

it in a multinational way, and we must surely guard against being perceived as a colonial military power or an occupying power in Iraq.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in Iraq and in the rest of the Middle East and throughout many areas in Europe, there is a great need for economic assistance, and I would suggest this House consider the establishment of a modern-day Marshall Plan, a plan modeled after our great success in Western Europe after World War II in which over 4 years we helped 14 countries with \$13 billion of assistance to get those allies and former enemies of ours in World War II back on their feet economically. That \$13 billion in the 1940s would be the equivalent of \$100 billion today. That is a great deal of money, but that is an amount of money over several budget years, and with the help of our allies around the world, that is certainly achievable.

And what we can achieve with a modern-day Marshall Plan in Iraq and the rest of the world that has those kind of challenges is the establishment of not just economic opportunity where there is now grinding poverty, but the recognition that there is a sense of hopelessness among many in that part of the world, a sense that life cannot possibly be better for them as the future comes forward, a sense that many people have that things can only go downhill, and that their children will be born into more poverty with less opportunity and more hopelessness than they are currently experiencing.

It is that sense of hopelessness that we have got a moral obligation to try to change, and it is in our own national security interest that we would do so, because if we truly want to win the war on terror, which we desperately want to win, and which is certainly the greatest challenge facing us internationally today, we have to make sure we can offer hope and opportunity along with the rest of the civilized world to those countries that have such despair and hopelessness that some people turn in completely irrational ways to the life of suicide bomber or the terrorist rather than turning to a belief in social justice and a pluralistic society.

That is the goal we have for ourselves. That is the challenge we have now. We have an opportunity in Iraq to show that we believe in a multilateral approach to international challenges. We have an opportunity to say we believe in a pluralistic society that gives economic opportunity and creates social justice for people; that we will do so in a thoughtful way that avoids colonialism, avoids occupying power status, but rather turns in collaborative ways with allies in a multinational approach to give hope and opportunity to the people of Iraq and all people in the world that believe as we do in freedom and justice and democracy.

HEALTHY FOREST INITIATIVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my general leave.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I have some graphics that I would like to use down at the other podium if I might.

Mr. Speaker, as members of the Western Caucus, we come to the floor today to discuss H.R. 1904, The Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003. This bill will be marked up tomorrow in the Committee on the Judiciary and is expected to be brought to the floor early next week.

Let me put this map up. What you see here is a map. If we can focus on the graphic here, what you see here is a map of the United States, and you can understand by looking at this map why we as members of the Western Caucus are concerned with healthy forests.

You will recognize that there is a color chart. What it indicates is that everything in yellow or green or red or the other colors other than white represent Federal lands that are managed by the Federal Government that includes also many lands from the Eastern part of the United States. And as you might guess, we have in the Western Caucus also people who are from the Eastern part of the United States.

□ 2030

We have at least a couple of people here tonight from the Western Caucus who will address some of the issues that are related to the problems of healthy forests.

If we get a fairly tight shot on this, what we can see in this graphic on the left, most of these pictures were taken from an area where there is a forest fire. The picture on the left is a picture of an area that had been thinned and prepared and did not burn. The picture on the right is the terribly scarred and destroyed timber, and by the way one cannot kill the timber by fire without killing a lot of endangered species and destroying watershed and creating huge difficulties for the environment.

That is the difference between the policy that we hope to implement through the Healthy Forest Act and what we currently have in much of our forests today. I am going to talk in particular and show some pictures later on about the effects of mud slides in a town very close to where I live in Utah, but I would like to end my piece of this introduction by quoting the

President when he said, "I have sent you a healthy forest initiative to help prevent the catastrophic fires that have devastated communities, killed wildlife and burnt away millions of acres of treasured forests. I urge you to pass these measures for the good of both the environment and the economy."

I think if we focus on what the President said, we will realize this is a matter of major concern for all America, not just Americans who live in the West, not just for those people who live near federally managed forests in the East. This is a problem for all America, and it relates to our concerns for a healthy environment, for our concerns for endangered species and concerns for our economy.

I yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER).

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's leadership on this issue.

The Representative from Utah is the chairman of the Western Caucus this year, and given the motivation by the Chief Executive to move forward on the healthy forest initiative, I join with my chairman of the caucus as well as the rest of the caucus in an enthusiastic effort to try to make sure that the healthy forest initiative goes forward.

Mr. Speaker, as we debate the healthy forest issue tonight, I am reminded that we were approaching the 100th-year anniversary of what Idahoans refer to as the "big blowup," that is, the fires of 1910. It was a series of 1,763 fires that ravaged some 3 million acres and killed 85 people during August of 1910. The hardest hit areas were the Clearwater National Forest, the Coeur d'Alene national forests of Idaho, the Lolo and the Cabinet national forests of Montana.

