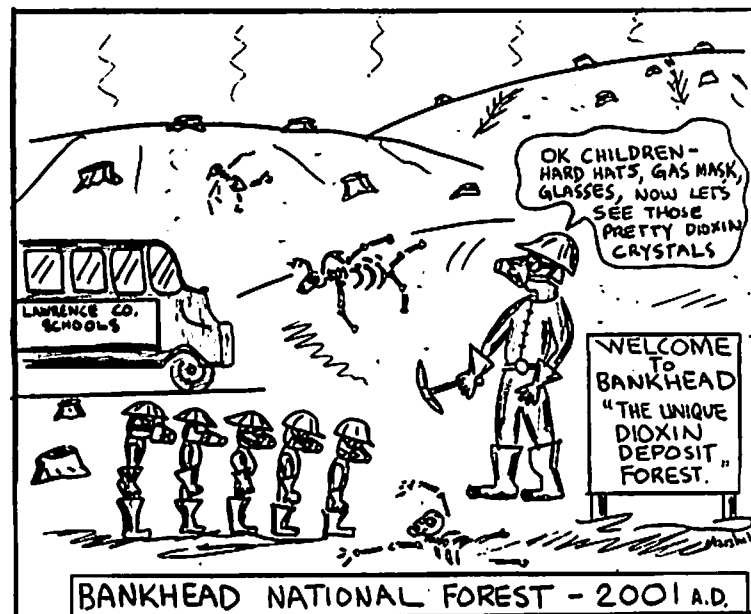
know why forestry school is so important. You spend one semester learning the 5 different ways to kill competing plants, and eight additional semesters learning several different hundred words to say the same thing.

TSI = repeated attacks on surviving hardwood competitors of young pines with girdling, hypohatchets, herbicides and burning.

**GROUP SELECTION** - Patch clearcutting of small groups of trees. Midget clearcuts.

**OVERSTORY REMOVAL** - The cutting down of the big trees to allow the lower or smaller trees to grow. In other words, the taking away of the upper canopy.

**NEW PERSPECTIVES** - This is the "New Forestry". It's kind of like jail-house religion. When a criminal gets caught, he comes up with a new path of righteousness. The new forestry is " an approach to logging that aims to preserve ecological processes, plant and animal species, and soil productivity."





# ALTERNATIVES FOR MANAGEMENT OF HORSE BACK RIDING ON NATIONAL FORESTS IN ALABAMA

by Dr. Charles Borden

We believe that horseback riding is a wonderful family oriented recreational activity that should be encouraged and promoted on our national forests. We do understand that with heavy use the potential will always exist for the development of erosion problems and environmental damage. As responsible, environmentally conscious riders we wish to promote our sport while minimizing potential damage to our national forest resources. Current United States Forest Service policy allows horseback riding throughout the general forest area with the exception of wilderness and recreational areas. This policy allows maximum rider flexibility and a diversity of riding areas. Riders living within the boundaries of the forest and others living on or near the perimeter are able to ride directly into the forest generally following abandoned logging roads. The scarcity of open riding areas and the ease of access to our national forests has resulted in rapid growth in rider usage.

Inevitably as the number of riders has increased, with no monitoring or maintenance, site specific problems have arisen. In response to these problems and a desire to better monitor horse usage the U.S.F.S. is considering restricting horses to designated trails. Other alternatives are being solicited from rider groups.

Members of the Bankhead Trail Riders and the Alabama Horse Trail Council feel that a ban on general forest riding cannot be justified on the basis of the limited site specific damage presently occurring. Present designated camps and trails are inadequate for all riders. Closure of the general forest would create a severe and dangerous overcrowding on designated trails.

The B.T.R.A. and the A.H.T.C. propose the following management alternatives for horseback riding in Alabama National Forests.

## ALTERNATIVE A: (Preferred)

We propose development of five more horse camps and five hundred miles of interconnecting horse and wagon trails for the Bankhead National Forest as well as adequate facilities and trails on other forests in Alabama to meet present and future rider demand. Once such expanded facilities are in

place, consideration could be given to restriction of riders to that system.

## ALTERNATIVE B:

The general forest area excepting wilderness and recreational areas would remain open to horses. We suggest closure either permanently or temporarily as needed for those sections of non-designated trail where erosion or other problems are occurring. Recognizing that environmentally sensitive streamside riparian zones are often boggy and support a wide variety of endangered plants, we propose that these areas be identified and placed off limits to horses. It is understood that adequate access to water and creek crossings would be maintained. We propose that horse riders be restricted to designated trails within all portions of the wilderness.

Obviously, the success of this proposal will demand a high level of monitoring and continuing cooperation between the U.S.F.S. and rider groups. We propose development of a rider education program -- possibly mandatory -- to familiarize riders with restricted areas and to better ensure compliance. Rider groups would work through their membership to monitor and report trail conditions as well as to provide volunteers for any necessary trail work.

This alternative, while not ideal, would cost far less than Alternative A and still ensure rider flexibility and safety while minimizing potential for environmental degradation. This alternative could serve as an interim management strategy until development of the next ten year forest management plan.

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PERFORMING SUCH SERVICE

# THE BRITISH COME TO BANKHEAD

by Rickey Roberts

In the fall of 1988, I was able to fulfill a long time dream. A pen friend of five years, at that time, was to arrive in America from England. She had never before left her own country and was accustomed to seeing only the few forests that they have left. Most are similar to our pine plantations, as their Forestry Commission has already cut the original native trees and replaced them with coniferous species that are used as lumber producers. Most of England's once forested lands are now completely bare of trees.

Rolling hills and mountains are now covered by grasses, heather, etc. The forests that do remain, for the most part, are in orderly rows equivalent to our pine plantations.

Upon the arrival of my friend here, I remember how she remarked that our state was "a sea of trees". Since I wanted her to be able to see as much of our state and the surrounding states as possible during her two weeks here, we went to the Sipsey Wilderness only two of the fourteen days. In the end, this was her favorite of all the places we visited. She was more impressed by the wonders of Bankhead than even a few days spent in the Smokey Mountains.

I gained a unique perspective of my forest from her during that time. To her, the Sipsey was like a jungle. This became one of her favorite phrases in calling it "the jungle". To see such an enormous number of species of trees and plants in one place, indeed, must have seemed a veritable jungle. Because of her different viewpoint I afterward listened to the sounds of the forest for the first time with open ears. I, too, began to hear the sounds of the jungle. Perhaps the sound of a rain forest.

From a lifetime of being so used to the sounds found here, we sometimes take them for granted. Since those weeks in the autumn of 88, I still hear the life in our forest in a different way. I see the perfect order of nature. There are some places left where man has not yet placed his orderly rows and played God in determining what should grow and what should not.

My friend was able to see the beauty that even I had not seen in a drought stricken Bankhead. No waterfalls sprayed their droplets upon huge sandstone boulders; except for Hubbard Falls, no water flowed down most of the creeks. All was still where we trod. For one who had rarely observed nature in its natural state, she saw it differently than I. This gave me a new awareness of the beauty of Bankhead. I began to realize, even more so than I had before, how precious and irreplaceable our virgin to second growth forests are, not just to us, but to the world.

Imagine seeing your friend excited as she sees a snake for the first time in her life. Common place events take on a new light when seen through the eyes of someone from a different culture, even one as closely related to us as the British are. There are differences. If we lose the Bankhead, will our children also grow up with a longing to experience "the jungle"? Even living in a state with such vast forests as Alabama, it could happen. It already



BRITISHER AT THE CHAMPION POPLAR

has to a great extent. The original forest is almost all gone now. If you could go back in time 200 years and bring a native American to today's Bankhead, would he recognize it? Hardly. What will another 200 years hold? Or 100? Or 50? Would we recognize it? Not unless we fight to keep it. Our "jungle" is disappearing before our very eyes. And much more.

You can never say "once you've seen one canyon you've seen them all." It would take me a lifetime to explore every nook and cranny of the Bankhead. And even though you've been to a spot one time, it will be

different the next time. With such a multitude of species of plants and animals, the forest is ever changing with the orderly, long term, changes of nature, unlike those of man. Every season brings a different view to the forest. It is never the same.

When it rains, tens of thousands of waterfalls of every size spring up, giving a totally new dimension to the land. Plants such as the many species of wildflowers come and go as spring progresses. Bare trees become full of life and hide the cliff faces. Summer arrives with blasts of heat that echo the choirlike sounds of millions of insects that go unnoticed because it is such a tiny part of the overall forest. Birds and mammals alike create their own symphony. All combine to breathe life into a living ecosystem.

Shorter days and cooler nights bring the great sleep to the plant kingdom in a burst of colors, carpeting the forest floor with a protective blanket of leaves from the icy cold of winter. The small water falls form icicles and some freeze solid. The cold creeps into the boulders and up into the canyons, even into the high cliff faces. Some of the many species of birds which gave new life in the spring and summer have gone but others remain, to give company to the mammals who will not leave the forest. They survive as a species until warmth comes back to the land.

All this is such a small part of what one who spends time in harmony with the forest sees and feels. But it may give you an idea of how much was missed by my friend, in spending only the daylight hours of two days, in October, of one season, of one year, in our forest. It is a remarkable statement to be made about the Bankhead, that someone from another country, another part of this planet, wants to come back and spend most of her two weeks in Bankhead Country. Yet they say clear cutting and lumber mills would be more profitable than tourism!

Can we, as responsible adults, let this be taken from our little children and their children to come? I say never, never, never! I love this land and my child. I wish for him to have a place to go and to see the beauty that I see; to have a place to renew himself as I have, as his Native American ancestors did and as his English and Irish ancestors did when they came here to start a new life in the wilderness.

As a people, we have lost touch with our inner spirit that once guided us to live in harmony with nature. We must not bend it until it finally breaks and falls to the ground like a broken twig, crushed by an army of humans who reject where they came from. Without the natural world there will be no life on Earth.



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# NATIVE AMERICAN BLOOD

by Edward Herring

George Mayhall is the son of Andrew Jackson Mayhall who was the son of Jesse A Mayhall. Jesse and his brother, Elija, were full-blooded Indians. Jesse's first wife was an Indian who died in childbirth or shortly thereafter. Jessie and Elija were in a group of Indians being transported to Oklahoma Indian Territory and believed to be from North Carolina. The group were camped on the river at Decatur when Jesse and Elija escaped along with Jesse's infant daughter, Fanny. Fanny (Mary) later grew up to marry Elias Oden, father of Walter and Wordy Oden and grandfather of Emmett Oden.

The pair stole some horses and made their way to the Hanceville area. They cut their hair and dressed like white men. While there, Jesse became very sick and sought the help of Dr. John Yealdon. While recuperating, Jesse fell in love with the doctors nurse, Elizabeth, who was also his sister. Elija moved on to Mississippi while Jesse and Elizabeth married and moved to Lawrence County. They settled on the Byler Road, on the homestead next to and north of Lawson Hubbard.

