



FOREST OWNER

the voice of 255,000 forest owners in New York
- representing an ownership of 11 million acres

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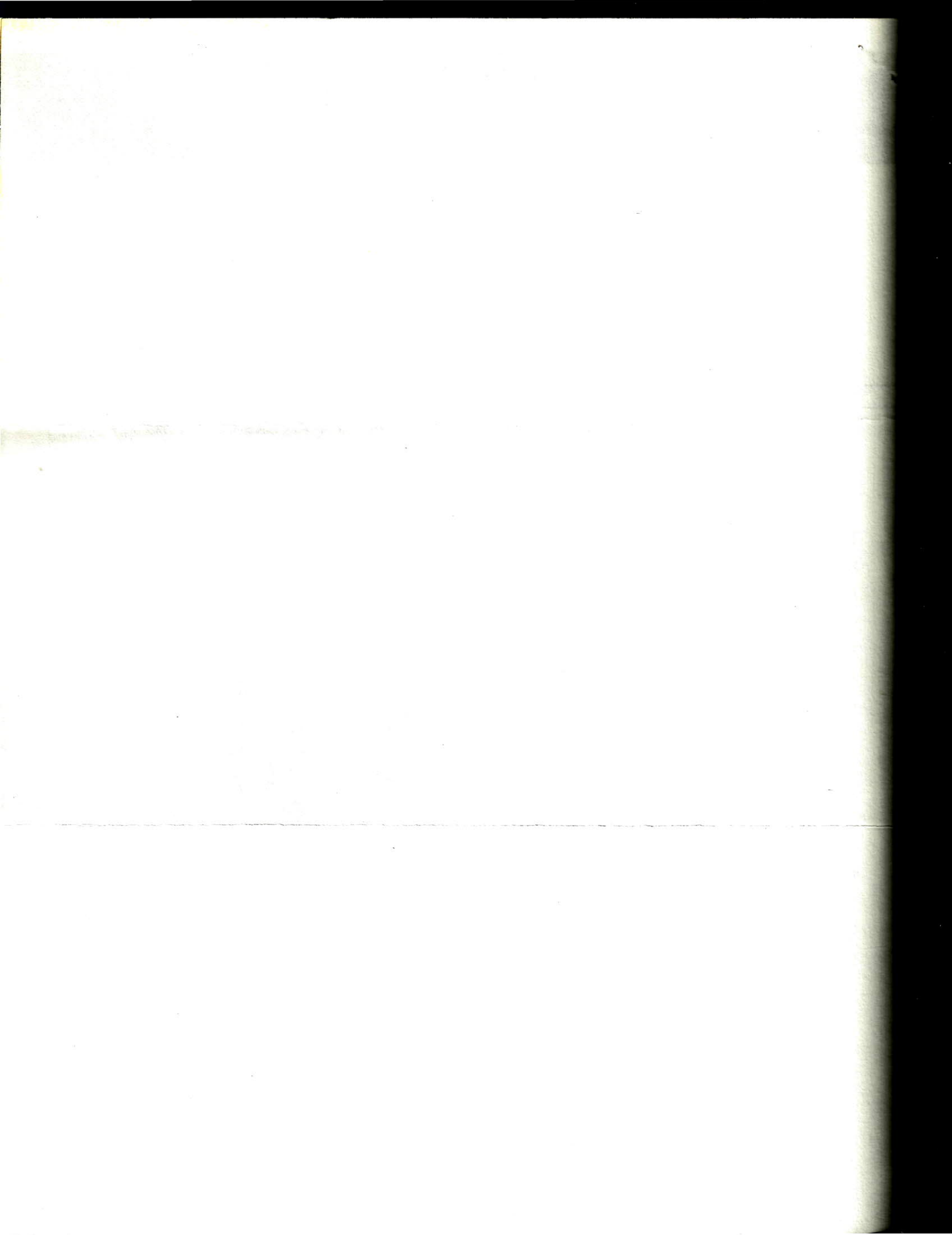
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THE NEXT TEN YEARS