I would like to share with my colleagues, if I might, an excerpt from "The Big Burn," a book that was written on the Northwest fires by Stan Cohen and Don Miller:

"Daylight was shut out as far north as Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada; as far south as Denver; and as far east as Watertown, New York. To the west, officers of a British vessel 500 miles out of San Francisco said that they were unable to take observations for ten days because of smoke in the atmosphere caused by the big burn. Some claim that smoke from the big blaze reached one-third of the way around the world."

This big burn started near a little town called Elk City, Idaho, a small community surrounded by dead and dying trees. That community is struggling to keep its one and only lumber mill in business. During the past 20 years, we have seen the growth of the surrounding forests double and the mortality rate from bugs and from viruses triple, all while the timber cuts steadily decline. In short, the sustainability of the forest is declining as the trees die.

A variety of factors have caused this monumental and potentially national disaster, including severe insect infestations, the practice of fighting nearly every wildfire and a passive forest management philosophy. The forest health crises on our public lands can no longer be ignored.

There are over 190 million acres of Federal land at risk to catastrophic fire. The national forest system is home to more than 72 million acres of high-risk catastrophic wildfire and more than 26 million acres at high risk to insect infestation and disease.

The administration must be commended for the action that it has already taken, which precipitated the healthy forest initiative through its current regulation to reduce procedural delays in preparing projects to reduce the fire danger and address forest health problems; but more must be done.

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act seeks to streamline bureaucratic procedures that stymie legitimate management efforts without unduly restricting public participation. Forest management projects could still be subject to rigorous environmental analysis as well as administrative challenges and lawsuits, but the process would be completed in a matter of months rather than in a matter of years.

Tough environmental safeguards in the bill would provide heightened restriction on management activities in inventoried roadless areas, and old growth trees would receive additional protection. At the same time, priority would be given to management projects near communities and the watershed.

The measure would also facilitate use of otherwise valueless wood, brush and slash for production of biomass energy, a key component in our upcoming energy bill; authorize Federal programs to support community-based partnerships addressing forest stewardship and watershed protection and restoration needs at the State and local level; and direct additional research on the early detection and containment of disease and insect infestations.

We cannot tolerate another season of death and destruction. We are past the analysis paralysis point, Mr. Speaker; and the point in this debate is that we must move forward. It is time we got to work on the ground. The sooner we get this legislation through Congress, the sooner we begin ensuring the future of our forests. We need to act quickly before Idaho is faced with another big burn.

I thank the gentleman from Utah for yielding to me.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Idaho for his comments, and if the gentleman would engage in a colloquy, I have some statistics to go along with what the gentleman is just saying.

Apparently, the National Association of Public Administration did an analysis of the forest service and found

that it spends 40 percent of its time and 20 percent of its money on planning. This is the analysis paralysis that the gentleman referred to. Is that the gentleman's experience in Idaho?

Mr. OTTER. It has been, and when I served on the Committee on Resources last year with the gentleman from Utah, as he will recall, Dale Bosworth, the new supervisor of the forest, indicated to us that, and he was the one that coined the term "analysis paralysis," and he indicated to us that so many of the resources of the forest agency are being consumed by not only procedures in court but also preparing to go to court and then filing such an analysis of overwhelming environmental studies hopefully to prevent themselves from having to go to court. I believe that the gentleman's figures of 40 percent and upwards are indeed quoted from Mr. Bosworth's testimony.

Mr. CANNON. That is the planning part of what the forest service does because the forest service, 20 percent of their resources go to planning; but around 50 percent, I have heard as much as 58 percent of the resources of the forest service, go for litigation. So we are spending the vast amount of our time and money playing and being paralyzed by analysis and not using that money to actually make our forests more healthy.

Mr. OTTER. I think that is one of the key components in this forest health restoration act and that is allowing for that opportunity to go to court if that is necessary, but the players must be part of the process prior to the plan being delivered and then taking them to court later.

As the gentleman will recall, many times in the testimony that we received in the Committee on Resources last year, there would be one or two of these interest groups that would be involved in the planning process, that would be involved in the environmental analysis, in the NEPA process and all the public hearings, and they would be agreeing and they would be working with the forest service; and then when the forest service had blocked the sale, the sale in some cases had gone through, then another interest group that had never had a dog in the fight suddenly rushes over to court with a \$20 bill and then a 34 cent stamp, and filed an action to stay any future action on that sale.

