

(The remarks of Mr. CAMPBELL pertaining to the introduction of S. 837 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Nevada.

Mr. BRYAN. I thank the Chair. I thank my friend and colleague from Colorado for his courtesy in securing my recognition after him.

(The remarks of Mr. BRYAN and Mr. BOND pertaining to the introduction of S. 838 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, let me also ask unanimous consent that, following my comments, the Senator from Missouri be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. CRAIG. I will be happy to yield.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Senator for his courtesy.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Nicole Elizabeth Narotzky and Margaret Joanna Smith be allowed to be in the Chamber during this afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Chair. I thank my colleagues.

100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOREST SERVICE ORGANIC ACT OF 1897

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, yesterday was the 100th anniversary of the passage of the Forest Service's Organic Act, so it is an appropriate time to reflect on how recent Congresses have addressed Forest Service issues.

Let me also say to my colleagues, yesterday had sent to each one of your offices a book by Douglas MacCleery called "The American Forests: A History of Resiliency and Recovery."

During the 104th Congress, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee conducted the first extended series of oversight hearings on the management of our Federal forests in almost 20 years. As these hearings proceeded, we also consulted with experts in the field of forestry management, participated in and evaluated the results of the Seventh American Forest Congress, and asked the General Accounting Office and others to evaluate the current state of the management of our national forests. As a consequence of these efforts, we have formed some conclusions about the management of our national forests,

and today I would like to share these with my colleagues.

Notwithstanding considerable contemporary controversy, the Forest Service remains a top performer among Federal agencies. The breadth of contemporary controversy over Federal forest management and the cacophony of interest group outcries from all ends of the spectrum tend to obscure the simple fact that much of the time the Forest Service carries out its duties quite effectively.

Over the decade, the quality of management employed on our Federal forests have been reflected in the integrity of the resources involved. Since the turn of the century, and particularly over the last several decades, the science of resource management has improved dramatically. Our federally owned forests are arguably managed under the most advanced scientific principles and the most stringent environmental controls that have been applied to any managed ecosystem in the world.

In a historic context, the return on this investment in scientific management is striking. Many Federal forests which some view today as pristine ecological preserves were, earlier in this century, little more than worn-out farm lots. Species of megafauna which were dangerously close to extinction at the turn of the century are now flourishing on our Federal forests.

The National Forest System provides more recreation opportunities than any other land ownership category in the country. Wood from our national forests made a significant contribution to the American dream of affordable housing for post-war America, and must still continue to make an important contribution to our national fiber needs today.

The heat generated by present-day conflicts over Federal forest management makes it easy to forget that our national forests are century-long success stories. But this perspective is essential to retain as we go about the task of addressing contemporary problems and improving on our performance in forest resource management.

Notwithstanding the barrage of negative publicity generated by the pleadings of special interests, I remain highly impressed by the commitment of Forest Service professionals of all disciplines and at all levels. Moreover, after more than 15 hearings on an array of related subjects, I am convinced that the majority of people—those not vested in a particular resource management outcome—are, after a reasonable opportunity to offer their thoughts, prepared to defer to the judgment and expertise of the Forest Service in resource management decisions. In this regard, I have reached four specific conclusions from our oversight.

First, budget reductions and downsizing have left the agency with significant management problems. Throughout the system there are national forests with critical gaps in re-

source management expertise and/or personnel shortages. I have come away from our oversight convinced that we simply must find a way to provide the agency with the resources to do the job we want done. I urge my colleagues to join me in this search.

Second, despite these current fiscal constraints and various and sundry controversies, the spirit of Forest Service employees remains surprisingly strong. This spirit shone through in much of the testimony received from agency employees, particularly during field hearings. I believe we must act now to avoid squandering this endangered resource.

Third, the breadth and quality of resource and environmental expertise within the Forest Service, even stressed by budget constraints, is nonetheless unique among related Federal agencies. For example, I have come to conclude that the Forest Service's specialists possess: as much or more expertise in endangered species conservation as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; as much or more expertise in managing anadromous fish habitat as the National Marine Fisheries Service; and as much or more expertise in maintaining or restoring water quality in rural, forested watersheds as the Environmental Protection Agency.

Fourth, in response to probative questions, we finally began to hear the acknowledgment, from other Federal agencies that this expertise exists and that the Forest Service could, in their view, be trusted to use it. I am not convinced that their actions yet reflect these words, but I was glad to hear them, nonetheless.

Most people still strongly support multiple-use management despite well publicized assertions to the contrary. After listening to over 200 witnesses from all quarters, I have come away convinced that we should continue to use our federally owned forests for a wide variety of purposes as long as these activities do not damage the lands. I believe that the majority of the populace agrees that we should protect wildlife habitat, allow recreation, permit harvesting of trees, grazing of animals, and development of minerals on these lands, and that these activities—if conducted judiciously—can be compatible. I do not believe that the "zero harvest," or "cattle free" philosophies are as widely supported as their proponents maintain. For example, at the seventh American Forest Congress, the 1,500 participants voted 91 percent to 4 percent to defeat an extremist proposal to eliminate commercial harvest on public lands.

Moreover, I also strongly suspect from what we heard that most people believe that the way to decide the best mix of uses on Federal forests lands is to give the Forest Service—particularly the resource professionals on the ground—as broad and independent a responsibility as possible to conduct studies, develop comprehensive plans, consult with the public, and then implement the results. Unfortunately,

most of the developments in contemporary resource policy over the past 15 years have worked to reduce the forest Service's responsibility.

That is why last December, I began circulating comprehensive revisions to the 1976 statutes that govern the management of our Federal forest lands. These statutes have not been changed since Congress passed them two decades ago and are in dire need of modernization. The world that we face today is much different than the one we faced in 1976, even as it is different than the one that we faced in 1897.