Robert R. Morrow

Department of Natural Resources
Cornell University

Happy Anniversary! I won't pretend to forecast events of the next decade, but a look at some current trends may be suggestive. I draw not only on my professional knowledge of forestry, but also my experience with Cornell students and their politics. This experience comes both from the classroom, where I find mostly serious and interested students, and my term in the Cornell Senate where more radical students may be found. (Isn't this much like our older society, where most of us have rather little interest in politics?) We need to know something of student thinking. Cornell's students are pretty much representative of our predominantly urban society and will strongly influence events of the coming years.

1. Human rights. Civil rights was only the beginning. Now students are concerned with rights of students, women, the poor, the imprisoned and anybody else who is in a minority or "underdog" position. However most of us learned that rights, or freedoms, come with responsibility. Responsibility is too often forgotten in today's demands for rights. For example, some students now demand that University officials take no photographs (admittedly an invasion of privacy) of demonstrators. But the demonstrators tried to prevent student job interviews with certain companies. A few radicals are not only without responsibility--they are amply willing to deny others their rights.

2. Humanism and ecology. The struggle for human rights is based essentially on humanism, and we're in this boat together. Since 1970, we've all become ecologists too--at least in name. But the fact is that a majority of the new ecologists know rather little ecology.

Most forest owners now know that ecology has to do with the relationship of a living organism to its environment and especially to other living things. Ecology is based on concepts of competition and survival of the fittest. As such, it may be antithetical to humanism and human rights which are popularly conceived to be of utmost

importance. The truth is that humanism should be our goal within the framework of ecological limitations. Accordingly we can no longer logically argue for the right to have numerous children or the right to pollute or the right to a free ride in society. There seems to be much confusion between concepts of human rights and ecology.

3. Private forest ownership. At the annual meeting of the New York Section of the Society of American Foresters, Mr. Peter Borrelli of the Sierra Club made two points:

a. Major decisions in forestry are going to be made by the body politic, i.e., voters and their pressures on Congressmen. Now the question is--who will educate the body politic? I am afraid the biggest contributor will be the Sierra Club itself through its "battle books" and other persuasive publications. The "battle book" on forestry serves a useful purpose--it calls attention to forestry mistakes, especially those on National Forests. But it also implies that forestry is bad everywhere, that extreme national laws are necessary. In short it stirs over-reaction on the part of the body politic.

b. Multiple use is the cornerstone of forest policy. And multiple use to most "conservationists" means an emphasis on recreation and wilderness, with little regard for timber. The battle for concept and practice of multiple use is now centered on the National Forests. But tomorrow it will be on your lands.

Forest owners should not be complacent in these matters. Land ownership and rights are in jeopardy. The proposed Metcalf bill of 1971 provided for regulation of all forest land, timber marking by only licensed foresters (we would need twice as many foresters at public expense), severe restrictions on marking, and fines of \$10,000 and/or imprisonment for a single violation by a land owner. Not only that, but your neighbor would be paid for spying and squealing on you. Ironically we have fought Communism since 1945. At first it was the Cold War to prevent armed invasion. Later we feared that excess spending and taxes would bring it. The threat of the 1970's is that we may legislate it.

What can the forest owner do, over and above good forest practice and land stewardship? Here are two suggestions:

(1) Open part of your woods to neighbors--picnic area, hiking trail, etc. Perhaps you can create a forest ecology trail or conduct a yearly neighborhood ecology walk. If you know your stuff, this could be a real contribution.

(2) Keep your woodlot open for periodic harvest to reliable loggers and buyers. In this day of

HOW MUCH WILDERNESS CAN WE AFFORD?

Many recreationists, union leaders, professional foresters, home builders and forest products manufacturers are worried about what might happen if the Federal government should direct any massive expansion of the Wilderness System. Concerned individuals fear that the environmental benefits would be negative and the economic consequences, severe.