In many cases, if it were the restoration or the recovery from a burn or some other kind of insect infestation, the opportunity window for harvesting what good that can come out of that forest was lost.

Mr. CANNON. In part, that is because if we get an infestation in dead trees, we only have until the next season, the next summer before those pine bark needles or whatever, the infestation is mature and goes into the live and healthy forest.

Mr. OTTER. That is right, and I think some of the pictures that the gentleman will show later will be very

obvious in what can happen to a healthy forest that is overgrown and weakened as a result of the closing canopy and weakened as a result of the overgrowth.

I can tell my colleague that testimony I received up in a little town called Grangeville, Idaho, just last weekend, my colleague, Senator CRAIG from the Senate, who is from Idaho, joined me in that hearing, and we were told that in many cases there is as much as 80 tons per acre of fuel that has grown as a result of lack of harvest.

We had a sustainable yield, sustainable harvest program for years; and when we got away from that and took a passive attitude toward the management of our forests, the watershed, the habitat, the result was that the forest continued to grow. It did not stop. The forest continued to grow; and as a result, we have had a tremendous overgrowth, and just as is the case with any species, we get them crowded in too close of an area and if one gets sick, they all get sick; and that is where we are with our forests.

Mr. CANNON. While we are talking, let me just show a picture here that the gentleman was referring to earlier. If we can get a focus on that, we are talking in terms of statistics, but we can see on the left the terrific fire where we have got this large fuel load on the floor and in the forest, and on the right we have a thinned healthy forest; and we can see there is not really much of a transaction.

In fact, the Native Americans used to burn the forests with great regularity. When the Pilgrims first came, they could drive their carriages through the forest, and all the way down to the Revolutionary War they were burning the Hudson in areas around there to maintain health.

The problem is if we, through huge litigation costs and complicated processes, interfere with the healthiness of a forest, we get the fuel load and this terrible destruction as opposed to relatively healthy maintenance by occasional fires that the Native Americans used to manage those areas before.

Mr. OTTER. The other thing I would like to bring to my colleague's attention is the picture he shows there, the one closest to him which would be on the left. When we have that healthy a fuel loaded, what happens when that forest does burn, just as it shows there, it burns so hot that it actually calcines the Earth; and when it calcines the Earth 16, 18, 20 inches deep, it burns all of the natural nutrients right out of the soil. So the result is that nothing will grow there for years and years. It is like trying to grow something in a jar of marbles. There is not anything to hold the root system. There is not anything to feed the root system.

The big blowup that I referred to in my opening statement, part of the big burn of that 3 million acres was a place in Idaho in the St. Joe, just up from the St. Joe called Slate Creek, and that

fire was in 1910, and today there are still areas in those reaches where nothing grows because the nutrients were burnt out of the soil over a hundred years ago, and there has been nothing to replace it.

Mr. CANNON. That is the kind of thing that happens when we get a huge fuel load in the forest and get the destruction like we have, this is the kind of destruction the gentleman is talking about happening where it actually turns the ground into where we burn the nutrients right out of the soil with an intense fire.

Mr. OTTER. Let me just go ahead and make one more analogy for anybody that may be watching this.

In the old days I know when I was growing up and we raked the leaves and everything in the fall of the year, we would rake them up into a pile; and if we burn them on the lawn, if we even have that little bit of fuel, even that little bit of heat, we would have a spot there for years to come. Just imagine magnifying that by 100 or 150 times and then how long that that spot is going to be there.

Mr. CANNON. We sort of forget how intense a fire can be. Even a grass fire can burn at great intensity, and we have got a ladder that takes us all the way up to the trees. We get a terrific burn, but let me give the gentleman a couple more statistics.

The forest service does more environmental statements than any other Federal agency, nearly twice as many as any other agency that does these; and this is the Federal Highway Administration. So they spend a lot of their time doing it more than any other agency, and in addition, they have to go through an 800-step decision-making process to complete the Upper South Platte Restoration Project, which simultaneously took 3 years to complete.

□ 2045

Talk about analysis paralysis: An 800-step process and 3 years while there may be some kind of either buildup of fire load, fuel load, or an infestation. That is just absolutely unacceptable and part of the cause for the problems we are seeing last summer and this summer.

Mr. OTTER. And sometimes it gets to the point where good people get very frustrated. I know in Idaho we have had some good people quit the Federal agencies there because of the fact that they just were not allowed to do their job, and they just got frustrated and they left.

Another aspect of that is since 1989, just 14 short years, we have shut down half of our ability to saw logs. We have shut down half of our lumber mills, about 37 lumber mills thus far. All those jobs are gone.