Elija Mayhall educated his children and a son, Wess. Wess moved back to Alabama and became a lawyer at Haleyville. Wess is the father of Carlton Mayhall and grandfather of Judge Carlton Mayhall Jr.

After the 1884 shoot-out in which Henry Hubbard killed Gains Brooks, Jesse Mayhall fetched Gains Brooks' body because the law was after Aunt Jenny's sons and everyone in the neighborhood was afraid of the possibility of more gun play. While crossing a small creek, the wagon tongue broke or came unhitched, throwing wagon and body in the creek. It was almost sundown before Jesse repaired the wagon and loaded the body back on it. Jesse got one other man to help build Gainums' casket and dress the body. The Brooks boys watched from horseback on the hill as their brother was buried.

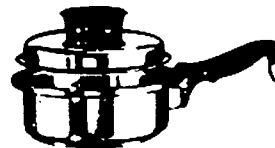
Jesse Mayhalls' son, Andrew Jackson Mayhall was delivered by Aunt Jenny Brooks, as was all his brothers and sisters. Andrew Mayhall owned a store just outside Haleyville. George remembered as a small boy, Henry Brooks would ride up to the store in his wagon along with Aunt Jenny. His father would help Aunt Jenny out of the wagon. She would sit at his store while Henry rode on into town to do his business. George remembered Aunt Jenny teasing and picking at him and that she thought the world of his father. He also remembered that she loved cheese. Some Sundays his

father would ride all the way out to Aunt Jennys to bring her a pound of cheese.

George Mayhall remembers some of Henry Brooks' slayers as being SHERIFF JOHN ROBINSON, WARNER SMITH AND WYATT CRUMPTON. He said that after they surrounded Henry, they went in shooting. When Doc Robinson of Haleyville was elected Sheriff, he set up his dental practice at Double Springs and continued his work while serving as sheriff. (The family history described by Mr. Mayhall has not been verified at this time....EH)

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# THE WARRIOR MOUNTAINS TRAIL

---

**AT LAST - THE LAYOUT OF THE GRAND BANKHEAD TRAIL SYSTEM. THIS WILL TIE THE SIPSEY WILDERNESS TRAILS SYSTEM INTO THE ENTIRE NORTHERN BANKHEAD, ADD 50 MILES OF GORGEOUS CANYONS AND CREATE THE LONG DREAMED OF EAST WEST / NORTH SOUTH HIKING PATH THROUGH THE LOVELIEST COUNTRY WEST OF THE SMOKIES**

---

**The next great trail in Alabama will most certainly be the trans-Bankhead Trail that will shortly be peeled off the drawing boards of veteran trailspersons.**

Six streams in three major drainages (Capsey, Brushy, Bear Creek) would make up the backbone of this logical proposal to place the Bankhead Forest at the forefront of Alabama's premier hiking trails.

Is that a brash statement? Not when you consider that no other national forest in this state has the ecology of the Bankhead. No other trail in Alabama has the hemlock cove atmosphere that is found in the canyons here.

The Sipsey Wilderness is feeling the pressure of greater numbers of visitors which translate into more wear and tear on an area that must by definition remain unchanged. In fact, the Sipsey is now under study by the US Forest Service to make proposed changes in management.

In the near future don't be surprised if you are confined to designated campsites, and possibly a permit system that will regulate the number of visitors in the Wilderness per day.

The need for a new and long trail to relieve the stress on the Wilderness is evident.

A new major trail would bring more serious hikers to Bankhead, tourist dollars into the local economy, and create different jobs for the US Forest Service. Someday, this trail could tie into the Appalachian Trail via the east Alabama Trails.

Besides, we have no real long and challenging trails in the Bankhead. It is time we built one. With a new environmental administration in the White House, the chances for help are very good.

The short trails of the Sipsey Wilderness could tie into the Warrior Mountains Trail via corridor

formed through Borden, Montgomery Creek, Brushy Creek and Capsey. The Bear Creek drainage would tie into the forestwide trail by Tedford Creek and Ross Branch.

Why call it the Warrior Mountains Trail? Because it is a traditional name for these hills. It is a shame that the early name for the forest was changed from the Black Warrior to the Bankhead.

As the trail will be entirely on public land, private properties will not be impacted.

---

## **THE FIRST STEP TOWARD THE GREAT TRAIL IS THE PROTECTION OF THE PROPOSED CORRIDOR.**

---

How did this route come to be chosen? This route was chosen as the result of interviews with many people. People who have lived in the forest and people who have used and walked the forest.

The parameters were as follows:

- ◆ The trail must traverse the greatest length or width of the bulk of our public lands. This turned out to be east/west in the northern portion.

- ◆ It should follow the most unique geological, scenic, archaeological, and botanical areas in the Bankhead. The Appalachian Cove canyons are totally different from any trail system known in other parts of Alabama. For example, the Talladega Mountains are chiefly ridge top trails of oak and pine.

- ◆ The trail should be a minimal threat to the timber industry that the US Forest Service is

so heavily involved with today. The pine sites are principally ridge tops. The proposed trail is laid out through the steep canyons which are hard to get into with timbering equipment. Hemlock is not in great demand today.

Our study indicates that effects on timber harvest: "Finding of No Significant Impact". FONSI

An important selling point to keep in mind is the fact that much of this proposed walk has old log road beds along the way that would serve excellent trail beds. Of course the timber is tall and lovely all the way.

The first step to this new trail is the protection of the proposed corridor. If the corridor is clearcut or in any other way destroyed, the very integrity of the recreational value will be diminished. It could be several years before funding and volunteer groups get started on the construction as the USFS would have to conduct an EIS ( environmental impact statement ).

How can the corridor be protected? The Multiple Use Act which allows the forest to be managed for timber also has provisions for recreational use.

Specifically, to quote the law:

" Public Law 86-517 - The Multiple Use - Sustained Yield Act of 1960. To identify and protect areas containing unique aesthetic, historic, geologic, archaeological, biotic and other recreation values until dedication or development is feasible."

The proposed corridor will be protected by law until development. One quarter mile on either side of the branch, creek or stream would be the minimum timbering setback required to protect the corridor. Approximately 10,000 acres would fall under the protection of this trail outside of the Sipsey Wilderness.

In a recent meeting with Mr. James Ramey, the District Ranger of Bankhead, he agreed that the elimination of clearcutting within the bluffed areas of Bankhead canyons was not unreasonable.

Much of the old-growth timber that remains in the Bankhead is in the canyons.

At present, the Monitor is seeking endorsement from many outdoor organizations. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. The next step is a congressional sponsor.

It has been the editors finding in talking with many US Forest Service personnel, that the USFS is very

interested in a broad expansion of recreational dimensions in our Alabama national forests. The public demand for more recreation in our national forests is outstripping the demand for timber extraction. The big obstacle to recreation is in funding which is specified by Congress. We urge all of you to contact your Congressman and Representatives and urge them to increase the funding for recreation on our national forests. See the centerfold map on page 16.

The route of the proposed trail is as follows:

Trailhead - Forest Service Road # 249S just east of Center Church on FS # 249 ( Leola Road )  
Freeman Hollow to Turkey Creek to Capsey Creek.

Capsey Creek to Brushy Creek to Brushy Lake to HWY 33 just south of FS #249 at the very upper end of Brushy Creek.

Cross HWY 33 and drop into Montgomery Creek to Borden Creek to Braziel Creek.

Up Braziel Creek. Cross ridge and FS #223. Thompson Creek to Tedford Creek to Ross Branch to Bear Creek to FS # 202 to near Beulah Church. More details to come.



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# THE PEOPLE SPEAK

## MORE BIG CATS OF THE BANKHEAD

Dear Mr. Marshall,

Having read with interest your article on cats of the Bankhead. Please don't take this letter wrong. My intention is not to put you boys right, but to give you my views on the Black Panther.

My brother and I saw a black panther in 1971 at the Bankhead Hog Farm, close to where I live now. Something was killing their hogs and we were spotting at night with a 6 volt battery light. ( My brother finished school with the hog farm manager.)

We saw the eyes of what we thought was a house cat a long way off. When we got even with it, the cat ran toward us and sat down 26 steps away to watch us. We later stepped it off.

We saw it very plain and there was no mistaking what we were looking at. It weighed between 60 and 80 pounds. (Not 15 pounds.?) It was black as soot all over with a very long tail. Several people around here have seen Black Panthers and they were all large as a female mountain lion. Some say as big as a police dog.

That's about 60 pounds.

There is a great mystery about the Black Panther. I hunted the area around the hog farm, but never saw a cat track.

I have also seen a long-tailed wildcat as big as a bobcat back in 1957 on Clear Creek and saw it's track in an old log road. It's color was grey.

From talking to old timers, the scream of the panther is different from that of a cougar or mountain lion. It sounds like a woman screaming. It will be a series of screams ( like a mule braying ). They catch their breath and continue until they fade out at last. They do this to confuse game and to get it milling about.

My Dad ( deceased now ), heard them scream in Panama. He was stationed in the army there in the 1920s.

Those cats in Panama are very large. These cats in Alabama are a subspecies of the Central American Black Panther. They are a lot smaller.

A Black Panther is of the leopard family, not the lion family. A Black Panther is not a black cougar.

I looked in the big Webster Third New International Dictionary which has 2662 pages. Here is what I found:

1. Cougar - Felis concolor - brown
2. Mtn. Lion - cougar
3. Lion - Felis leo - brown
4. Panther - Pundavika- leopard - large fierce variety of black color phase.

( That's why I say the southeast Black Panther is a sub species of the Central American Panther.)

5. Panther cat - Ocelet

6. Ocelet - Felis Pardalis - yellow or grayish coat.

7. Leopard ( also called panther) - Felis pardus - spotted coat.

Billy Busby Jasper, Al.

## NO MORE CLEARCUTTING IN OUR NATIONAL FORESTS!

I believe that this is true: I believe that God made this world; and that He made it balanced, with myriads of species of life interacting with one another so that the whole was a living globe, glowing with the life force. I believe that He placed it here for man to live upon forever.

I believe that clearcutting natural forestland causes erosion of the topsoil, siltation of streams and the destruction of many species of animals and plants.

I believe the professional foresters who endorse clearcutting as a harvest technique, are the economic force Theodore Roosevelt was trying to protect public forests from when he set up the National Forest System.

I believe that if we permit our National Forests to be turned into farms for the public industry, then we are guilty. We are guilty of reducing the scope and the value of the lives of our children and our grandchildren. When the life force has gone away from this planet, we have had it.

I entreat the good, enlightened people of North Alabama to stand up now. Be heard in behalf of our children. No more clearcutting in our National Forests.

Charles M. Hubbert

## Of God and Forestry Management

On Oct. 17, proud forester Colin Bagwell wrote ( in the Huntsville Times ) to tell us his biblical revelations on forest management. Quite seriously, he writes: "We were told in Genesis 1:28 to subdue the earth ....to conquer, subjugate, put into bondage and tread down".

