

These minutes contain materials which paraphrase and/or summarize statements made during this session. Only text enclosed in quotation marks report a speaker's exact words. For complete contents of the proceedings, please refer to the tapes.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY & NATURAL RESOURCES

April 11, 1991 Hearing Room F 8:15 A.M. State Capitol
Tapes 63 - 65

MEMBERS PRESENT: REP. WALT SCHROEDER, Chair REP. LIZ VANLEEUWEN,
Vice-Chair REP. SAM DOMINY REP. BILL DWYER REP. TIM JOSI REP. JOHN MEEK
REP. CHUCK NORRIS

STAFF PRESENT: BETH PATRINO, Administrator EDWARD C. KLEIN,
Assistant

MEASURE CONSIDERED: HJM8 - PUBLIC HEARING

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TAPE 63, SIDE A

003 CHAIR SCHROEDER: Calls the meeting to order at 8:21 A.M.

PUBLIC HEARING ON HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 8 -- EXHIBITS A to I

Witnesses: Bill Bradley, Forestry Branch Chief, Bureau of Land Management
Christine Walsh, Legislative Liaison, USDA Forest Service Bob Leonard,
Timber Staff Officer, Willamette National Forest, USDA Forest Service
Rep. Ray Baum, District 58 Michael Wiedeman, Rancher, Wallowa County
Paul Morehead, Local 2851, La Grande; Locals 2910 and 2780, Elgin and
Local 279 8, Joseph Mike Mahon, Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc. Pat
Wortman, Commissioner, Wallowa County Darreld Murphy, Logger, ScottSB
urg Oregon Tom Hirons, Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc. and Communities
For A Greater Oregon, Gates Oregon James McCauley, Associated Oregon
Loggers, Inc. Greg Miller, Executive Vice President, Southern Oregon
Timber Industries Association Ann Hanus, Assistant State Forester,
Department of Forestry LeRoy Kline, Director, Insects and Disease,
Department of Forestry Tina Jennings, Coquille Oregon

009 CHAIR SCHROEDER: Opens the Public Hearing.

-He presents a preliminary statement.

-Many rural communities and counties are facing an economic crisis.

-Out of every five timber related jobs, one is in the Portland area and
over 50 percent of the economic impact is in that area.

-HJM8 is designed to temporarily ease the blow.

-It is estimated that over half the allowable cut from forestlands (3 billion board feet) is lost to insect and disease and blow-down.

-The most important statement of the memorial is to point out and emphasize the continuous importance of the basic natural resources to Oregon and its people.

054 BILL BRADLEY, Forestry Branch Chief, Bureau of Land Management: The BLM is aware of the importance of the federal forests to the long-term health and productivity of the state.

-The BLM appreciates the recognition in the memorial of the protection and conservation of all the forest values.

-The salvage of mortality timber continues to be a high priority on BLM managed lands.

-We are operating under land use management plans completed in the late 1970's and early 1980's.

-These plans provide for a number of things.

-As they relate to salvage: The protection of streams.

-Snags are left in buffer strips, and snags and down logs are left in streams.

-There are also wildlife consideration values existing in these plans.

-They have a snag retention policy of leaving up to two trees per acre in timber sales areas.

-There is a down log retention policy: Leaving logs 12 to 17 inches in diameter for wildlife purposes and for the long-term productivity of the forest.

-We are working on new management plans to be completed at the beginning of our fiscal year 1993.

-We will either meet or exceed the current standards in the present plans.

091 REP. VANLEEUEWEN: You leave all the down logs between 12 and--

BRADLEY: We leave about 5 per acre.

REP. VANLEEUEWEN: What were the diameters?

BRADLEY: Twelve to 17 inches.

-We also operate under a number of laws that affect salvage.

-The Federal Land Management Policy Act gives us a multiple use mandate and outlines our planning process.

-We also operate under the O & C Act, which provides for permanent forest production for the economic stability of local communities.

-It also provides for the management of the forest on a sustained yield basis and also provides for the protection of watersheds and the regulation of stream flows.

-The National Environmental Policies Act requires us to do an assessment of the total impacts on any federal actions.