We get to the point that in many places in Idaho, these small communities that lived and worked for generation after generation, that grew up in those communities, school systems counted on those communities, the in-

frastructure around it, and when those lumber mills shut down, the towns died, the schools went away, and people then transferred. They end up having to transfer into the more populated areas, and to then go through vocational education to get a new job, ruining the historical fabric, ruining the work ethic, if you will, of the folks not only in the agencies, but also those folks that watched their grandfathers and grandmothers and their mothers and fathers that grew up in those areas, that went to college from those areas, and then came back to become silviculturalists or become foresters because their great effort in life, their great desire in life was to go to work for the Forest Service.

I have traveled around the world in many capacities. In my private business capacity I was the president of the international division, and between that and being the Lieutenant Governor of Idaho for 14 years, it was my job to sell our groceries, to get around the world and strut our stuff and show these other countries what we had, and in the process I went to some 82 different countries. One of the things I found, when we got into some of these developing countries, is that they wanted to know about the School of Forestry, the College of Forestry at the University of Idaho. It had a reputation worldwide.

I talked with the President here just a while back and he said, you know, we may have to close down that school. We have already closed down some of the other natural resource schools because nobody is managing them anymore. We are making all our decisions in court. None of the decisions are being made on the forest floor. None of the decisions are really being made for the health and the cleanliness of the watershed, for the health and cleanliness of the water itself, the streams that run into those reaches of the mountains. As a result, we are losing our national reputation. We are losing, unfortunately, one of our real national heritages in our culture.

Mr. CANNON. I think that is absolutely true. The West has had a pretty severe drought. I think everyone in the Nation by now knows that we have had a severe drought. In Utah, and maybe the gentleman has had the same experience, we have had recently the worst of all worlds. We have had more rain in the last 2 or 3 weeks than we have had in the last 4 or 5 years. As a result of that, Utah is pretty green now on the surface. The problem is, come July, we have now added a couple of steps in that ladder we are missing, that fire ladder, so that fire will take off like crazy. We went from what we thought would have been a lesser burn season this year, because of the dryness and because of the lack of that ladder, to now what looks like maybe a much worse burn season. Is that what the gentleman is facing in Idaho?

Mr. OTTER. We have had some great rains. In fact, the farmers all call them

million-dollar rains. I think Bonneville Power said the other day they had an \$80 million week, the week that it rained so hard up in the Pacific Northwest. Because of the watershed, because of the snow and the watershed going into the reservoirs, they were going to have much more water in those reservoirs for the production of power than they thought they were going to have.

But any time there is that much fuel, and as the gentleman knows, come July and August when we hit those 100, 105 day temperatures out in the West, out in our country, out in the Rockies, that is going to dry that fuel. And unless we graze it with the cattle or have some other method of removing that, we are going to have that stairstep that the gentleman talked about, that stepladder that the gentleman talked about. We will have the grasses low, which will then meet the interface of the browse and the brush itself, and then right on up into the trees.

Mr. CANNON. And that is why it is so important to look at what the President said when he pointed out, "I have sent you a healthy forest initiative to prevent the catastrophic fires that devastate communities, kill wildlife, and burn away millions of acres of treasured forest. I urge you to pass these measures for the good of both our environment and our economy."

We need to do this now because our problem is acute right now as we speak.

Mr. OTTER. Tomorrow is not too soon. And I know, looking at Idaho, where we have the overgrowth, where we have high unemployment, all these counties that I talked about where that 1910 fire went up, I have six counties that run right up through that vein where that 1910 fire went that all have double-digit unemployment, they are all ready to go to work. All we need to do is to pass the hiring mechanism, and that hiring mechanism, that action mechanism is this bill.

Mr. CANNON. I thank the gentleman for his participation.

We have the pleasure of having with us a man of great experience in this area, and I would yield now to the gentleman from South Dakota. Let me say first, however, that he comes to us with a world of experience as the long-time Governor of the State and having followed these issues and been responsible for them from the State point of view for a very long time.

Mr. JANKLOW. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I have to apologize for this laryngitis I have this evening.

I asked myself as I sat here listening to my colleagues from Utah and from Idaho, why am I sitting down here this evening in an empty Chamber when I could be like everybody else and be someplace else? The fact of the matter is I am here because it is incredibly important that the people of America understand what we are doing to ourselves, because that is what it is. We are on a self-destructive tour that is

really bringing about the death of human beings. All we need is to have one of these fires in the West, like we have had in the last several years.