The Wilderness System, established by 1964 Act of Congress, now includes more than 10 million acres, nearly all of it taken from National Forests. And that could be just the beginning. Total Federal land under study or scheduled to be studied by the government for possible inclusion in the System exceeds 80 million acres, including 30 million acres of roadless areas in the National Forests, 4-1/2 million National Forest acres designated as "Primitive Areas" (already set aside and restricted as if Wilderness), 22-1/2 million acres of National Parks and 24 million acres of National Wildlife and Game Refuges.

What is Wilderness? By legal definition, it "is recognized as an area where the Earth and its community of life are untrammelled by Man where Man himself is a visitor who does not remain." That sounds fine. But it means no roads, no shelter, no dining or sanitation facilities--restrictions which place Wilderness off limits for just about about 99 percent of the American people.

Professional foresters complain that such rigid

FORESTS GET 15 MILLION TREES

More than 15,000 acres of forestland in New York State were planted with trees in 1970, American Forest Institute reports.

high taxes and land costs, desire for woodland privacy, and relative low returns from timber, it is easy to exclude timber harvest. But remember that 20 percent of the nation's raw material comes from renewable and biodegradable trees. Compare them with non-renewable metals, the pollution and slow decomposition associated with plastics, and other wood substitutes. You can take pride in growing wood products as an ecological contribution. Remember, trees and other green plants are the one continuous life-giving resource on this planet.

ground rules also restrict ability to combat wildfire, insect and disease epidemics. They point out that more than 10 billion board feet of timber are lost annually on National Forests to these natural disasters--mainly because of the inaccessibility of roadless areas. That's nearly as much as the National Forests' yearly harvest.

Potential problems for housing and jobs arise from the fact that National Forests have more than half the nation's total supply of softwood sawtimber--trees of the type and size required to make structural materials for homes--and currently provide about 30 percent of the timber for lumber and plywood manufacture. While housing, lumber and plywood demand has been peaking in recent months, timber sales from National Forests have declined. The forest-based industries--which took an active part in the development of the Wilderness Act eight years ago--now fear that further large land withdrawals from National Forests for Wilderness on top of declining timber sales--would cripple lumber and plywood output at the expense of housing and millions of people who hold jobs in construction and forest-based industries.

None of those who express concern are opposed to the concept of Wilderness, per se. But they also contend that most of the aesthetic objectives for which the Act was passed in 1964 have already been achieved through the present Wilderness System, Primitive Areas, and administrative withdrawals of areas of great scenic value in the National Forests.

In that year, the latest for which statistics are available, two state run tree nurseries shipped 15 million seedlings for planting within the state. Of the 15,440 acres replanted, 13,222 were privately owned.

ESTATE PLANNING FOR TREE FARM'S FUTURE

By John H. Holder, Jr.

"Texas Forestry", November 1971

The development of timberland is a most important work. As with stocks and bonds, it requires handling in a systematic matter. Too often, however, when the owner dies, the land goes into an estate without provision for the management he desires.

The prominence of timber assets in tree farmers' estates has prompted the development of definite policies and procedures to make management of these estates more profitable and efficient for the heirs. Since the will or trust instrument serves both to guide and limit the trustee's efforts, it is vital that the tree farmer make his wishes known and make provisions for having these wishes carried out. Too often, for lack of a prudent estate plan, the beneficiaries may not carry out the owner's wishes.

There are many considerations in the management of an estate which are prescribed by state, tax and banking regulations. However, many of the obstacles to good management can be avoided by proper planning. In preparing a trust instrument or will, the tree farmer and his counselors should be sure that consideration is given to the following questions, among others:

(1) Are sufficient funds provided in the trust to permit the trustee to continue the program begun by the owner for the best utilization of the timberlands? Insurance policies or other funds might meet this need.

(2) Has the trust instrument provided the trustees sufficient latitude to make contracts beyond the period of the trust, i.e., to borrow money pledging trust assets, to hold non-income producing property, to make allocations between the beneficiaries, if and when the property is sold, as the owner would have him do, and to employ such expert agents as may be necessary for the best management of the property?