Over the course of the last 4 months I have held a series of six informal workshops on the draft that was circulated for the first time last December. These workshops included representatives from all points of view, and were conducted to be as informal and discursive as possible in hearing all points of view. Since concluding these workshops a few weeks ago, we have been reworking our proposal for introduction this summer. I hope that we can, in this centennial year of the passage of the original Organic Act, make some positive changes—in a bipartisan fashion—that will provide a mandate to carry sustained and enlightened forest stewardship forward for another century.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous unanimous-consent agreement, the Chair recognizes the Senator from Missouri.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Idaho. I commend him on the work he does in forestry, an area in which I have great interest. We have seen tremendous developments in this area. Agri-forestry and many related concepts are very important new ways in which we cannot only benefit our environment, but maintain profitable revenue-producing opportunities for landowners, and we think that updating the law is very important.

I look forward to working with my colleague. I appreciate his leadership.

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, we have just heard about the history and origins of the 1897 Organic Act of the U.S. Forest Service. I would like to describe what our forests were like a century ago and compare this to where we are today as a nation of enlightened forest stewards. Consider the following turn-of-the-century snapshot of the condition of the Nation's forests and wildlife that confronted our early conservation leaders:

Wildfires commonly consumed 20 to 50 million acres annually—an area the size of Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware combined.

There were about 80 million acres of cut-over land that continued to be either idle or lacking desirable tree cover.

The volume of timber cut nationally greatly exceeded that of forest growth.

There were no provisions for reforestation in our system of laws. Aside from a few experimental programs, long-term forest management was not practiced.

Also at the turn of the century, wood was still relatively cheap. Because of this, large quantities were left behind after logging. Sawmills were inefficient. The use of wood in buildings was based on custom, rather on sound engineering. Huge volumes of wood simply rotted.

Massive clearing of forest land for agriculture continued. In the last 50 years of the 19th century, forest cover in many areas east of the Mississippi had fallen from 70 to 20 percent or less. In the last decade of the 19th century, America's farmers cleared forests at the average rate of 13.5 square miles per day. And much of this land included steep slopes that were highly erodible.

Formerly abundant wildlife species were severely depleted or nearing extinction.

Now compare the unfortunate realities that the country faced at the turn of this century with a snapshot of how our forests look today as we prepare for a new millennium:

Following two centuries of decline, the area of forest land has stabilized. Today, the United States has about the same forest area as in 1920.

The area consumed by wildfire each year has fallen 90 percent. And this trend is continuing even with some severe fire seasons over the last couple of summers.

Nationally, the average volume of standing timber per acre in United States forests is about one-third greater today than in 1952. In the East, the average volume per acre has almost doubled.

Populations of whitetail deer, wild turkey, elk, pronghorns, and many other wildlife species have increased dramatically.

Tree planting on all forest lands rose significantly after World War II, reaching record levels in the 1980's. Many private forest lands are now actively managed for tree growing. 70,000 certified tree farms encompass 95 million acres of privately-owned land.

The tens of millions of acres of cut-over land that existed in 1900 have long since been reforested. Many of these areas today are mature forests. Others have been harvested a second time, and the cycle of regeneration to young forests has started again. Eastern forests have staged a major comeback. We are seeing an increase in forested acreage throughout the Eastern States.

Finally, forest growth nationally has exceeded harvests since the 1940's, with each subsequent decade generally showing increasing margins of growth over harvests. By the early part of this decade, growth exceeded harvest by 34 percent and the volume of forest growth was 360 percent greater than it had been in 1920.

Recreational use on national forests and other public and private forest lands has increased manifold.

The efficiency of wood utilization has improved substantially since 1900. Much less material is left in the woods.

Many sawmills produce more than double the usable lumber and other products per log than they did in 1900. Engineering standards and designs have reduced the volume of wood used per square foot of building space. Preservation treatments have substantially extended the service life of wood. These efficiencies have reduced by millions of acres, the area of annual harvest that otherwise would have occurred.

These comparisons demonstrate what huge strides have been made in forest management between the turn of the century and today. It is important that we recognize the Forest Service for its contributions to this progress. In my home State of Oregon, which has some of the most productive forest land in the world, the Forest Service has been a responsible partner in managing our Federal lands.

In fact, Forest Service employees in Oregon last year endured several physical attacks against their operations. Not only did arsonists burn the Oakridge Ranger Station to the ground, but they also destroyed a Forest Service truck at the Detroit Ranger Station. I want to thank those Forest Service employees in Oregon for enduring such deplorable acts of terrorism, and also recognize the agency's hard work all over the State.

Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to commend the U.S. Forest Service for helping improve the stewardship of our natural resources over the last 100 years. The agency's efforts to use sound science and its ability to look forward have become a worldwide model for balancing the growing needs of our land. While we may not agree on every issue, I look to the Forest Service for equally successful leadership in the next 100 years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from New York.

ALAN EMORY

Mr. D'AMATO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the work of someone who is rightly referred to as the dean of the New York press corps, Alan Emory, Washington bureau chief of the Watertown Daily Times. This Saturday Alan marks his 50th year with the Times, the last 46 have been spent here in Washington.

But more important than the length of Alan's service is the manner in which he has served his community. He has been a thoughtful, candid, and thoroughly professional reporter who has given the readers of the Watertown Times a clear view of the work of their elected officials in Washington.

Alan is tough but fair, and his influence extends far beyond Watertown. Never content to just follow the pack, Alan is constantly on the lookout for stories that may not make the network evening news, but which have a real impact on the lives of his readers.

Born in New York City, Alan was raised on Long Island and educated at