Now, I live in the State of South Dakota. The State of South Dakota in the year 2000, we had a couple of forest fires that burned 132,000 acres of the 1.2 million acres in the Black Hills National Forest. That is approximately 10 percent of the entire Black Hills burned down in 2000. We had 600 soldiers and airmen on Active Duty. We had all of the South Dakota Highway Patrol there. We had 150 local fire departments, all but one of them volunteer fire departments, from all over South Dakota. In addition to that, I called the Governor of Minnesota, the Governor of Wisconsin, the Governors of Nebraska, Montana, and Wyoming. I told them this was beyond our capability. I asked them for help, and they sent their fire trucks. The inmates in our State prison system put in 43,632 hours fighting these fires.

But I tell my colleagues what is more important. At a time during our Nation's destiny, at a time in our Nation's history when we need funding for schools, we need money for diabetes research and cancer research, we need money for Lou Gehrig disease research and muscular dystrophy, we need money for all kinds of things, we have spent \$6 billion, \$6 billion, in the last 3 years in this country just fighting the forest fires through the U.S. Forest Service. And that does not count the hundreds of millions and billions that have been spent by local governments, the time for volunteers, or I should say the volunteer farmers and ranchers and citizens who have never booked for their own time, utilizing their own equipment and their own resources to try to put these fires out in the West.

Now, the government, if it wants to, has the right to burn down its forests, but it does not have the right to burn private people's property. It did not have the right to kill 23 firefighters in this country last year. It did not have the right to burn down hundreds of homes, hundreds of homes in this country last year. And it does not have the right to destroy private property like they treat their own.

The reality of the situation is that for decades, every time we had insect infestation, we sprayed them and tried to kill the insects. Every time we had a fire, we tried to put it out. And all we did was allow the forest to do what these gentlemen call building the fuel loading per acre, building what is called the ladder fuels in the forest. The ladder fuels are where we have a fire down on the bed of the forest, but then they get so hot they climb up to the top of the trees where they are called crowning, and then they start racing from treetop to treetop.

We had a fire in the Black Hills in the year 2000, the Jasper fire, moved 10 miles in 1 day. Ten miles in one day. All the firemen could do was run for their lives. I gave an evacuation order

for 64 square miles of the Black Hills of South Dakota. I was asked by the forest supervisor to evacuate an area 8 by 8; 64 square miles of people went running for their lives grabbing what they could. You should have seen the panic in their faces as all of a sudden they get the word to run for their lives. They race into their houses, some of them trying to grab papers, some trying to grab the parakeet, the cat or the dog; some frantically looking for their children and family members; all thinking this fire will be upon them in a moment's notice, and we not knowing which direction or where those fires are going to go.

For too long we have made political decisions in these forests. Before our committee came the representative for the Foresters of America. The representative for the Foresters of America testified on behalf of the State foresters, and what did he say? He said he represented every one of the 50 State professional foresters in the country. And every one of them, through their testimony, said they support, they support, this healthy forest initiative.

This initiative guarantees that the public has a right to be heard. As a matter of fact, a substantive decision cannot be made unless the public is given notice and an opportunity to be involved. What it does say is if you do not involve yourself in the decision process, then you cannot involve yourself in the appeal process. That has been the law in the civil jurisdictions of America since almost this country was founded. If you try a case in the civil courts, and you do not raise an issue, you cannot raise it for the first time on appeal. You have to raise it in what they call the trial court to raise it in the appellate court.

Well, we are setting up the same process administratively in this bill. We say if you have a comment, if you have an objection, if you are for it or against it or just want to be interested, you must participate and give your input into the decision, or you cannot be involved in the appellate process.

This comes about as a result of all the Western Governors, all of them, Democrat and Republican alike, standing shoulder to shoulder, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Alaska, New Mexico, Colorado, all coming together in a summit saying to the Federal officials, the Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Glickman at the time, and the Secretary of the Interior Mr. Babbitt that there has to be a better way. We all agreed with each other. And out of it came the healthy forest initiative that the Western Governors supported, and from that it moved forward to this legislation.

For too long the decisions have been made by judges. Judges should interpret the law. The decisions need to be made in a democracy by the majority, after consulting, after receiving input, after having suggestions and involve-

ment by the minority. But the majority has to rule.

Mr. Speaker, the most important thing of all is what I have saved until now, and that is that when these forests burn, Mr. Speaker, like the fires from hell as they burn in the West, thousands and thousands of acres, all of that ash material in the air, look how it shortens the lives of people with emphysema. We have no records of how many people have had their life shortened and ended that have emphysema or bronchitis, or suffer from asthma, or suffer from lung cancer or sinus trouble or a whole host of the cardiovascular kinds of problems.