Tree farmers concerned with the continuing management of their forests are encouraged to consider these points and to make sure that their trustees are given the guidelines and flexibility to carry out their wishes.

The tree farmer might even do well to place his timberlands under the management of his trustee at an early date to assure that, in the event of his death, the trustee has the capability and latitude to obtain the best results. Where the estate is to remain undivided, the owner should

consider the advantages of vesting management powers for his timberland in one trustee, rather than in a committee. Bank trust officers and attorneys can help you in providing for your beneficiaries and for the management of your tree farm for future generations.

FORESTRY LEGISLATION

By Henry S. Kernan

A proposal of most immediate interest to woodlot owners in New York is the "Forestry Incentives Act of 1972". On February 9, Senator Stennis introduced this measure as S. 3105 and Representative Sikes as HR 12873.

In the Sikes Bill, small woodlot owners have a measure designed for their needs. Section 2(a) points to the 309 million acres of forest in their ownership and recognizes the validity of cost-sharing to increase levels of multiple resources. While retaining the local committees, the Secretary of Agriculture may designate the forestry funds for each state and county as their needs and potentialities appear. He may also appoint forestry advisors to the committees. These provisions should help overcome the agricultural bias of the present ACP and REAP programs.

Other sections of the Sikes Bill are of interest to woodlot owners. Section 4(1)c authorizes allocation of funds on a bid basis as in agricultural activities such as drainage and crop dusting. Low costs per unit area should not be the principal factors in the allocation of cost-sharing funds. The object should be to attain the highest returns in timber and other multiple benefits. Section 5 authorizes an appropriation of not more than \$5 million in any one year to test loan and annual payment schemes.

Your representatives in Washington do want to know your feelings on these bills. Take pen in hand and let them hear from you.

N.Y.F.O.A. DECALS

Emiel Palmer, 5822 S. Salina Street, Syracuse, N.Y. 13205, has N.Y.F.O.A. decals. Send 25¢ plus stamped self-addressed envelope.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TENTH ANNUAL MEETING

Meeting was held at Marshall Hall, State University, College of Forestry on Saturday, April 29, 1972. A beautiful spring weekend for the trip to the meeting, which was arranged by Emiel and Carol Palmer. President van Loon welcomed those present and introduced Dr. Edward Palmer, President of the College of Forestry. He spoke briefly on the influence of forests on life of all society. They provide nourishment and work for many, refreshment and recreation, life for all kinds of animals, provide a valuable, renewable raw material as well as esthetics of landscape.

President van Loon analogized N.Y.F.O.A. to a tree. Our roots are firmly in the ground, crown spreading healthily we've lost a few twigs and branches, done some pruning but are sound and growing.

Mike Demeree reported on Rural Real Estate Assessment. He said that in some cases rural real estate taxes have increased from 300 to 3000 percent. The commission is preparing material for submission to the Governor for formation of a commission to study the problem. He urged those present to write to the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner, Ronald Peterson, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at Wolff Road, Albany, New York, and express their views. Jump out of the frying pan, into the fire. Get involved!

David Hanaburgh spoke on Scenic Easement bills, eminent domain, his activity with the Board of Natural Resource Organizations and assessments. He said the problem is that assessors are charged to assess land in the State at its highest and best use. This may not be the use to which it is currently employed.

John Stock spoke of current federal legislation that affect owners. He singled out the Sikes-Stennis Bills which are reported elsewhere in this publication.

First Vice President William Lubinec urged members to send meaningful, timely articles for publication in *Forest Owner*. Still under study is a method of making the paper self sustaining. He suggested what we really need is a Family Tree that will produce more lumber and less nuts. Touchee!

At the conclusion of the morning session of our Tenth Annual Meeting, we were joined by a Secretaries Association which was also meeting on campus to view a multimedia tour of the College of Forestry and its many campuses with nearly 2000 students. The program was well edited, photographed, and presented. Many plaudits and our grateful thank you.