With Bagwell's direct - from - God environmental plan, who needs the EPA?

I'm reminded of our infamous former secretary of the Interior, James Watt, who claimed the deforestation of the Earth is God's will - he felt that after the imminent second coming, we won't need the wood.

Was it God, acting through the Collins Bagwells of the world, who was responsible for the overfarming that led to the Midwest dustbowl? Are born - again Bagwells directing the destruction of the rainforests in the name of the Lord? Recent scientific research has shown that Bagwell's version of "God's" managed forest - without a balanced old forest ecosystem to replenish the soil - can support at most a few generation of trees. Why, it's the dustbowl all over again!

God doesn't make mistakes, but Bagwell sure does. Whomever he's been talking to, it surely isn't the deity. Shall we subjugate the reasoned ecological planning of our resources to the irrational ravings of self - appointed religious fanatics? Do people believe the kind of junk Bagwell writes? I'm sorry to say, some people do.

Pat Jonson, Huntsville.

## HURRAH FOR TERRA

Dear Lamar,  
I just found your magazine today and I'm delighted by it. The Bankhead has been special to me for twenty two years. Enclosed is a check for one hundred five dollars. If you have seventy copies, I'd love to have them. I'm a doctor in Birmingham and I want to put them out in my office to generate interest in the Bankhead. If I can help in any way here in the city, let me know. Oh, by the way, I would really like to talk to Terra Manasco. I have a great respect for Native American Religion. Please excuse the intrusion, if it is that for her sake, if not I would very much like her telephone number.

Sincerely,  
D.W.R.,M.D.

## MONITOR SPEAKS AT UNIVERSITIES

Dear Mr. Marshall  
I wanted to personally thank you for the extremely informative lecture as well as the very professionally done audio-visual segment of your presentation. It was very informative and you have a justifiable cause.

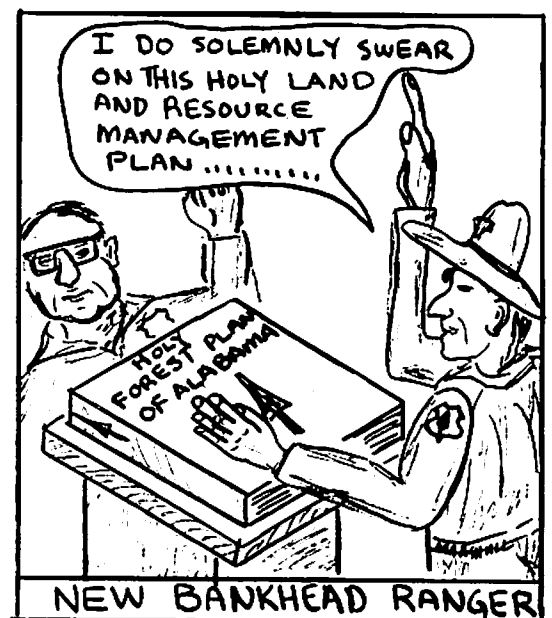
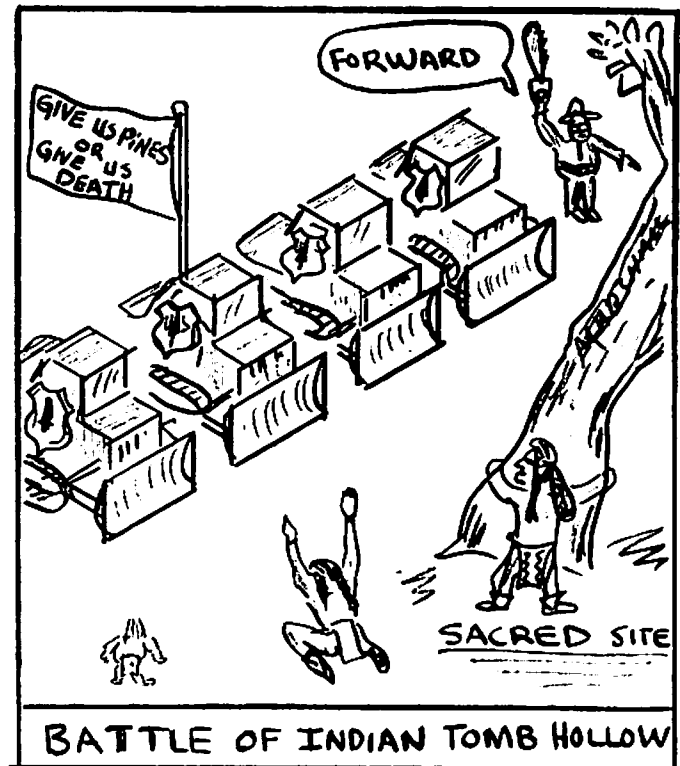
My students were very excited and expressed interest in your cause.

May deforestation be eliminated in our lifetime in the BANKHEAD as well as in our SOUTH AMERICAN rainforest. AMEN

I also would like a tour of this forest in your spare time.

Thanks again, sincerely,

James R. Biles Jr.





# BORDEN ON HORSES

## CONDITIONING YOUR HORSE

By Dr. Charles Borden

In simplest terms, conditioning a horse means to make a horse fit. A conditioning program is the planned exercise regimen through which a horse will become fit. That program is designed to gradually develop the physical and mental capabilities that will prepare the horse for performance in a chosen activity.

Conditioning is a normal physiologic response to stress. To be beneficial stress must be applied at the proper level, incrementally, consistently and with regularity over an adequate period of time. Too little stress and no adaptive improvement occurs, too much stress and injury results.



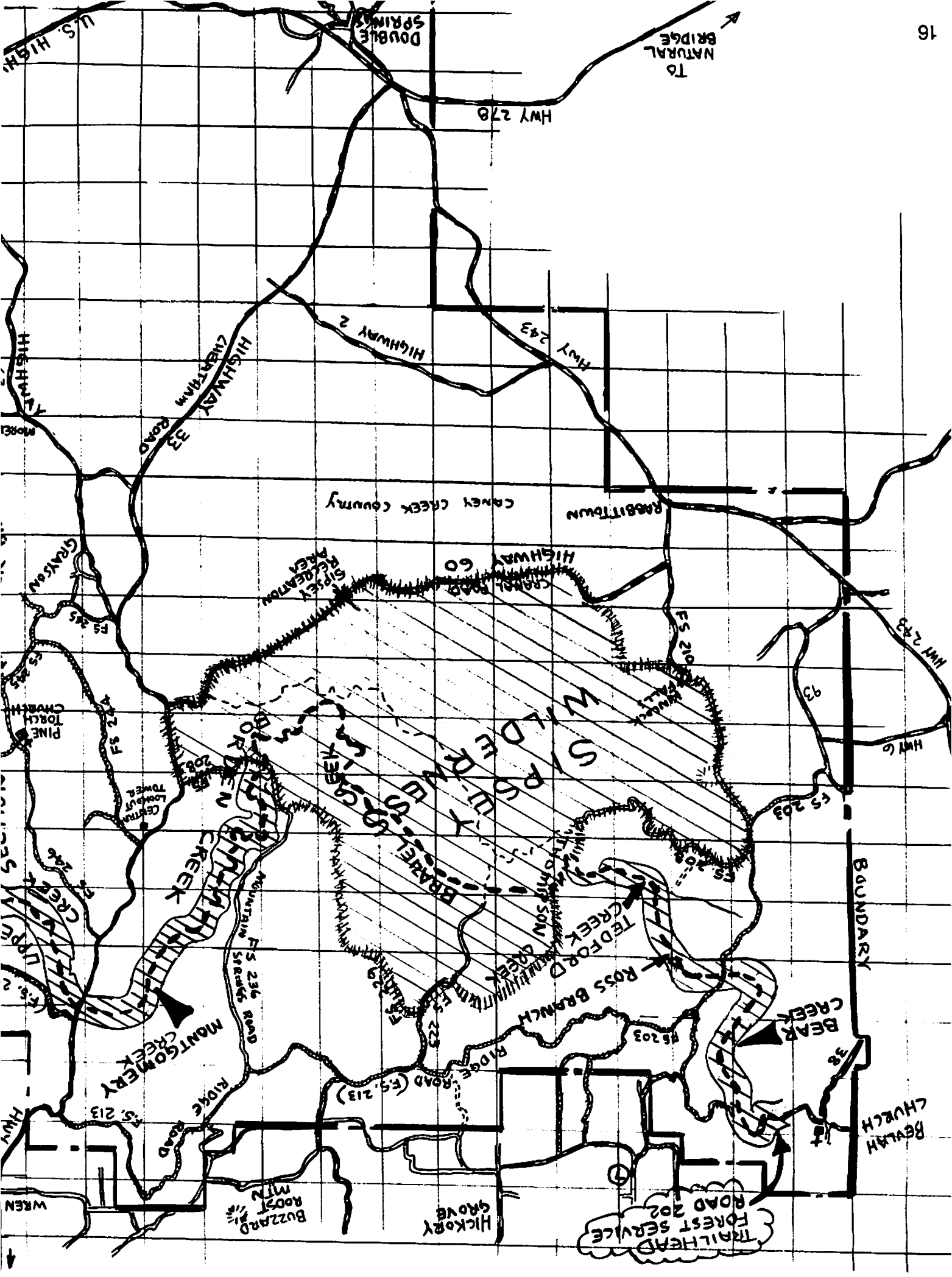
Ideally your horse will have been pasture raised with other young horses. Such a setting would allow development of strength and agility from normal play as well as a good mental attitude from herd social interaction.