□ 2100

Imagine a little child, the family bringing him home at birth from the hospital, the excitement and the joy as all the extended family and the community gathers together in Rapid City, South Dakota; in Custer, South Dakota; Gillette, Wyoming; Boise, Idaho; Colorado Springs or Pikes Peak. And here you have this tiny child breathing all these contaminants, these carcinogens, these things that will inhibit the development of the lung tissue and affect the ability of this child to live.

For too long, we have played politics with our natural resources. For too long we have played politics with our, and I use the word, national resources. And for too long we have played politics with the lives of our elderly, our working people, and our children. So I have a great deal of pride to say that I come here to support this legislation. It is good legislation.

Mr. Speaker, let me also say that when it came out of our committee, when it passed out of the Committee on Agriculture, it was by a voice vote, a strong, strong bipartisan vote. Democrats and Republicans stood together from all over this country on that committee, and a significant majority of them voted "aye" when asked if they supported this legislation. So I am excited about this legislation. It is going to finally turn the corner. We have, the testimony was, 120 million acres. If you can imagine the size of that, the State of South Dakota is 80 million acres. So it is something that is almost twice the size of the State of South Dakota that is in danger of fires. And 70 million of those acres of forests throughout America, only the national forests, 70 million of them are in extreme danger of fire. This is wrong. This is unconscionable. This is immoral. This is something we can fix.

And so I ask you, Mr. Speaker, and I ask you, ladies and gentlemen of this Congress, support this bill. Vote to save our natural resources and our national resources. Vote to extend the lives of our people. Vote to stop spending all the money that we have to spend on these unhealthy forests. Vote to stop spending all the money that we waste on fires, and let us invest it in the children of America, the sick of America, the problems of America.

Mr. CANNON. Would the gentleman consent to a colloquy?

Mr. JANKLOW. Yes, sir.

Mr. CANNON. I was struck by a number of the things you pointed out. People with emphysema suffering. By the way, a large forest fire in the West affects people across the whole country.

Mr. JANKLOW. Sir, the fires in Idaho stink up the air and plug up the lungs in South Dakota and Minnesota.

Mr. CANNON. And places east.

Mr. JANKLOW. And places east. All the way across the country. It affects the sunlight. It affects the haze that we get, the smell that we get. But more importantly, that haze is what we are breathing into the lungs of our sick people and our healthy people.

Mr. CANNON. And our children.

Mr. JANKLOW. And our little children.

Mr. CANNON. There are people who do not care very much about children or people with emphysema.

Mr. JANKLOW. I think they care. I do not think they think about it. Because sometimes, especially in this country, we all get so driven that we are going to accomplish our objective our way that we ignore the needs of other people. It is the old expression, and in my State we say, those are the kind of people that say, it's my way or the highway. That is what we are dealing with. These are not crazy people. These are not screwballs. They are very bright people, but it is their way or no way.

Mr. CANNON. So they tend to stop the ability we have to clean up our forests, to thin them out, to preserve them.

Mr. JANKLOW. Sir, all I want to do is save them. I am for saving the forests. I am 63 years old. I am out of here soon. But I have got grandchildren. I have got five grandchildren. These forests belong to them. Those forests are their heritage, and they are entitled to see them and not breathe them.

Mr. CANNON. That is right. To see them and not breathe them. Most of the people who, by the way, have a hard time with what we are doing in our forests, who create litigation to stop us from creating healthy forests, are also people who are adamantly opposed to adding CO₂ to the environment, and instead of sequestering CO₂ like we do when we have healthy forests, these people are unleashed to get a torrent of CO₂.

Mr. JANKLOW. Sir, the forest fire in Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, you pick your State, Washington, Oregon, California, South Dakota, the forest fires there in the last several years, each of the years, those fires, it will take over 100 years to sequester the carbon back into the soil. Everybody knows that carbon dioxide, everybody knows the release of that carbon contributes to global warming. We hear that all the time with respect to smokestack industries and burning of coal and burning of petrochemicals. The fires in the West release a year's

supply of automobiles. But the sequestration to get them back in the soil will take a century.

Mr. CANNON. You get almost infinitely more mercury in the system from a forest fire than you get from all the coal-fired power plants around the world.

Mr. JANKLOW. You not only get more mercury but now you have destroyed the watershed. You have destroyed the things in the hills that contribute to clean and healthy waters running in the streams. In Lead, South Dakota, in Deadwood, the home of Wild Bill Hickok and Calamity Jane, Deadwood, the home of the largest gold mine in the western hemisphere, the old Homestake gold mine, the community of Deadwood had the Grisly Gulch fire that burned about 12,000 acres and only by the reason of the volunteer firemen and women because the Forest Service only sent three fire trucks for a fire that was racing into the communities of Lead and Deadwood. These fires were stopped by the volunteers. Then a couple of weeks later, 2 inches of rain came one evening and a river of muck came roaring down the hills, doing millions of dollars worth of damage with this muck and ash that was 2, 3, 4 feet deep in some spots.

