

John (Jack) R. Venrick

From: "Norman MacLeod" <gaelwolf@waypt.com>
To: "various" <gaelwolf@waypt.com>
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2009 2:47 PM
Attach: Vilsack speech.jpg; SAF speech.jpg; vilsack_aug_14.pdf
Subject: FW: "Conflict in our National Forests"

Schramek is a retired forester who lives in Port Townsend, WA. Worked for the U.S. Forest Service from 1953 until he retired in 1985. His original message, accompanying the two jpg attachments, is below my comments on the Vilsack piece.

I've located and attached a full transcript (with my highlighting) of Secretary Vilsack's August 14 remarks. They indicate not only a willingness, but a policy for the USDA, through the Forest Service and NRCS, to become increasingly involved with the management of private forest lands.

"... the Forest Service must not be viewed solely as an agency concerned only with the fate of our national forests but must instead acknowledge for its work in protecting and maintaining all of America's forests, including state, tribal, and private ones. Our shared vision must adopt an all-lands approach, requiring close collaboration with the NRCS and its work on America's private working lands."

There are several priorities ahead of the mixed use philosophy once espoused for the Forest Service.

"I've asked Chief Tidwell to develop a new planning rule to ensure management and restoration of our national forest with the goal and vision of protecting our water, climate, and wildlife while also creating economic opportunity."

Roadless areas are back with a vengeance.

"Just last week, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the lower court's decision reinstating the 2001 Clinton roadless rule. I view this as a very, very positive development, yet the Forest Service is still subjected to a court injunction from a Wyoming district court judge in the tenth circuit in joining the Forest Service from implementing the 2001 rule. Let me be clear. We will seek to lift that injunction in light of the ninth circuit's decision. And if the courts remain conflicted, or it's not possible to protect roadless areas through the courts, we will initiate a new rule making process to do so."

And what do you think happens where private property is concerned?

"Now, the threats facing our forests do not recognize property boundaries. So in developing a shared vision around forests, we must also be willing to look across property boundaries. In other words, we must operate a landscape scale operation by taking an all-lands approach."

See that one coming, did you? Here we have a departmental secretary who believes that it is good news that:

"... conservation groups, forest industry, and government agencies are increasingly willing to unite to address the common threat of the potential loss of forest lands on private land."

Not too much about what happens when the private landowner isn't all that interested in a government agency and a raft of conservation groups hovering about and telling him or her how to address that "threat". That would likely be because the agency knows best...

"We must dramatically accelerate the scale and pace of forest stewardship here on both public and private lands... On private land, we must move more quickly to protect our forest landscapes before they no longer can function to support watershed health, biodiversity, conservation, and viable wood markets."

There's no shortage of candidate saviors on your doorstep if you are a private property owner.

From: ROBERT W DOROTHY E SCHRAMEK [mailto:rschramek2@msn.com]
Sent: Friday, October 02, 2009 12:51 PM
To:
Subject: "Conflict in our National Forests"

Dear all friends neighbors and family:

I want to announce the recent web page for my book "Conflict in our National Forests" that was produced by my publisher, Xlibris.com. You can find it by going to www.conflictinournationalforests.com.

To show that the contents of the book are still pertinent and timely, I am sending as attachments two commentaries from leaders in forestry in our nation. The first is a commentary in the Journal of Forestry, written by Michael T. Goergen, CEO of the Society of American Foresters. It outlines his belief that our National Forests, along with all managed forest lands, need to be available to help produce renewable energy to help alleviate the energy crisis in our country. He does a creditable job in justifying the need for our Nation to make this effort a high priority.

The second is an article in the Forestry Source, a news letter produced by the SAF that gives selected excerpts from a speech by US Secretary of Agriculture Tom

8/31/2010

Vilsack in Seattle That outlined the Obama administration's vision for our National Forests.

He makes it clear that Obama is committed to renew the Clinton Roadless area rule and to make it a permanent ban on the nearly 60 Million acres of National Forest Land. He also makes it clear that he feels that the national government needs "look across property boundaries in solving this perceived problem. While he does not make clear how this is to be done, it bodes ill to the privately owned forests in our country that there will be more rules regulations and pressure to do what the Federal Government thinks appropriate.

There is no reference to what Foresters, and industry leaders have said and the total lack of agreement about the locking up of almost 1/3 of our National Forests based on feelings and emotional appeal rather than cold hard facts and science.

It is clear that the pendulum of political pressure is rapidly moving to the far left in forest management as well as in all other matters. We need to remind our public servants that the people and the best science should be consulted on such decisions.

8/31/2010

Vilsack: New Natio

In an August 14 speech in Seattle, Washington, US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, outlining the Obama administration's "shared vision [that] adopts an all-lands approach" to forest management, said the US Forest Service would write new regulations for implementing national forest planning under the National Forest Management Act. He also said the agency would support the 2001 rule or draft a new rule for managing nearly 60 million acres of roadless areas. What follows are excerpts from Secretary Vilsack's 25-minute speech.

As many of you may know, in late June a federal court overturned the 2008 planning rule put forward by the US Forest Service. This came on the heels of a similar court decision overturning the 2005 planning rule. Faced with this, the Forest Service had a decision: to appeal these decisions or not. Well, we've decided not to seek further review of the latest court decision, and I've asked Chief Tidwell to develop a new planning rule to ensure management and restoration of our national forests with the goal and

8/31/2010

COMMENTARY

Forest Biomass

Michael T. Goergen Jr.



Congress could miss an enormous opportunity to advance American energy independence through healthy forest management. President Obama has committed to producing 25% of the nation's energy from renewable resources by the year 2025. This goal is laudable and achievable. To succeed, we will need to produce energy from a variety of sources, including our country's abundant supply of biomass. Foresters and other professionals contributing to the resilience of our forests and the production of this renewable resource will both help us achieve energy independence and, in tandem, produce energy through healthy forest management.

Some of those lobbying Congress to restrict biomass interests have warned of dire consequences.

8/31/2010

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