-He describes some of the other acts they operate under.

-We give the highest priority to the salvage of dead and down material. This is tempered with cost effectiveness while looking at the wise stewardship of the federal forest.

-He discusses some past salvage efforts.

-He describes the Special Salvage Timber Sale Program, which is limited to purchasers who have less than 25 employees.

-He describes the fire extension policy.

-He refers to the answers to the six questions posed by CHAIR SCHROEDER (EXHIBIT A).

192 CHRISTINE WALSH, Legislative Liaison, USDA Forest Service: Presents testimony on the concepts embodied in HJM8 and answers to the questions posed by the Chair (EXHIBIT B).

246 REP. DWYER: The memorial deals specifically with disease, infestations, drought, etc.

-He has criticisms of the U.S. Forest Service policy on wind damage and the policy in regards to roads.

-He refers to some timber that was not sold as part of road construction. The sales were deferred so there were mounds of rotting douglas fir.

-If wind blown timber falls across a road a section is cut out for road access and the forester spray paints "no cut" on the remainder. It can't even be cut for firewood.

-What drives that policy?

285 BOB LEONARD, Timber Staff Officer, Willamette National Forest, Willamette National Forest, USDA Forest Service: Has seen the same things in the early 80's when it was more profitable to build the roads and deck the logs rather than ship them to the mills.

-U.S. Forest Service policy is that all logging associated with road construction is included as part of the given contract.

-In regards to the wind thrown material marked "no cut"; we don't know what trees are being protected from.

-There have been a number of occasions were we have let contracts to remove the timber after a road has been opened and the contracts have often defaulted.

-It is not our policy to leave that timber. We need to become aware of

those situations.

316 REP. DWYER: What about the policy in regards to the trees that did not fall across the road? Nothing is being done about them.

-What's the policy in regards to the default for timber that's cold decked?

-What's the policy in selling what has already been harvested rather than letting it rot?

342 LEONARD: Defaulted sales need to be re-offered in six months.

-Timber that has already been cut and subject to rapid deterioration would be subject to priority one removal-- the first timber that has to be removed. We would set a date by which it has to be removed

REP. DWYER: Does the person who bids the unit have to buy the cold decked logs?

-Can't these logs apply to the small business set aside?

LEONARD: The logs can be applied to the small salvage timber sale program as long as they are not a portion of an existing contract. When we re-offer a defaulted contract we need to hold as closely as possible to the original demands of that contract in order to be able to collect any damages from the defaulted purchaser.

376 REP. DWYER: Why do we have to push you to do things that are common sense?

LEONARD: The entire current timber sale program of the Sweet Home district is being made up of salvage volume from a major storm that occurred on January 7, 1990.

-Over a two-year period there can be losses to the white woods or the true firs and hemlocks that have blown down. Douglas fir does not deteriorate as rapidly.

CHAIR SCHROEDER: Part of the problem is that they have to do things they are told from Washington D.C.

424 REP. VANLEEUEWEN: Was told by the Eugene office of the BLM that all of the blown down timber that blew across the road in my district was going to be used for food and housing for mice which would be food for the spotted owl.

TAPE 64, SIDE A

018 REP. VANLEEUEWEN: No thought was given to saving money by cutting the timber into the right lengths.

-Is there a government policy that we have to have the damaged timber?

037 BRADLEY: We operate under the existing land use plans and laws.

-It is our policy to give the highest priority to salvage.

-He will ask some questions about the specific problem she referred to.

REP. VANLEEUEWEN: Some of that may have been sold.

BRADLEY: We substitute salvage material for green timber.

REP. VANLEEUEWEN: You and the BLM have only sold less than 2 percent of the timber from that region.

BRADLEY: That doesn't mean we're not working on the sales.

-Since the spotted owl has been listed as a threatened species we have to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service on almost every one of our timber sales.

-During this fiscal year we have sent 187 timber sales containing 735 million board feet to the Fish and Wildlife Service. We are hoping to get that timber on the market in June, July, August and September of this year.