But just as importantly, it now cleared away the hillside, so every time it rains, for dozens of years, every time it rains, you are going to have these waters racing down the hills into the valleys. But in addition to that, when you mix water with these ashes, you get lye. You get lye. When you take these little baby fish and these little fry, you kill them with lye. Lye is not good for human beings when they drink it. It is not a healthy substance. There are carcinogens in that. We have Federal laws that will put you in jail if you give cancer-causing ingredients to people. Yet no one seems to be bothered by giving cancer-causing ingredients to people as a result of forest fires. We cannot stop forest fires, but we can stop these kinds of forest fires by good forestry.

All I am asking for is best science. That is all I am asking for is best science.

Mr. CANNON. When I wrap up, I am going to show some pictures of these devastating mud flows that happen after a forest fire. I could not help while you were talking but think about the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER) when he was talking about working out deals with environmentalists. Then an unrelated group comes in and stops the process. It seems to me what the President has asked for in this legislation is a comprehensive response to a large problem in our system as opposed to these fragmented environmental groups who stop us here and there and everywhere.

Mr. JANKLOW. I will not attack the environmental groups. I am an environmentalist.

Mr. CANNON. I am an environmentalist.

Mr. JANKLOW. My grandchildren drink the water. They bathe in it. Their food is cooked in it. I want it to be nothing but healthy. But the worst environment in the world, a lousy environment, is when you are cold and you are hungry and you are unemployed. That is a bad environment. That is what the West being burned up is doing to people.

Mr. CANNON. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, although Utah is primarily an arid State, it is famous for its beautiful and Sierra landscapes. In fact, I invite anyone who might be listening to come to southern Utah and visit Lake Powell, which is this incredible barren red rock and beautiful blue water juxtaposed together. It is absolutely remarkable. In spite of that view that many people have of the beautiful part of Utah, we have about 16 million acres of forest, about 8 million of those are managed by the National Forest Service; and so we have a huge interest in what happens. I would like to give just a couple of anecdotes to sort of help people understand why it is so important that we create some changes. We had some recent severe weather in the eastern part of the State of Utah, in the Uinta Basin and we had a blow-down of a number of trees. This happened in 2000. The dead trees developed a spruce beetle infestation, which then spread to some of the live trees nearby. The Forest Service acted quickly and decided it was a very small situation, only a few thousand board feet, maybe 12 or so truckloads of wood, a small area of destruction. They moved quickly with an environmental analysis and did a 90-page environmental assessment. Shortly after making the decision, they were given an appeal, a 19-page appeal that stayed the whole process and that is now under review.

We are looking now in Utah at another area that is going to be terrifically unhealthy and terrifically subject to the kind of devastating fires that you see in this graphic, if we can focus the camera on that for a moment. You see the haze and the smoke and the billowing carcinogens that are going to be breathed in South Dakota by children and other ill people and people all the way east of us where the prevailing winds blow.

Let me give you a second vignette which I think is significant and instructive. We had a huge fire in an area that is one of our most beautiful forested areas. It has the Green River, which is among the most exciting trout fishing in the whole world. I know that many of the people from other States will claim that, but this is really marvelous trout fishing.

A fellow was driving along with a camper when the wheel came off and as one would expect, he began dragging the trailer without the wheel and sparks flew. He saw what happened, realized he was dragging the trailer, realized that sparks were flying everywhere and that actually had caused the beginnings of a fire, stopped his truck

and started to put out the fire. A Forest Service agent came by almost immediately and ordered him back into his truck to drive away from the fire and to not put the fire out, which was at that point controllable. He got back in his truck, started to pull forward, he emitted sparks from the dragging axle, started a couple of other little fires, a local policeman came by and ordered him to stop. He said, Just be consistent. Do I stop or not? At that point a group of river runners stopped by. They had water in their car. They jumped out to help put out the fire. The Forest Service agent told them not to do that. The fire then raged out of control and burned hundreds of thousands of acres. As the news reports, the cost was \$3 million to suppress the fire. The local rural electric cooperatives there tell me that it cost them over \$600,000 just to replace the poles with their electric power lines on them. The lost revenue from tourism that did not come has not been evaluated, but the area was hit hard by irrational activity, irrational activity that resulted, that came from the fact that we have unhealthy forests.