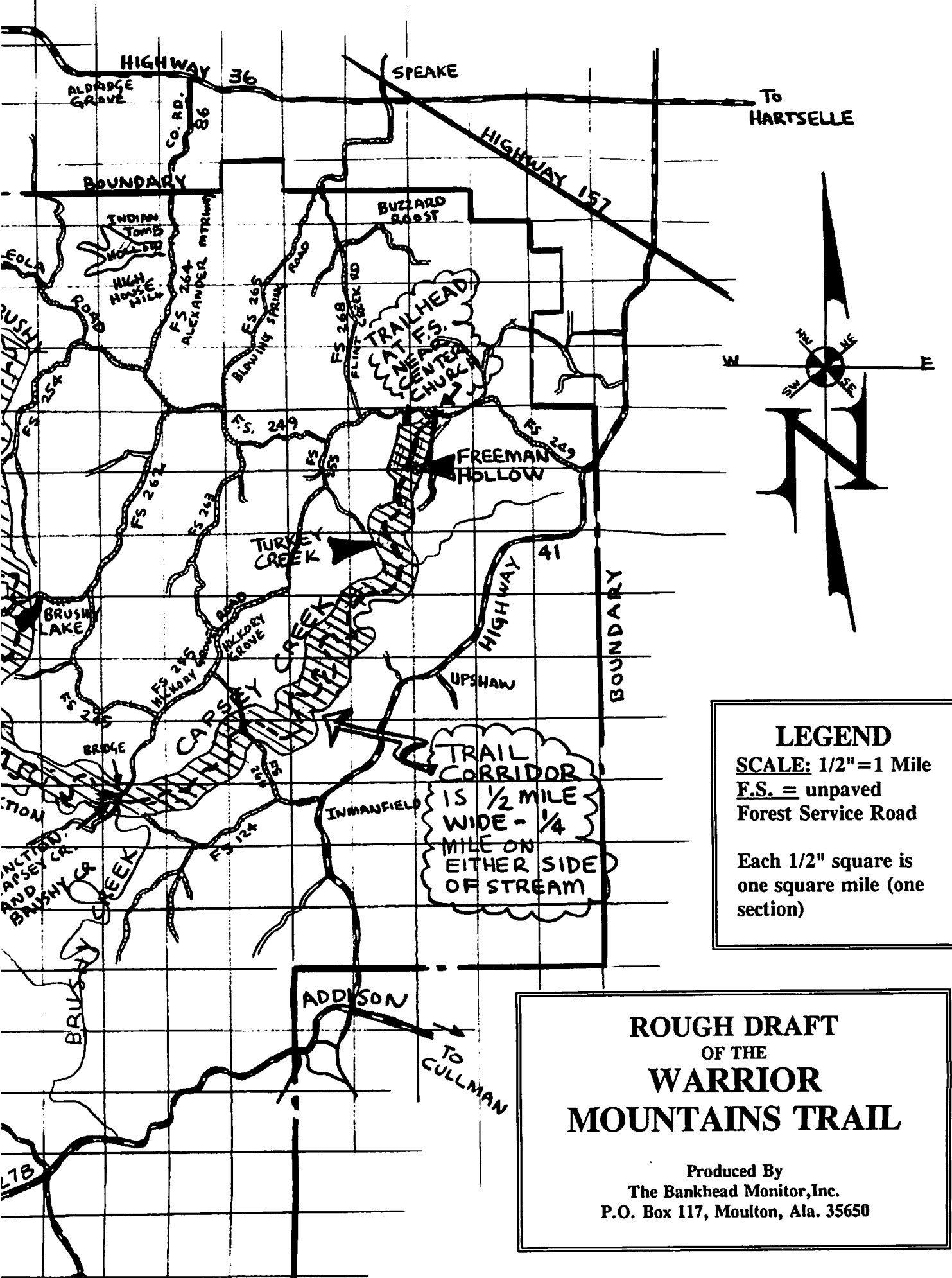
Never forget that genotype or the genetic makeup, combined with phenotype or the basic physical structure we refer to as conformation, will determine the upper limits of performance to which a good conditioning program can carry the individual horse -- but not beyond. Your expectations must be realistic.

Conditioning programs by necessity will vary widely as they take into account the attributes of the individual horse and rider as well as the desired level of performance to be attained in a given sport. Age of the horse, general physical condition, conformation, level of training, skill of rider and a multitude of other factors go into development of a good exercise program. A well thought out and executed program will allow you to minimize the risk of injury and maximize the benefits of your precious training time.

Since young horses are experiencing rapid growth, they are better able to adapt rapidly to stress, particularly in regard to bones, than older but poorly exercised animals. In a very short period of time, perhaps six months, a horse can reach a high level of performance in the soft tissues of the cardiovascular and muscle systems. Medium tissues like ligaments and tendons may take a minimum of six months to two years minimum. A good conditioning program involves good horse care. Proper nutrition, vaccinations, worm control, foot care, dental care, general veterinary care, adequate facilities and areas to exercise are all essential aspects of conditioning. Good record keeping will allow monitoring of your progress. Murphy's law insures that what can go wrong will go wrong. You must be constantly on the lookout for problems at each step on the trail as well as in every aspect of horse care. The more you understand about normal horse anatomy and physiology the better able you are to spot that soreness, lameness or swelling. Modify your conditioning program accordingly. Built in flexibility is one other essential aspect of conditioning.

All tissues of the horse are being constantly remodeled in response to stress or the lack of stress. A good conditioning program will provide the right amount of stress gradually increasing over an adequate period of time to allow all of the marvelous, natural adaptive capabilities of the horse to work to produce a healthy, happy and fit animal.





**LEGEND**  
 SCALE: 1/2" = 1 Mile  
 F.S. = unpaved Forest Service Road  
 Each 1/2" square is one square mile (one section)

**ROUGH DRAFT OF THE WARRIOR MOUNTAINS TRAIL**  
 Produced By  
 The Bankhead Monitor, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 117, Moulton, Ala. 35650

# HIGH TOWN PATH part two

by Rickey Butch Walker

According to the Annals of Northwest Alabama, "The High Town Path was an Indian trail that extended from near the present site of Atlanta, Georgia, westward through the Cherokee Nation south of Sand Mountain, through the Creek Nation, and into the Chickasaw Nation and the present counties of Lawrence, Franklin, and Marion in Alabama prior to entering Mississippi. Settlers from North Georgia and South Carolina could migrate to Winston along this route having good roads until they turned southward to cross the mountains.

After the building of the Cheatham Road and Byler's Road, they could have fair roads all the way."(Elliott, 1972:20) It should be noted that the High Town Path did not enter Winston County. Settlers traveled from the path along present day Highway 41, the

Cheatham Road (present day Highway 33), and the Byler Road to get into Winston County.

The following is two descriptions of the High Town Path as reported in The Story of Alabama: "High Town Path, from High Shoals on the Apalachee River to High Town in the fork of the Oostenalla and Etowah Rivers, the site of the modern Rome Georgia, thence to Turkey Town of the Cherokee Country, to Coosa, thence to Flat Rock in the northwestern part of the state, thence to Copper Town of the Chickasaw Nation. Two great trails from the east united at Flat Rock in Franklin County, Alabama, and thence continued west to the Chickasaw Nation. One of these trails come from

the Chattahoochie to Little Oakfuskee thence to Flat Rock. The other, the High Town Trail, started from Tellico in Monroe County, East Tennessee, thence southwest to Coosa Town, and from it to Flat Rock."(Owens, 149:240,244)

The book Alabama History for Schools describes the trail in the following, "One example of a long Indian trail was the High Town Path. This was named for the Creek Indian village of High Town in present day Etowah County. This trail ran all the

way across Alabama from the land of the Chickasaws in the west, through the Creek Country to Turkey Town. From Turkey Town it ran through the Cherokee Country and across the Chattahoochee River into Georgia." (Summersell, 1981:187)



REMNANTS OF THE HIGH TOWN PATH

According to the book, History of Alabama, "The Creeks had numerous paths radiating from eastern Georgia into Alabama, along which Carolina and Georgia traders, and later settlers, penetrated the interior of the state. The most notable of these were the 'High Town Path' and the 'Southern Trail'. The former crossed the Chattahoochee at Shallow Ford, just north of the present city of Atlanta and extended by way of High Town (Etowah), Turkey Town, and other villages along the Cherokee border to the Chickasaw Country." (Moore 1951:292)

According to the book The Chickasaws, "In early historic times three heavily traveled trails crossed the Chickasaw Nation. The Big Trading Path from



Mobile along the Tombigbee, later used as a horse path by traders; **The Great Chickasaw Trail** which crossed **The Savannah River** near **Augusta** and **coursed westward to the Chickasaw Crossing on the Tombigbee**; and a diagonal trail connecting the Ohio and Cumberland with the Lower Mississippi near the mouth of the Yazoo River, which became **The Natchez Trace**."(Gibson, 1974:147,148)

According to the Sesquicentennial edition 1819-1969 of the Franklin County Times, "Indian trail was first County road: The first account in history of a traveled pathway through Franklin county is of an Indian trail that came from the east and intersected another trail from the north at "Flat Rock" in Franklin County.

The first authentic story of a road or "trace" made by white men is the "trace" made by General Gaines which is found in the field notes of both Lawrence and Marion Counties. **The Indian trace and trace branch appear in some of the field notes in the southern part of Franklin.**"(Times, 1969:4) The pathway and Indian trace or trace branch is referring to the High Town Path. The High Town Path formed the fourth diamond trail pattern starting at Flat Rock.

### INDIAN TOWNS AND JOINING TRAILS

Some very important Indian towns west from Charles Town lying along the east-west Indian path included High Shoals, Tellico, High Town (High Tower), Turkey Town, Coosa, Brown's Village, Flat Rock, and Copper Town. Many other smaller Indian towns and villages lay along the prehistoric and historic Indian trail. Many minor or major Indian trails and European routes intersected, or crossed portions of the path as it traversed an east-west route across the Southeastern United States.



NOTICE THE WORN DEPTH OF HIGH TOWN



LOOK ! UP IN THE SKY. IT'S A BIRD. IT'S A PINE. NO! IT'S ECO-RANGER !

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# STATE OF THE ART SILVICULTURE - 1962

This was the standard operating procedure in the 1960's. This work was the result of 40 years of silvicultural research and published by Professor David Smith of Yale University.

**"SODIUM ARSENITE SOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY USED FOR DECADES IN BOTH COMPLETE FRILLS (open cuts made through the bark of a tree to kill it) AND SPACED INCISIONS."**

THE PRACTICE OF SILVICULTURE - SMITH

**"A WIDE VARIETY OF HERBICIDES ARE USED IN CUT-SURFACE APPLICATIONS (tree girdling). OIL SOLUTIONS OF ESTERS OF 2,4,5-T, PURE OR IN A MIXTURE WITH 2,4-D ARE NOW IN COMMON USE."**

**"THE APPLICATION OF HERBICIDES TO THE CONTROL OF STAND COMPOSITION HAS FINALLY PLACED THE FORESTER IN THE POSITION WHERE THE CONVERSION OF FOREST TYPES CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED QUICKLY AND ON A LARGE SCALE."**

**"THE WATER SOLUBLE AMINES OF 2,4,5-T AND OTHER CHLOROPHENOXY ACIDS ARE USUALLY APPLIED IN UNDILUTED CONCENTRATION AT RATES OF 1/3 TO 2 MILLILITERS PER INCH OF DIAMETER."**

All of these quotes come from the noted book. We have charged before that the US Forest Service used Agent Orange on our forests. Agent Orange was composed of two chemicals combined. The two chemicals were 2,4,5-T and 2,4-D.

The Forest Service admits using both chemicals. They claim that Agent Orange was stronger.

These quotes from the general accepted practice of the forestry profession prove several interesting things.

(1) 2,4,5-T, pure or in a mixture with 2,4-D were in common use.

(2) 2,4,5-T amines were applied in undiluted concentrations as common practice.

Another charge made by a Game Warden who worked in Bankhead for 30 years was that " a chemical called amine was put in girdles ( incisions ) on the hardwoods to kill them." The deer herds died off at the same time. He and others were convinced that the deer were attracted to this chemical on the trees as a salt.

Was the chemical used the same one describe in the first quote? Was sodium arsenite the chemical used about 1960 to kill the hardwoods? Did the US Forest Service put arsenic into our forests?