JOHN STOCK HEIBURG AWARD WINNER

John Stock, Tupper Lake, N.Y. was awarded the Heiburg Award at the Tenth Annual Luncheon at Marshall Hall, New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse. John was born in East Aurora, N.Y., is married and the father of two. He obtained his B.S.F. at the College of Forestry, Syracuse, in 1937. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Idaho and Rochester, Vermont. In 1938, he worked on the New England Timber Salvage project. In 1944, he was working for the Emporium Forestry Company. 1954 saw John become an independent consulting forester. He joined Litchfield Park Corporation, a multiple use forest, in 1956. John is a past President of New York Forest Owners Association. For many years he has been active in the formulation and lobbying activities that affect forest landowners on state and national level. He is a member of many local (Tupper area) civic organizations. A member of the Society American Foresters; New York Society Professional Engineers; New York Association of Professional Surveyors; American Society of Photogrammetry, he is also a member of the Secretary of Agriculture's Committee on Forest Planning.

ARCHIE KOON NEW WOODS WALK CHAIRMAN * CONTACT HIM

Archie Koon will work with you on a Woods Walk of your place. Write him at RD 1, Auburn, N.Y. 13021. Phone: home - (315) 252-4488; bus. 253-3221.

ADIRONDACK PARK UNIT
LISTS WILDERNESS PLAN

According to the Times Union, Albany, May 8, the Adirondack Park Agency released a tentative plan Sunday for designating almost half of the 2.25 million acres of state-owned land in the Adirondacks as wilderness areas, where motor vehicles and any structure more elaborate than a lean-to would be banned.

The agency, created last year, is charged with preparing a master plan for the public land in the Adirondack Park for submission to the Governor by June 1.

A far more controversial task, still in its earlier stages, is the preparation of a master plan for the 3.5 million acres of private land within the six-million-acre park. The agency must submit that plan to both the Governor and the legislature by January 1.

The proposed state land plan outlines these three basic classifications of the public land in the park:

(1) Wilderness areas, 15 designated parcels of land totaling over a million acres. These are defined as being areas of at least 10,000 acres where "the imprint of man's work is substantially unnoticeable", and where "primitive recreation" and solitude are available. Any non-conforming structures, including all but one ranger cabin, are to be torn down, telephone lines are to be dismantled and jeep and snowmobile trails are to be blocked by 1975.

(2) Primitive areas, 14 designated areas totaling 82,390 acres. These generally would be part of wilderness areas but for the fact that a road or some other "non-conforming use" cannot be phased out by 1975.

(3) Wild forest areas, totaling over a million acres of land that is considered "less fragile, in ecological terms, than the areas". These areas would be opened to more intensive recreational uses, including snowmobiling.

The tentative plan also calls for an 18,000-acre canoe area around St. Regis Pond in the town of Santa Clara in Franklin County. Wilderness area restrictions would apply to this area, but there would be a special emphasis on developing facilities for canoeists.

ACCREDITING COMMITTEE
CORRESPONDENCE

March 13, 1972

Dear Mr. Hanaburgh,

On June 5, 1970, Francis W. Graves, logger, Schoharie, N.Y. and I, Ruth Eberley, entered into a "timber sales contract". Mr. Graves did not live up to the terms of the contract, and on June 8, 1971 he moved off the job--still owing me a considerable amount of money. Upon checking his credit, I find that it is "no good", and his equipment is mortgaged.

I would, therefore, like to forewarn all other forest landowners about my experience with Francis W. Graves. May I add that before signing any contract with him, I investigated credit references and received a favorable report!

Yours truly,
Mrs. Ruth Eberley
9 Edgewood Drive
Whitesboro, N.Y.