I would like to just show some pictures, including some of the areas where we have the aftermath of a fire. So if we could focus the camera here, we have the burned area in the Squires Forest. It is devastating. We thought of drawing an owl in here, an endangered owl with a little wisp of smoke coming out of his head to point out that this is bad for endangered species. The following pictures are pictures that were taken in a little town called Santaquin just outside my hometown of Mapleton. If we can focus tightly on that, what we see is a river of mud that has come downhill and affected these homes. Here is a closeup picture. You can see that that mud has come down from this direction and affected these houses. We do not think of mud as having a lot of power because it normally does not come knocking on the door, but you can see as you look down here how high up the mud has come, halfway to the door and windows and filled the whole yard.

In this picture, we can see that it has carried rocks and debris that are going to crush things. Here you have a whole area of the house has been torn out by this mud as it comes down. You can see the devastation of this home here. This is just dirt that got saturated with water after a forest fire. We had similar forest fires just north of this area in Provo. The difference is we had three-quarters of an inch in a very short period of time, in a very harsh storm that caused this to flow, whereas we cannot control nature. In Provo we had about the same amount of water, but it was more gradual over a longer period of time. We can see the terrific destruction, cars buried, windows shattered, mud going into basements, cars stranded. When you unleash the forces of nature, it is just almost beyond imagining how much damage can be done to an area because of that.

We have a problem today, Mr. Speaker. We have a problem. We have forests that are not healthy. That is the result of years and years and years of neglect. It is the result of years and years and years of people who have been narrow in their interests and who have stopped the sale of timber, who have stopped the thinning of timber, who have stopped our forest men and women who understand how to have healthy forests, stopped them from doing what they know how to do and left us with desperate circumstances, 70 or 75 million acres of forestland that is ready to be destroyed by fire.

□ 2115

We have suffered in the West with the worst drought in recent history, probably as bad as anything back to the Dust Bowl of the 1930s. These are terrible things. They have displaced people, destroyed farms and lives, and now we are going to add to that the further destruction of the forests through fire.

We had thought, and, in fact, we had some charts earlier that showed the anticipated fire damage in the West was going to be less this year than it was last year. Last year, of course, was a record year. We burned much of that which was ready to burn last year. Unfortunately, this year we have had some water over much of the West, and that, unfortunately, has created a fire ladder so that what was not as endangered 2 months ago is now viewed as being subject to devastating fires.

If we look at Utah today, it is as green as I have ever seen it. Unfortunately, that green over the next month or 2 or 3 is going to turn to brown grass that will light at any provocation, a lightning strike, a match or a cigarette carelessly thrown out of a window, a campfire burning out of control. Those things could all happen and will happen, we suspect, this summer with devastating effects.

We need to pass the forest health bill now.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JANKLOW).

Mr. JANKLOW. Mr. Speaker, I am going to be extremely brief. This healthy forest initiative is an initiative that is incredibly important. It is not very often that we deal with things of that much substance. This is one of those opportunities. For too long we have made the forests into political issues where people fight with each other. The reality of the situation is every time we get that strong of emotions on all sides, usually we end up with a bad result. That is what we have here.

There is no one, there is no one, who says these forests are healthy, and when I say forests, I am talking about a couple hundred million acres of land in America, virtually the entire part of many of our States. In my State it is the Black Hills, which is the westernmost portion of the State. But there is no one who says these forests are being

properly managed. There is no one who says we have been doing the right thing.

The arguments are what do we do to fix the problem, or do we just let God burn them down? It is okay to let God burn them down, but we are burning up people in the process. We are burning up people's homes in the process. We are destroying people's lives. We are shortening the lives of people. We are making it incredibly unhealthy for human beings. We are contributing to the wiping out of endangered species, be they plant life or be they animal life. So what we need to do is something different.

This is a reasonable approach that involves input from all corners of the philosophies. It preserves the right of anybody who does not like the decision to go to court, but more than anything else, it starts us on another track away from the track that we all agree has not worked.

For the sake of this country, for the sake of its resources, for the sake of our families, for the sake of endangered species, for the sake of our economy, and for the sake of our health, we need to pass this initiative.

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JANKLOW). I appreciate that, and I am reminded of his earlier words about the unanimity of the Committee on Agriculture, and it dawns on me that those people who see the problem and understand it have a tendency to agree. Locals who know it have a tendency to agree. We have lots of people with incoherent or separate, disparate ideas who get to pursue those ideas, through litigation or otherwise, stopping the process.

What we have here before us with this bill is a coherent and considerate approach that is good for the air, will help with clean air, will help with clean water, will help people in the economy, will help endangered species, and will also help species that are not endangered now. So I urge passage of this bill, Mr. Speaker.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CASE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business in the district.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extra material:)

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.