

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

Phillips Exeter Academy, Harvard University, and the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism. A World War II veteran, he arrived in Watertown in July 1947 and was one of three Columbia graduates hired that summer by Harold B. Johnson, the editor and publisher of the Watertown Times.

Alan's first beats included the Boy Scouts and the local railroad station, but he was soon assigned to cover the city of Massena where he got his day-to-day newspaper training.

It was also during this time that Alan began covering politics and his impressive work led to his editor assigning him to the St. Lawrence County political beat.

In October 1948 he was appointed State editor and the following year he was named Albany correspondent. During his time in Albany he met his wife of 47 years, Nancy, and they have two sons, Marc and John, and a daughter, Katharine.

In 1951, Alan was asked to go to Washington. For 46 years and the administrations of 10 Presidents, Alan has kept his readers informed about what's going on down here and how it affects them.

Alan has always been an example of the best in professional journalism and he has proudly served as president and director of the Society of Professional Journalists and as president of the Gridiron Club.

Mr. President, I want to extend congratulations to Alan Emory on 50 years of providing journalistic excellence to the readers of the Watertown Times.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. BINGAMAN addressed the Chair.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that David Schindel of my staff, a fellow in my office, be allowed the privilege of the floor for the duration of the day.

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

Mr. BINGAMAN. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. BINGAMAN pertaining to the introduction of S. 839 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BINGAMAN. I yield the floor.

Mr. ALLARD addressed the Chair.

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

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are in morning business with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes.

A COMMONSENSE APPROACH IN THE COURTROOM

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I commend the work of Federal District

Court Judge Richard Matsch, the judge in the Oklahoma City bombing case tried in Denver, CO, as well as the prosecution team led by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph Hartzler.

I do not want to do anything that might prejudice the legal process and sentencing phase of this trial. However, on behalf of all of Colorado, I would like to recognize the outstanding work done thus far.

Prior to the trial, I took some time out and Judge Matsch took me through the Federal district court and explained to me the security measures that they had taken and explained to me how he wanted to proceed with the trial. I was very impressed with the forethought that had gone into making the proper setting for this very important trial in Denver, CO.

I realize that the success of something like this is not one man. I realize that a lot of very dedicated people had a role in the progress of this particular trial. But I believe that Judge Matsch has distinguished himself as a jurist and deserves our praise for overseeing the proceedings in this very high-profile case which brought justice for the victims and survivors of the worst act of terrorism ever to hit U.S. soil.

Confidence in our legal system has been renewed, thanks to the very tight ship run by Judge Matsch, who took a commonsense approach toward the courtroom. Judge Matsch appropriately protected the jurors in his courtroom from distraction and allowed the completely intact jury to reach a unanimous verdict in less than 6 weeks.

Judge Matsch did a good job because he focused on what was important and not television reaction, prime-time interviews, or book deals. Instead, Judge Matsch focused on justice—justice for the victims of the bombing, justice for their survivors, and justice to the defendant.

I hope that this commonsense approach is a model for future high-profile cases, and that Judge Matsch does an equally fine job during the sentencing portion of this trial.

I yield the floor.

Mr. GRAHAM addressed the Chair.

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Evan Berman, Evie Gissendanner, and Hassan Tyler of my staff be granted privilege of the floor for the duration of my comments.

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

Mr. GRAHAM. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. GRAHAM pertaining to the introduction of S. 840 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have a request on behalf of the leader.

I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled vote on the supplemental appropriations conference report now occur at 6 p.m.

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

CHIEF JUDGE KAZEN, U.S. DISTRICT COURT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, In the past few months my Democratic colleagues have attempted to paint the picture of a national emergency regarding unfilled vacancies in the Federal courts. We hear talk of a judicial crisis, of justice suffering at the hands of overworked and over-burdened judges, and of the Senate Judiciary Committee creating this situation out of political motivation. A recent example is an article in the Washington Post which interviewed only one Texas district judge who described how he was plowed under with work ever since Congress decided to get tough on drug smuggling and illegal immigration. And because his district has three open seats, he can't keep up with the caseload. Unfortunately this one judge has been used in an attempt to reflect some kind of a national crisis. Maybe some clarifying remarks regarding the central issues of this article will shed some light on this matter.

As the chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts, I sent a comprehensive questionnaire to article III judges last year. This extensive judicial survey addressed the very concerns raised by the May 15 article in the Washington Post. The judge in question was kind enough to respond to the questionnaire, as were most of his colleagues. As a matter of fact, 12 out of 17 active judges over 70 percent of the southern district of Texas furnished my subcommittee with detailed replies. Of those 12 judges, only 2 other judges complained of an unmanageable caseload and of a growing backlog. That means that 9 out of 12 judges found their caseloads to be manageable. As a matter of fact, one judge even stated that: "there is absolutely no backlog whatsoever."

Of the three judges who did complain of not being able to keep up with their workload, one had been on the bench less than 2 years, and the other two were the only two judges in the southern district involved in extensive outside work activities beyond occasional