066 REP. VANLEEUEWEN: Is that a demonstration that we are losing the population of spotted owls?

BRADLEY: That's the Fish and Wildlife Service's determination.

-It's the law and procedures we have to follow.

REP. VANLEEUEWEN: If you knew 50 percent of the employees in your department would be cut off by September of this year, would you do anything different about timber harvest?

LEONARD: We can't violate the law. We have to go through that process with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

REP. VANLEEUEWEN: You can't express your opinions and say there is timber that needs to be harvested and the spotted owl is not that endangered?

-The fact that every sale has to be turned over to Fish and Wildlife, the fact we know there are more owls than anyone thought there would be.

-The U.S. Forest Service says they will be charging to use picnic tables.

-Your jobs depend on a viable timber harvest.

113 REP. DWYER: Why does the policy change from ranger district to ranger district?

LEONARD: There is a rule that says if there is no competition for a product, there is a possibility of negotiating the contract.

-There is extreme competition for the product in the Willamette Valley and we have to advertise.

-We advertise to the small operations and allow them to compete for those sales, which are very restricted. That determination is made on the local level.

REP. DWYER: Is the market different in Cottage Grove than it is in Springfield?

LEONARD: Can't make the comparison.

153 REP. DOMINY: Is there any federal policy about yew wood being saved from burning?

-Is there a special salvage program for yew wood?

BRADLEY: We are making yew available in all our timber sale areas.

-Houser Chemical is a collector for Bristol Myers and we are providing them lists of timber sales and purchasers. Houser is negotiating with the purchasers for the yew.

REP. DOMINY: There is no prohibition on burning yew wood?

BRADLEY: We want to save every yew tree. It is our plan to get as much of it as possible.

181 CHAIR SCHROEDER: Do you have inventories of insect and disease damaged trees on the U.S. Forest Service land in Oregon?

LEONARD: Inventories are done on an annual basis.

-Where there is an increase in insect or disease an analysis is done that is specific to those areas.

-There are references in the testimony to the acreage of spraying for the tussock moth.

208 WALSH: Refers to page 3, paragraph 3 of her testimony (EXHIBIT B), which refers to spraying.

240 REP. RAY BAUM, District 58: Introduces several of his constituents.

-The forest in eastern Oregon is different. We are in our sixth or seventh year of drought. Forty to 50 percent of our forest is infected with insect or disease. A major portion of those trees are dead.

-If we don't salvage the trees we will have a tremendous timber cut loss. We also have had some reductions in the allowable cut of the green timber.

-The Blue Mountain Natural Resource Institute is trying to bring together the scientists, industry, environmentalists and public to manage the forest. If the forest is left unmanaged it burns or falls down.

-This is a crisis that has been ignored, because of the spotted owl situation.

-Once the trees are dead they can't be brought back unless they are cut down and replanted, but they're not letting us do that.

298 CHAIR SCHROEDER: Is that primarily the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest?

REP. BAUM: The Wallow-Whitman, the Umatilla and the Malheur.

302 MICHAEL WIEDEMAN, Rancher, Wallowa County: Refers to maps indicating the areas of infestation.

-About 70 percent of the forest in Wallowa County is infested.

-We are losing timber, grazing, visuals, water quality.

-HJM8 will send a message to our Congressional delegation and the bureaucrats in Washington D.C. that the citizens of Oregon have had enough.

-We will no longer tolerate resource management by emotionalism.

-Environmental decisions must be based on scientific data.

-Humans are an integral part of the environment.

-It's imperative the forest be returned to a healthy condition and timber salvage be a top priority.

-Oregon is built on families. The families are disappearing because the natural resources on which they depend are being taken away.

362 PAUL MOREHEAD, Local 2851, La Grande; Locals 2910 and 2780, Elgin and Local 2798, Joseph: Presents testimony in support of HJM8 (EXHIBIT C).

TAPE 63, SIDE B

015 CHAIR SCHROEDER: We have a bill to establish the Oregon Forest Resources Institute to educate Oregonians about the importance of forestry to our economy.

-It would help if you talked to the Senate about that.