How much dioxin in the soils of Bankhead along with DDT ?

## PROFOUND QUOTES

**"CLEARCUTTING IS IN AND OF ITSELF NEITHER SOUND OR UNSOUND."**

Ron Eakes, conservation officer  
Ala. Dept. of Conservation

**" CLEARCUTTING IS LIKE PERFORMING BRAIN SURGERY WITH A MEAT CLEAVER."**

Ned Fritz attorney

# THE BATTLE for the BANKHEAD

A REPORT TO  
THE CONGRESS  
AND  
THE SENATE  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
CRIMINALS  
IN THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE  
AN INVESTIGATIVE ANALYSIS  
IN BANKHEAD NAT. FOREST  
BY  
THE BANKHEAD MONITOR

THE BANKHEAD MONITOR  
BANKHEAD:  
THE DESTRUCTION  
OF A NATIVE  
FOREST!  
A  
HISTORY  
OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE ACTIVITY  
& INVOLVEMENT IN SELLING OUT THE  
PEOPLE OF ALABAMA TO THE TIMBER  
INDUSTRY.  
BY LAMAR MARSHALL

## A SPECIAL UPDATE OF THE GROWING HEAT ON THE MONITOR'S ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

"THE FOREST SERVICE, WITH AN EXCITING, IMPRESSIVE HISTORY OF LEADERSHIP IN THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES UNDER GIFFORD PINCHOT, HAS BECOME A CITADEL OF REACTION AND APATHY. PINCHOT... WAS A CRUSADER, A FIGHTER... OTHER OUTSTANDING MEMBERS OF THE FOREST SERVICE HAVE INCLUDED ALDO LEOPOLD AND BOB MARSHALL. THESE GIANTS, UNFORTUNATELY HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED BY PYGMIES WITH NARROW VISION, A FATAL WEAKNESS FOR COMPROMISE WITH TIMBER INTERESTS AND A PENCHANT FOR BUREAUCRATIC TIMIDITY AND RIGIDITY."

Charles S. Prigmore, President.  
Ala. Conservancy  
testimony before the Senate, 1971

" I BELIEVE THESE RUMORS AND ACCUSATIONS BEING SPREAD ABOUT MISDOINGS IN THE BANKHEAD ARE UNFOUNDED."

JOHN PHILLIPS - outdoor writer  
Birmingham Post Herald

"NO FOREST LANDS MEETING WILDERNESS STANDARDS COULD POSSIBLY EXIST IN ALABAMA."

Forest Service declaration in Washington prior to Sipsey Wilderness bill passage.

" THERE IS A TREASURE HERE BUT FEW WILL FIND IT. I KNOW IT IS THERE FOR I HAVE SEEN IT IN PARKER FALLS, IN THE BLOOMS OF THE COWCUMBERS AND MOUNTAIN LAUREL. I HAVE HEARD IT IN THE RIPPLING OF THE WATER AND THE DISTANT MUFFLED CRY OF A WOOD HEN DEEP IN A REMOTE HOLLOW."

Jim Manasco - a native of the forest

### WEATHERFORD SPEAKS

"WHEN THE SLINGS AND ARROWS OF OUTRAGEOUS FORTUNES BEGIN TO CLUTTER THE PRESS, YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT THE ENEMY HAS BEGUN TO FEAR OUR GROWING POWER."

Bill Weatherford

# SPECIAL INTEREST OR INTERESTS THAT ARE SPECIAL?

A false and hypocritical accusation against the staff of THE BANKHEAD MONITOR has been made and appeared in newsprint. It is a claim that we are representing special interest groups. The truth is that we are supporting individuals with interests that are special. People that enjoy and responsibly use the forest, and want it preserved for their children and future generations who have interests that are special. The only group that we represent is the citizens of Alabama collectively.

This accusation came from the District Office of the United States Forest Service, the same people who treat the public like mushrooms, always keeping you in the dark and feeding you manure. The Forest Service is supported by and wastes our tax dollars to subsidize the timber industry's rampant looting of our National Forests, and to promote bureaucracy. O ye hypocrites! What audacity to point their crooked finger and cry "Special Interest Groups!" An honest man would choke on such a lie.

B. Weatherford



**WE ARE THE BANKHEAD MONITOR!**

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**CONTACT: Consulting Forester Lamar Marshall for programs, films and information.**

**Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper calling for an end to clearcutting on public lands.**

**Write your congressman or representative and demand an end to clearcutting on your public lands.**

Join the frontline organization working to save the national forest lands from clearcutting.

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# BATTLE TO SAVE THE PLANTS

by Darryl Patton

For the last eight months a battle has been developing in the Bankhead National Forest located in Northwest Alabama. Lines have been drawn and weapons taken up in an effort to preserve the magnificent hardwoods and the sensitive plants found in the shade of their life giving canopy from the destructive whine of the logger's chainsaw.

On one hand you have a group of people determined that they will not rest until they see the destruction stopped. They say they will fight until the very end to ensure that future generations of children will be able to go into this National Forest and be able to enjoy the experience of sitting under a three hundred year old American Beech while gazing at an ancient Hemlock rarely found outside the steep 400 miles of canyons traversing this unique area.

They feel that if this fight is not waged now, instead of sitting under a wonderful beech that was young when this country was formed, they will instead only see mile after mile of pines, the desert weed of North America. Opposing this grass roots organization of common every day folk is an insidious array of bureaucrats and Forest Service personnel who along with the timber industry in Alabama are determined that this forest will be turned into what has been termed a PINE PLANTATION. This pine plantation will be composed of even aged, even sized trees that will conveniently fit into the machinery designed to turn it into lumber and various paper products. The long term effect will be to turn the Bankhead into an effective means of producing income for the timber industry at the expense of the flora and fauna of this fragile ecosystem.

This battle has been brewing for some time now and has become a nasty fight to the finish for the ultimate control of the Bankhead. The outcome will determine forever just what your grandchildren will see when they go for a visit. It will either be mile after mile of Beeches, Maples, Persimmon, Black Haw and Cucumber Trees to name a few or mile after mile of pines, each with the same look, sort of a generic nation of clones or unitrees. You say this can't be happening? Well, go take a drive to Northwest Alabama and see the destruction for yourself. See the immense acreage lying in ruins, trees bent and twisted as if ripped by some unseen hand from the very life giving soil that nurtured them for so many years.

Touch the dried earth, leached of its ability to provide life to anything but pines and brambles. Never again will it sustain the diversity that once lived and breathed under the cooling canopy of leaves fluttering in the wind. Instead, the hardwoods that spring back up from

the roots and stumps of this destroyed land will be poisoned or burned off in an effort to provide a better habitat for pines.

If left alone, these coppice trees might have one day in a hundred years again provided a minute piece of the experience offered by the immense trees sacrificed for "Progress" or, more aptly stated, sacrificed at the altar of greed and corruption for the sake of an almighty dollar. In the future, all that will be left of this forest will be the green of loblolly pines and the green of dollars in the pockets of the timber industry and Japan.

Recently, I went on an excursion to the Bankhead



PATTON BY A PROSPECTIVE STUMP

Monitor, the Sierra Club, and members of "The Stewards of the Family Farms, Ranches, and Forests". The purpose of the trip was to see just what was happening to the forest in the way of clearcutting. We also wanted to view some of the exquisite beauty that can be found in the hardwood coves and hollows that dot the area.

Prior to our leaving the main fire tower on this trip, the leader of the Sierra Club made the wise but ultimately futile request that any disagreements between our group and the opposing side be discussed at a later date thru the mails or by phone. He felt that the trip was not the place for argument.

You see, this group is comprised of people from the Forestry Service and others involved in various aspects of the Forestry business. Their belief seems to side more with the idea that Clearcutting and timbering in general is good for the land and is necessary for the continued



**GREG PRESTON STICKS HIS ARM INTO FRESH GUMBO SILT THAT WASHED OUT OF CLEARCUTS INTO THE CAPSEY CREEK DRAINAGE.**

regeneration of the forest itself.

The first area to which we traveled and from which I had to leave was to a recent clearcut which was in the process of being converted to Pine monoculture. This was where the disagreements began!

As per request of the Sierra Club leader I kept my mouth shut, listened and let the others do the talking (and arguing). In the course of the following discussion however, several comments were made which both displeased and angered me. It is these comments that prompted this discourse on the evils of clearcutting as a method of timber harvesting and its resulting destruction of rare and endangered native herbs and wildflowers.

Let me preface this by stating that I did not have a tape recorder with me on this trip and can only rely on my memory for any of the comments made by the parties

involved. I can only paraphrase what I felt I heard and will not attempt to quote anyone. The gist of what I heard is presented as honestly as I know how. Did you know that God himself is in favor of clearcutting? According to some comments, it boils down to this: The Bankhead is not a natural forest because it had all been timbered prior to the Forest Service taking control in the early part of this century. Since then, man has basically managed the forest and brought it to where it is today. The premise went on to say that by clearcutting, man is perpetuating a wide range of tree species which would otherwise die off. This was the second time in a week that I had heard a similar comment. Channel 19 out of Huntsville, Alabama, did a three part series called "The Battle For The Bankhead". In it the District Ranger for the Bankhead made a similar statement. Well, just knock me down and call me Gomer! I must be some kind of a redneck to not realize that for thousands of years God had messed up when it came to the natural cycles of the forest. Didn't he know when he planted all those trees that they would die off one day if he didn't clearcut them? It's a good thing that he later decided to have all of the cave men and Indians to periodically clearcut everything so that whole species of trees would not die off! I think it's the neatest concept in the world - cut all of the trees down so they won't die off in such a manner is Bamboo and I hardly think one can mistake a Beech for Bamboo.

As this discussion was unfolding, I looked around the ridge we were sitting upon. As far as I could see, there were thousands of little trees sprouting from the roots and trunks of the felled hardwoods. At this point the comment was made in one breath that hardwoods did regenerate fast as evidenced by all of the young hardwoods sprouting much faster than the pine seedlings. This was proof that various species of hardwoods regenerated after being cut, and therefore, there was no danger of losing them.

In the other breath (or out of the other side of the mouth) it was admitted that this ridge was in fact being converted to pine. Why? I thought, if this was a good example of hardwoods regenerating.

Supposedly sites that were suitable for hardwoods would be managed for hardwoods and pine sites for pine?

Obviously, the hardwoods were having no difficulty in re-establishing themselves. Could it perhaps have been because they were all composed of coppice sprouts? A coppice sprout is what happens when hardwoods are cut and the tree's roots release a chemical distress signal. As a result, many little sprouts will appear off of the roots in the trees effort to re-establish itself.

Unfortunately for the timber industry, coppice trees are composed of several spindly individual trees within a tree which are useless for raw timber and lumber. The



only exception might be for use in a hardwood chip mill which is a whole 'nother battle in itself. Just ask the folks up around Bridgeport, Al.