ECOLOGY BANDWAGON

Howard Johnson Co. has joined Hunt Foods and other national companies in offering ecology-oriented premiums to customers. This spring Howard Johnson will home deliver three tree seedlings for two ingredient panels from the company's frozen food products, plus one dollar. The seedlings are Scotch Pine, Norway Spruce and Fir and are three years old. The seedlings are packaged in a transparent poly bag to protect the roots. The trees are tagged with planting instructions and boxed in a sturdy corrugated mailing carton.

EARTH BONDS

An imaginative plan is that of "Earth Bonds". The Arlington Trust Company of Arlington, Va. has sold \$1.2 million of such bonds. They pay interest and help public and private agencies finance environmental improvement. The Federal government could well support such an imaginative and constructive outlet for concern.

TIMBER AGENT PROGRAM EXPANDED

Since 1946, New York forest owners have been able to draw on the assistance of professional foresters employed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in the management of their properties. While this kind of help under the Forest Practice Act has been most welcome it has not, for many owners, gone far enough.

Department foresters are available under law to give owners on-the-ground advice on various forestry matters. They mark and estimate timber volumes in connection with harvest and stand-improvement operations, they provide guidelines in the selection of markets and the preparation of sales contracts, and they also supply a list of the current, average stumpage prices. However, this is as much as the law allows. Advertising the timber sale, examining bids and supervising the cutting are outside the scope of the FPA foresters' permitted activity.

Absentee owners in particular have probably long wished for some service that would fill this void. True, consulting foresters have been available but not usually as a means of supplementing FPA assistance. Since April of 1970, five Appalachian counties of southeastern New York have had the services of a timber agent. Sponsored by the State Forest Practice Board, these services were originally planned to operate for 18 months. However, their success coupled with the availability of funds permitted an extension of one year.

As a result of this successful experience, the State Board has certified two timber agents in addition to the pioneer, Harold Nygren of Bainbridge. They are Curtis H. Bauer, Consulting Forester, Wellman Building, Jamestown; and Adirondack Forestry, Inc. (Donald Peterson, President), Wilmington. Bauer will operate in five western New York counties. Peterson will cover the New York area north of the Mohawk Valley, from Oswego County on the west to Rensselaer County on the east. No federal funds are involved in the operations of these new agents.

The timber agent is certified by the New York State Forest Practice Board to provide sales and marketing services to private woodland owners of the state. The services provided by a timber agent include: advertising and promoting the sale of the marked timber, conducting bid open-

ing and recommending acceptance or rejection of bids, preparing contracts and having the contracts executed, collecting sellers' money, and supervising the timber harvest. For sales over \$2,000, a fee of 10 percent is charged. For sales under \$2,000, terms are negotiated. If timber scaling is to be done, \$30.00 per day is charged to the purchaser of the stumpage. Should additional services such as boundary line maintenance, trespass investigation and court appearance be required, services will be provided at \$7.00 per hour or \$50.00 per day plus expenses.

It is the hope of the Forest Practice Board to have a timber agent system operating on a statewide basis. The present plan calls for four agents to cover the state--one for each geographical region: northern, southeastern, central, and western.

Local foresters will be glad to furnish further details of the timber agent services for those counties where they are available.

RESEARCH ON ASH DIEBACK

Researchers at the Kitchawan Research Laboratory of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden have made an important step in determining the cause of ash dieback -- a problem of considerable economic importance in the eastern United States. Until recently, no one disease agent had been identified as the causal agent involved in the dieback. Recommended control measures consist of removing diseased limbs and giving the tree extra water and fertilizer.

As the result of laboratory work, a strain of tobacco ringspot virus was identified from ash leaves that exhibited initial symptoms of ash dieback. In addition, a mycoplasma -- an amoeboid-like organism that congregates in the phloem of plants -- was isolated from witches' broom formations which are common on ash trees afflicted with dieback. Although much research still must be done, these discoveries are important steps toward the control of this serious tree problem.

Abstracted from "Research on Ash Dieback" by C. R. Hibben, *Plants and Gardens*, Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record, N.S. Vol. 26, No. 4, 1970-71.