026 MIKE MAHON, Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.: Presents testimony in support of HJM8 (EXHIBIT D).

047 PAT WORTMAN, Commissioner, Wallowa County: Presents testimony in support of HJM8 (EXHIBIT E).

-He also presents photographs illustrating the need for salvage (EXHIBIT F).

075 REP. NORRIS: Should we say something about reforestation, or would that automatically follow?

WORTMAN: We're very interested in it.

-If we're going to prepare the harvest for the next crop we have to do some management.

REP. NORRIS: Perhaps reforestation is covered in federal policies.

CHAIR SCHROEDER: It's covered in the Forest Practices Act and the U.S. Forest Service has a more strict forest practices act.

089 REP. VANLEEUEWEN: Has a bill in this committee and there's a bill in the Senate to require replanting in one year.

-What would that do to you?

WORTMAN: That would enhance the possibility of that seedling's survival.

-The longer you wait the more sod is formed, which increases the difficulty of starting seeds.

REP. VANLEEUEWEN: Is not sure we can mandate the Federal Government, but we can push.

REP. NORRIS: The BLM's testimony indicates it is their goal to reseed within 5 years, but that was not addressed in the U.S. Forest Service testimony.

120 WORTMAN: As REP. VANLEEUEWEN stated, we need to stop waste in a time of need and want.

139 DARRELD MURPHY, Logger, ScottSB urg Oregon: Presents testimony in support of HJM8 (EXHIBIT G).

186 REP. NORRIS: Compliments him on his presentation.

REP. VANLEEUEWEN: The photographs you brought illustrate a number of things.

MURPHY: They were taken from the road. There was one picture of a windfall that had "do not cut" written on it.

CHAIR SCHROEDER: Was this on federal land?

MURPHY: BLM land.

REP. NORRIS: Are you in REP. DEFAZIO's district?

MURPHY: Yes.

REP. NORRIS: Have you written to him?

MURPHY: Has talked to him.

REP. NORRIS: What about to SEN. PACKWOOD and SEN. HATFIELD?

MURPHY: Yes.

REP. VANLEEUEWEN: Keep talking.

228 TOM HIRONS, Gates, Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc. and Communities For A Greater Oregon: Presents testimony in support of HJM8 (EXHIBIT H).

339 JAMES MCCAULEY, Associated Oregon Loggers, Inc.: Presents testimony in support of HJM8 (EXHIBIT I).

TAPE 64, SIDE B

018 MCCAULEY: Continues with options, page 6 of his testimony.

045 CHAIR SCHROEDER: The purpose of HJM8 is to accelerate and recognize the importance of some of this work that's being done.

REP. NORRIS: Is the lodegpole pine a beneficial species?

MCCAULEY: Because we can't find any timber, any amount of wood fiber is valuable.

-There are many more chip products that originate from lodgepole pine.

REP. NORRIS: Should we encourage the propagation of lodgepole?

MCCAULEY: It's growing because of the climactic conditions. Those areas could stand to use some management that would include the ponderosa pine or some other species. The U.S. Forest Service is trying to integrate those species.

062 GREG MILLER, Executive Vice President, Southern Oregon Timber Industries Association: Presents testimony in support of HJM8 (EXHIBIT J).

-He presents a video that illustrates the need for salvage in the Rogue River National Forest.

195 MCCAULEY: Thanks the Department of Forestry for the statistical information.

-He is an advocate of retaining full funding for pest management.

209 ANN HANUS, Assistant State Forester, Department of Forestry: Presents testimony on the department's salvage operations (EXHIBIT K).

295 LEROY KLINE, Director, Insects and Disease, Department of Forestry: If the blow-down timber in western Oregon is not salvaged a douglas fir bark beetle problem will occur.

-We're not only trying to utilize and salvage down material, but we're also trying to prevent future problems.

309 REP. NORRIS: Is blow-down a problem in old forests or in new plantings?

KLINE: It's hard to say if logging operations have increased the likelihood of blow-down. It depends on how the wind hits the trees and stands.

-The young stands are affected just as well as old stands.