I meant to ask if there were areas systematically being converted from pine sites to hardwood. I rather doubt it as more money is to be found in Loblolly, not Oak.

What is meant by areas managed for hardwood? Does this mean that a site is going to be managed so that these hardwoods will be allowed to grow to a ripe old age of a few hundred years? Or rather, does it mean that when they get big enough, they will be harvested and pine or more hardwoods replanted?

The general feeling among some of the people seemed to be that letting a hardwood grow to a ripe old age and then die in the forest was a waste of a natural resource.

My own personal belief is that nothing in nature is wasted. Everything will go back into the soil where it will break down and provide the humus for a new generation of trees to grow which can then be enjoyed by a new generation of children.

Probably the thing which ticked me off the most was when it was stated that herbicides such as those containing 2,4,5,T which contains dioxin (a deadly chemical to the environment) filtered down thru the aquifer and subsequently polluted the streams, lakes and rivers, particularly the Sipsey River which is Alabama's only wild and scenic river and the home of some rare and endangered mussels.

Behind me I heard someone say that it hadn't been proven that these contaminants would have made it into the aquifer and thus to the river.

I guess that blows my whole concept of how we almost lost the Bald Eagle and other birds of prey to DDT prior to its ban.

My understanding of herbicides, pesticides and the aquifer is this: Rain falling from the sky dissolves any herbicide and pesticide it encounters. The liquid then soaks into the ground where it eventually filters down to underground veins of water.

This is the aquifer which, then due to a thing called gravity, eventually finds its way downhill until it empties into a branch, a creek, a stream. These get bigger and bigger until they finally form our rivers and reach the sea. A simple idea to follow and one which makes sense.

Remember also that Dioxin is a virtually indestructible chemical and doesn't just disappear. When the rain picks it up, it has to go somewhere and that somewhere is downhill contaminating everything in its path until it ends up in the food chain.

I guess it's a good thing I had to leave after the visit to the ridgetop or this article would be a lot longer than it is.

The reason I am writing it to begin with is because the destruction of our native forests is something which

impacts upon you and will impact your children and grandchildren. One day you may have to go to an arboretum to see an example of a hardwood forest! This may sound far-fetched but is not wholly without truth. According to the U.S. Forest Service, approximately 1 percent of the Bankhead is clearcut per year. That means in fifty years almost 100 percent will be cut in the areas that can be clearcut. This of course excludes the Sipsey Wilderness which is exempt from Clearcutting due to its being a federally protected wilderness area.

When the forests are clearcut, all of the delicate hardwoods loving plants such as Ginseng, Bloodroot, Goldenseal, Trilliums, Maidenhair Fern, Jacobs Ladder and Columbine will disappear. Some will never reappear in your lifetime or your childrens and it is doubtful if many of them will return ever. When trees are clearcut, the humus is washed away, the land dries out and the pH of the soil is changed for generations. Very few of the plants which hug the deep coves and hardwood ridges of the Bankhead can survive in such an environment. They simply and quietly disappear forever.

If you want to do something to help, write your congressmen to let them know you don't like what is going on. Visit the Bankhead to see for yourself what a forty acre clearcut looks like and join the Bankhead Monitor. This grass-roots organization is determined to fight but it needs your support. Write the Bankhead Monitor at P.O.Box 117, Moulton, Al 35650. For \$12 you get a fantastic magazine to go along with your membership. Take a stand and PRESERVE THE FOREST!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



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# JOHN PHILLIPS BAMBOOZLED

## OUTDOOR WRITER BRAINWASHED BY CLEARCUTTERS!

by Lamar Marshall

The U.S. Forest Service pulled a slick move on the Bankhead Monitor. A one-sided, deficient, "investigation" about Bankhead by a news writer (?) for the Birmingham Post Herald was took place on Aug. 7th, 1992.

I was on my regular job in Decatur when my wife called and informed me that I was invited to go on a tour in Bankhead National Forest by the District Ranger, James Ramey. I called Double Springs to get the agenda.

Mr. Ramey informed me that I was invited to join outdoor writer John Phillips, Alabama Department of Conservation official Ron Eakes, and members of the USFS. Not next week. Not even tomorrow. Right now.

I suppose I was to walk off my job without notice and drive 50 miles to the Forest without permission or preparation.

Good planning, Mr. Phillips.

I informed Phillips that I couldn't attend without notice. He asked me several questions about our criticism of Forest Service Management. I told him that if I was not allowed to attend that he would get a very one-sided indoctrination tour. Actually I think the whole thing was a setup by the US Forest Service.

On Sept. 3rd, the Post Herald ran the following story.

I am reprinting the article. I am also adding what Phillips never gave me a chance to say. My comments will be in italics.

### CONSERVATION, FOREST SERVICE OFFICIALS DISPUTE ACCUSATIONS by John Phillips

The Bankhead National Forest just out of Double Springs has become a battleground in recent months. Accusations have been leveled at the US Forest Service that the organization is responsible for damaging streams, plants and wildlife and turning the forest into a tree farm.

The strongest attack on the US Forest Service is by Bankhead Monitor magazine and its editor, Lamar Marshall.

Because of the numbers of charges being leveled at the USFS, I investigated the complaints. Marshall was invited to go on a tour of the Bankhead with us but was unable to attend. However, he did present his concerns and the concerns of the 300 subscribers to Bankhead Monitor. Then I posed these problems to the US Forest Service and the Alabama Department of Conservation. Below are my findings:

**One of the problems many people are aware of concerning the Bankhead National Forest is that this forest is not totally owned by the federal government. Is this information correct?**

James Ramey, district ranger for the Bankhead District: About 57% of the land inside the proclaimed boundary of the Bankhead National Forest is under federal ownership. The other 43% is under private ownership - which ranges from

private timber companies who own land in the forest to individuals who own lots with cabins on them.

*That 43% of private land is not even considered in the battle of the forest. The vast majority of this land is south of US HWY 278 and on the outskirts of the forest. We deal only in the 247 sq. miles of bulk public land north of US HWY 278 that has only about 14 sq. miles of private land within it. I own 101 acres of this private land.*

**When you are accused of clearcutting too much of the National Forest, is some of the clearcutting being observed actually being cut from private lands instead of US Forest Lands?**

Ramey: That's right. Part of the confusion in the Bankhead has resulted from the fact that private timber companies can come in and cut vast tracts of timber on their own property. Because that property lies within the designated boundaries of the Bankhead National Forest, many individuals believe the Forest Service is cutting that timber.

However, we restrict the size of our clearcuts to maximum of 80 acres.

*I'm sure that some people think that some private clearcuts are USFS. But not us. We know the Forest Service boundaries as they are all painted bright red. We have maps and surveyors. The facts are this: the Forest Service cuts 25 to 30 million board feet of timber in Bankhead every year. This is around 2000 acres clearcut every year. Many of these cuts are carefully hidden off the main roads. (The ones they didn't show Mr. Phillips.) This amounts to about 25 square miles every 10 years. Their tiny? 80 acre clearcuts can be 300 ft. apart according to their own book. All of this takes place on your public land.*

**James Marshall says (major insult, John, my name is L-A-M-A-R) "clearcutting is ecologically unsound." How do you respond to that?**

Ramey: We look at the Bankhead as an eco-system. When we make a clearcut, we restrict the size of the cut to between 40 and 80 acres. Then the cut does not have a detrimental effect on the eco-system.

*58 new clearcuts and thinnings are proposed for 1993. Clearcutting has been determined scientifically to be the most damaging timbering method ever devised. It destroys species of plants, causes erosion and siltation, destroys soil life, reduces the fertility and productivity of land and a host of other evils.*

**Is clearcutting an unsound wildlife practice in the national forest?**

Ron Eakes, conservation officer with the Alabama Dept. of Conservation: " Clearcutting in and of itself is neither sound or unsound. The restrictions placed on the clearcut determine it's effect on wildlife. If you clearcut 2000 acres in one place, you can detrimentally affect wildlife. If you restrict a clearcut to 20 or 80 acres, it will have a very high quality impact on wildlife species. These type of clearcuts can be beneficial to deer, turkey and many other forms of wildlife like bluebirds.

*That's typical clearcut theology. If Eakes theories were true, then we should have a giant deer herd in this forest due to 75 square miles of clearcuts over the past few years. But we recently had to import hundreds of deer into Bankhead due to a shortage. What effect does clearcutting thousands of acres of great oaks that produce tons of acorn mast each year, year after year for hundreds of years, have on deer herds? Simple. They disappear. The truth is, that many harmful factors enter into the equation that defines whether the management practices of the USFS are good or bad for wildlife. It is impossible to reduce the answer to a simplistic statement such as " clearcutting in and of itself is neither sound nor unsound." That is the answer of a fence straddling politician. Bloodletting is in and of itself neither sound nor unsound.*

**Marshall says because a complete inventory of plants in the Bankhead National Forest has never been done, the USFS doesn't know whether it is damaging endangered plants or not when you clearcut.**

Ramey: Marshall's statement is correct in that we have not surveyed every acre of the Bankhead National Forest lands for endangered, sensitive or threatened species of plants. However, we are working with the Alabama Heritage Association and doing an inventory at this time. I don't know the exact percentage of national forest lands on which this survey has been completed. But the number that has been surveyed is significant. The Forest Service has trained biologists and botanists in our employment. Their jobs are to go out and look at the sites we intend to clearcut and survey

each site. They have specialized training to know how to look for specific types of plants that are listed on either the sensitive, threatened or endangered species lists.

*The Forest Service official check list has only 11 plants listed on it. There are over twice that many that should be on it. Many of these plants were located by the noted author and Botanist Blanche Dean. I have and can show anybody more than one place where the Forest Service clearcut ginseng habitat with surviving plants still growing within yards of the devastation. The botanist (singular) Ramey speaks of is new. If she hurries, and begins surveying the 660,000 acres of national forest in the state of Alabama ( her office is in Montgomery ) at 40 acres per day, she will have the task completed in only 66 years.*

**Marshall says that the U.S. Forest Service is planning to ban horseback riding in the Bankhead National Forest. Is this true?**

Ramey: Again, this is not true. We are attempting to develop some standards and guidelines for recreational vehicles and horseback riding in the Bankhead National Forest. Without standards and guidelines to control the use of horses and recreational vehicles, we'll have people riding into areas that are too sensitive to sustain that kind of activity. For instance, stream crossings need to be very carefully prepared for horseback riding. Then they don't adversely affect threatened and endangered species. Also, there may be use conflicts to deal with because, for instance, the first day of turkey season if someone comes riding between a hunter and a turkey, how can we prevent this situation from occurring? We have no intention of banning horseback riding in the national forest, but this activity has to be managed.

*I said " ban horseback riding from the Bankhead except on the 30 miles of designated Owl Creek trails." At present, the public is spread across 200 sq. miles of forest. The US Forest Service is considering a ban everywhere in Bankhead except on the "designated trail system." This would throw several hundred riders on the small Owl Creek Trail.*

*Their official document reads " Amend the Plan to add Forest Wide Standards and Guidelines to restrict all equestrian ( horse ) use to designated trails and prohibit cross-country travel. Close all trails which are not in compliance with horse trail design narratives or not located to meet trail standards. John Yancy - June 16th, 92.*

*At a recent meeting the public was informed that the cost of building legal horse trails is \$10,000 per mile and that funding in the next few years will be*

*very limited. Mr. Ramey's last word "managed " translates into " forest wide ban except on Owl Creek Trails."*

*I believe that some regulation is needed to protect stream crossings and sensitive areas. A cross-country ban would be acceptable to most riders if about 500 miles of old, existing log roads were left open to riding. The irony of the situation is the Forest Service is pointing out siltation by horse hooves, while they send in machines that destroy 2000 acres per year by clearcutting and other detrimental timber harvesting techniques.*

**Marshall has charged that pine plantations do not support wildlife. How do you answer that?**

Eakes: That is basically incorrect. Many species of wildlife are directly tied to the pine trees. One in particular is the endangered species known as the red cockaded woodpecker, which nests and roosts only in live, mature pines. Each year when our area has droughts, gray squirrels move into pine plantations and feed extensively off pine seeds and green cones. We conduct a spotlight survey each year here in Bankhead National Forest and on the Black Warrior Wildlife Management Area, which is a part of the Bankhead National Forest. Last year 72% of the deer we observed during the spotlight survey were found either immediately at or within 25 yards of clearcuts. Clearcuts do provide a segment of habitat that are utilized heavily by whitetail deer.

*Twisting my quotes again. Of course some forms of animals and birds will live in pines, but pine monocultures do not support deer herds. Pine monocultures do not support the bulk of Alabama wildlife.*

*According to a study by the Alabama Dept. of Game and Fish and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, pine areas are poor gray squirrel habitat and pine monocultures have very small gray squirrel populations. Deer can not survive on pine straw. Mast is the staple and bread of life in the forest.*

*To quote from the Institute of Natural Resources, University of Georgia publication: Deer - Habitat Relationships in Southern Appalachian Forest; " Weight, reproduction, and antler development vary greatly from year to year, primarily in response to fluctuating mast supplies. Acorns provide a high energy diet in fall and winter and play a crucial role in the nutritional status of Southern Appalachian deer herds. When acorns are unavailable in fall and winter, deer rely on leaves of broadleaf evergreen plants like rhododendron*

*and mountain laurel. Although these forages usually are not limited in quantity, even in mature stands, they are relatively low in nutritional value. Fertilized agricultural food plots provide high quality alternative forages through winter and are heavily utilized but usually cannot be maintained in adequate acreages. Woody twigs generally make up less than 5% of the winter diet. Consequently, winter utilization of clearcuts is low. Clearcuts receive most use in spring and summer when they contribute succulent new woody growth, herbaceous forage, and fleshy fruits. However, even then, less than 10% of the available woody browse is utilized."*

*That info is from a university study. I might add that the primary purpose of our national forest is not to grow deer only. Openings in the forest required to support our one deer per 26 acres, are not even in the league of the 3 sq. miles of cutting in Bankhead every year.*

*Can justification be found to clearcut 150 year old trees in order to provide browse for deer for only 5 or 6 years? The Forest Service's even-age management will cut our hardwoods on 80 to 100 year rotations. Hardwoods become good-quality stand trees and habitat for wildlife between the ages of 50 and 300 years. The most useful part of their life is lopped off.*

*I will end this subject with a couple of quotations written by James Adair concerning his observations during the 1740's and 1750's in the area of north Alabama and Mississippi.*

*" The deer are very fat in winter, by reason of the great quantities of chestnuts, and various sorts of acorns, that cover the boundless woods. " p. 447*

*" In winter, the deer and bears fatten themselves on various kinds of nuts which lie thick over the rich land, if the blossoms have not been blasted by the northeast winds. The wild turkeys live on the small, red acorns, and grow so fat in March, that they cannot fly farther than three or four hundred yards; and not being able soon to take wing again, we speedily run them down with our horses and hunting mastiffs." p. 387*

**Marshall has said that browse does not support deer year-around as effectively as white oak acorns and that since the white oaks are being cut, the deer have less food. How do you answer this charge?**

Eakes: White oak acorns are available basically available from late September to December and possibly into January. Then they are gone. If no browse were available, deer would not be able to feed in February, March, April, May, June, July, and August when the white oak acorn is not present.

*Read the last answer again. Here is a quote from WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES - Schemnitz - 1980 " Clearcuts should be large enough so deer and other wildlife will not eat much of the tree reproduction, yet small enough so wildlife adapted to old-growth forest will not be damaged. It should be remembered that nonyearling deer do not eat large quantities of woody browse, but subsist mainly on mast, fungi, forbes and grasses.*

*For browse cutting, clearcuts 1 1/2 times as wide as the uncut trees have been recommended.*

One of the concerns is in the decrease in the deer population in the Bankhead National Forest. What has been done to stop the decline of the deer herd?

Ramey: Through use of the Pittman-Robertson funds and the memorandum of understanding between Alabama's Department of Conservation and the U.S. Forest Service, we have developed a project and successfully released 340 deer in the last three years from the Stimpson Wildlife Management Area. Auburn University is also assisting us in a study on relocation success and the possible need of protecting the Bankhead deer herd. We may have to close a certain part of the national forest, which may include approximately one-half of the Black Warrior WMA, for two to three years to allow the deer herd to build up.

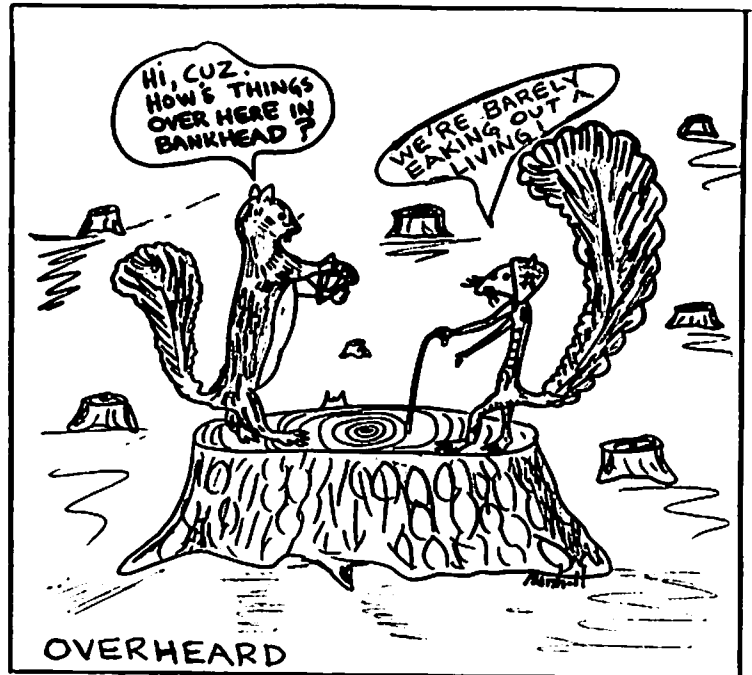
*The decline of the deer is directly tied to the decline in the mast. There is no shortage of clearcuts. The proof is in the pudding. There have been reports of large deer die-offs in the past from girdling trees with poisons in Bankhead.*

Phillips: Many people are concerned about the status of the Bankhead National Forest. From my research and investigation, I believe these rumors and accusations being spread about misdoings in the Bankhead are unfounded. One of the best ways to learn the truth about the Bankhead is to investigate yourself. Call Ramey at (205)489-5111.

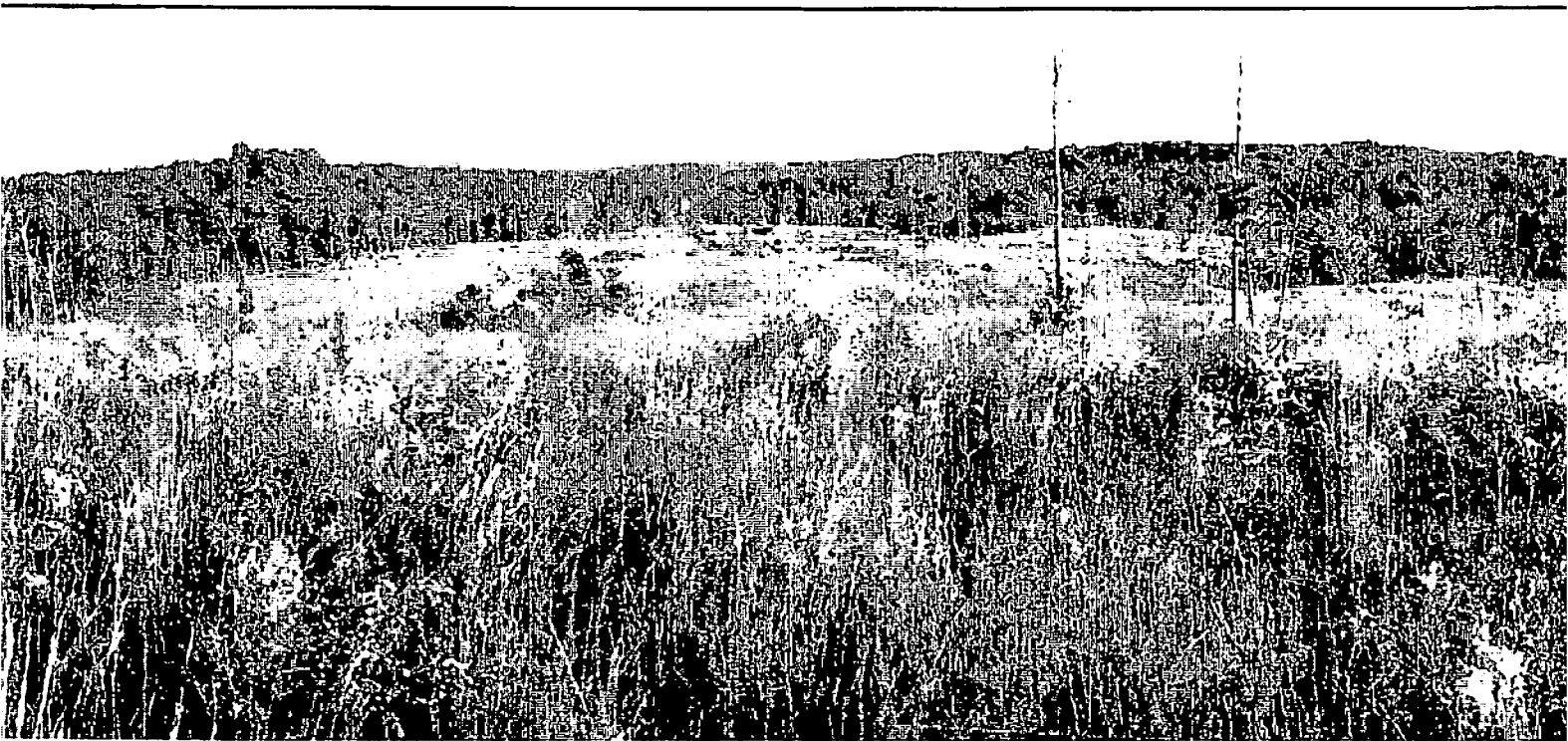
*I can't help believe this whole thing was a setup by the Forest Service and their newspaper pal Mr. Phillips. But then, some people are easily deceived. There was no real investigation or research. Notice*