334 REP. VANLEEUEWEN: Has a question to ask the BLM and U.S. Forest Service.

-Are you going to report to your superiors on what you heard today?

361 WALSH: Will bring the Regional Forester, his staff and the regional supervisors up to date.

-It's up to the Regional Forester to inform the Chief Forester and his staff.

-She suspects we will let our staff in the Washington State office know what happened.

REP. VANLEEUEWEN: Will you make any recommendation other than telling them what you think you heard?

WALSH: It is not my place to make a recommendation. It's a policy consideration.

383 LEONARD: We appreciate the emphasis of HJM8.

-The information and concerns expressed today will be carried back to my supervisor.

-Anything like this has an effect on how we do business. He appreciates the insights.

REP. NORRIS: Does the State of Washington have a similar situation?

WALSH: Is not aware of a similar bill in the Washington Legislature.

-Some of the same conditions on the ground exist in eastern Washington, but the magnitude may not be so large.

REP. NORRIS: Is reforestation standard policy?

WALSH: We are required by law to reforest within five years.

-We are not expected to harvest in an area where that cannot happen.

-Our general practice is that reforestation is done in three years, except for special circumstances.

422 BRADLEY: The State Director is aware of the memorial and we discussed it.

-He will report back.

-We are planning to meet with the district managers next week and this will be mentioned then.

-We devote a lot of our efforts to operations in western Oregon.

-The BLM is having a workshop in Baker City in a couple of weeks and he is planning to attend and pass on the interests and concerns for salvage and forest health.

443 REP. VANLEEUEWEN: Hopes he heard the concerns on this side of mountain.

BRADLEY: We are just as concerned with the sales that are tied up.

-We would like to get those sales on the market as soon as possible.

REP. VANLEEUEWEN: Are you allowed to talk directly to the Secretary of the Interior?

BRADLEY: The State Director and the Director do.

REP. VANLEEUEWEN: Requests copies of anything you send in writing to your superiors be sent to the Committee Administrator.

WALSH: Will be happy to comply.

BRADLEY: We can do that.

REP. VANLEEUWEN: We have a problem and we need your help.

CHAIR SCHROEDER: Explains where the committee members come from.

TAPE 65, SIDE A

040 TINA JENNINGS, Coquille: Is a single parent and will lose her job as a result of the problems in the timber industry.

She supports anything that would get the timber industry going again and supports HJM8.

-She works at Kennedy Logging.

CHAIR SCHROEDER: Closes the Public Hearing.

WORK SESSION ON HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 8

CHAIR SCHROEDER: Opens the Work Session.

054 MOTION: REP. DOMINY: Moves House Joint Memorial 8 to the Floor of the House with a do pass recommendation.

VOTE: The motion carries unanimously.

CARRIER: REP. SCHROEDER.

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 12

061 CHAIR SCHROEDER: Asks for unanimous consent to open HJM12.

-We already passed it, we just need to give the members who weren't here permission to vote.

067 MOTION: REP. DWYER: Moves unanimous consent that those absent be allowed to cast their vote.

CHAIR SCHROEDER: Hearing no objection the motion passes.

VOTE: REP. DOMINY and REP. JOSI vote aye.

075 CHAIR SCHROEDER: Adjourns at 10:21 A.M.

Submitted by: Reviewed by:

Edward C. Klein, Beth Patrino, Committee Assistant
Administrator Committee

EXHIBIT LOG:

A - Testimony on HJM8 - Bill Bradley - 3 pages B - Testimony on HJM8 - Christine Walsh - 7 pages C - Testimony on HJM8 - Paul Morehead - 3 pages D-Testimony on HJM8 - Mike Mahon - 2 pages E-Testimony on HJM8 - Pat Wortman - 2 pages F-Photographs - Pat Wortman - 14 pages/81 photographs G-Testimony on HJM8 - Darreld Murphy - 3 pages H-Testimony on HJM8 - Tom Hirons - 3 pages I-Testimony on HJM8 - James

McCauley - 16 pages J-Testimony on HJM8 - Greg Miller - 4 pages
K-Testimony on HJM8 - Ann Hanus - 8 pages