*the unbiased advice to call the Forest Service if you care to investigate. Yes, call the Fox and inquire about the hens and chicken house. And while you are at it, call Tricky Dick Nixon and get the truth about Watergate.*

*We of the Monitor offer Mr. Phillips a real tour through several of the 150 clearcuts in Bankhead. And if you call the Forest Service, feel free to get the other side. Call Marshall at (205) 974-6166.*



# BANKHEAD AND THE DESTRUCTION OF ALABAMA'S LAST WILDERNESS AREAS



## BANKHEAD DEFORESTATION - A VAST NEW PINE PLANTATION

**A CLASSIC AND SCENIC CLEARCUT.** This ecological disaster is located just south of Grayson. It is a typical example of the destruction of the last of Alabama's wilderness areas by our own federal government. This is the conversion of a mixed forest to an evergreen pine tree monopoly. In 10 years you can do across here what several backpackers and myself attempted to walk from Collier Canyon to Forest Service Road 248. When we topped the canyons rim and headed by compass course toward our destination, we were blocked by an almost impenetrable pine and briar thicket. The pines were one to two inches in diameter and so close that you could hardly squeeze between them. Luckily I had my razor-honed machete with me. We cut for two solid hours across that "pine hell". I had over a hundred deep scratches on my arms. My advice to all who visit Bankhead and run the risk of falling into a dangerous US Forest Service clearcut is to be prepared to cut your way out with a machete. After all, it is a multiple-use forest. They have no right to fence you in or out with living barbwire that they have replaced majestic oaks with. Besides, they will come back in several years and thin out the pines.

If you are wondering what happened to many tracts of public land in Winston County along the southern part of the Bankhead, remember that public lands are traded on a regular basis. These lands were traded for strip-mining. All a miner would have to do is purchase a piece of private land in a prime location in the northern part of the forest and trade it to the USFS for a piece of coal-bearing land in the southern part of the forest. Strip mining is very bad. Consolidating the lands in the north is very good. All private lands within the bulk of public lands that come up for sale should be purchased or traded to expand our National Forest.



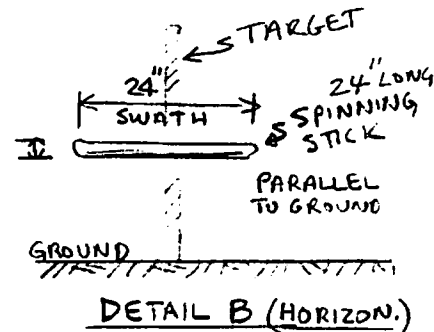
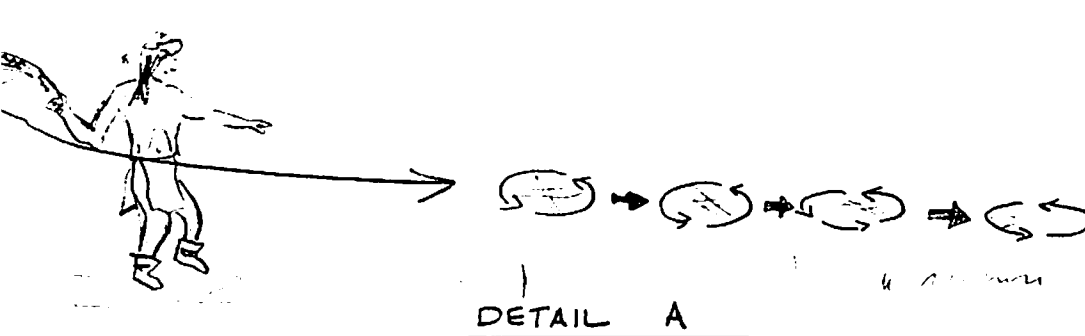
# WOODCRAFT AND INDIAN LORE

## THE FABULOUS THROWING STICK

In the olden days, one of the most important and basic of all tools and weapons in the hands of Native Americans was little more than a common stick. Don't underestimate the unbelievable accomplishments that were the daily business of the nature people. From the stick to staff to shaft; from the club that was thrown to the flattened club that cut the air better to the fantastic boomerang of the Aborigines, the stick evolved into an art form. Along with the evolution of the throwing stick evolved the skills associated with it.

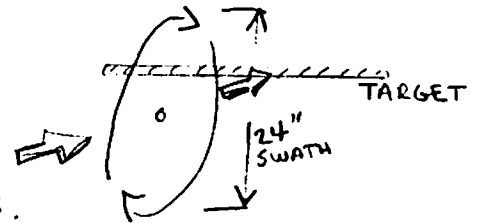
All native tribes used the throwing stick as commonly as the white man would use a shotgun to get rabbits and birds.

Consider that a dense, heavy piece of wood was nearly as effective as a rock when thrown. Sometime in the eons past, someone learned that if a heavy stick was spinning when thrown, it would have not only the force of its weight on impact, but the impact of the spinning end. Think of the throwing stick as helicopter blade. It spins and moves through the air at the same time. This is the principle of the throwing stick.

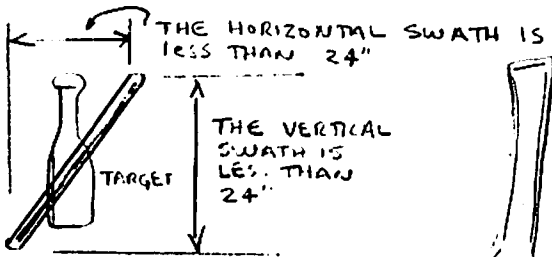


**THE SIDEARM THROW** - launches the weapon as the helicopter blade. Notice that the swath through the air is 24". This gives one an advantage if the target is narrow. You probably think this article is ridiculous. But only because you've never seen the beauty of simplicity and effectiveness of this forgotten art.

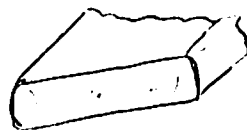
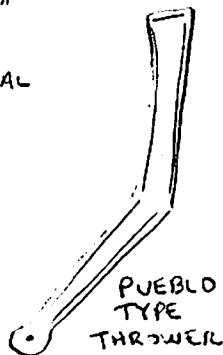
THE SECOND IS THE OVERHAND OR VERTICAL THROW. THE THROWING STICK SPINS VERTICALLY LIKE AN AIR-PLANE PROPELLAR THAT GOES SIDWAYS. THIS TIME YOUR SWATH IS 24" VERTICAL. THIS IS USED FOR HORIZONTAL TARGETS.



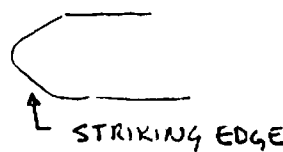
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DETAIL "D"  
PITCHED THROW



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DETAIL "C"  
VERTICAL

### DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- LENGTH (18" TO 24")
- WEIGHT (DENSITY OF WOOD)
- HARDNESS
- SHAPE
- STRIKING EDGE
- ANGULAR SHAPE

KONA WARUK

# AROUND THE CAMPFIRE

**T**wilight 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 hot summer season is drawing to a close. The time of the ironweed and fireweed is passing to the blaze of the goldenrod's glory. The humidity will soon be gone and a new energy will drive people into the outdoors.

The winter rains will resurrect the bloodveins of the Bankhead, and make the waterfalls roar again. We cook our supper and lean back against a friendly tree.

Charles Seifried reads a poem that he has written in the wilderness.

" Traveling through the mountains, bound for who knows where. Luminous full moon through the trees. Warm days. Crisp, cool nights. I built a fire and watched the warm light crawl up the trees. Spirited shadows danced. I became hypnotized by the beauty of the light and drunk with the colors.

At points, I'd lose my life - be totally free... out of my mortal boundaries, feeling the eternity....feeling the relativity of time. I was part of the surging, singing rhythm of life. I had become part of it all.

I became the fire and stared back at myself perched on a rock engulfed in thought. I became the rich smell of the earth and felt the goodness of it's depths. I felt the roots of the trees and through them entered another realm. Through the pith my spirit traveled from bark to leaves and swayed with the winds. A wild eternal peace was with me. An awakening. A unity with all that God has made.....a rebirth of my soul.

There are other times that will never escape me - not a moment. Times when I sat with my dear brother and my wonderful friend on giant rocks at Parker Branch. With the moon at our backs,we

listened to the eternal lulling, healing sound of the flow of water over and around rocks.As Siddhartha looked for the secret of life, so did we. He found peace. So did we.

As if I had fallen into another dimension, that night showed me a glimpse into the soul of life...the very essence of life - if not God himself. As if the curtain was drawn and you see and understand, you become part of the play...part of the secret. Then the curtain closes and you start seeking and hoping that it will be revealed again. You search for that moment again and try to capture it as we are doing tonight."

Charles Seifried



The forest is much more than a commodity for exploitation. It is the last island of the natural world. It belongs to a people who love it as it is. They don't want to lose it by destruction or by law. It must remain a place where the people can go to pursue whatever they perceive to be their call of the wild.

Some people hunt; some like to photograph; some hike; some to camp; some to fish; some to climb the mountains

and bluffs; some to ride their noble steeds; some only to meditate.

But none must come to destroy the forest. The forest is a medium. It is an element as is the air, the water and the ground. It is an environment and must not be bulldozed, churned and reconstructed into a tree farm. A tree farm is a simplistic creation of few parts. The forest is a fathomless, endless and complex living organism. RLM

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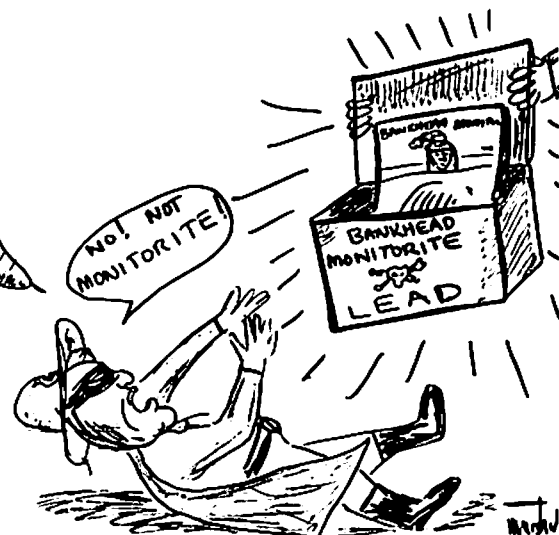
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OR LEAVE  
IT ALONE!"**

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