

Inland Empire and Montana SAF

Revitalizing Membership Through Active Leadership

Erica T. Rhoad
Director of Forest Policy
Society of American Foresters

Why is SAF involved in policy?

- *SAF at all levels has the responsibility to provide scientific knowledge and professional opinion within its expertise to public and private sector policymakers and to the general public.*
- *Members and units of the Society are encouraged to participate responsibly in SAF forest policy activities*

What is SAF's Role in Policy???

- Provide scientific knowledge & professional opinion within our expertise
- Initiate, monitor, participate and respond to national/regional forestry issues
 - Congress-legislation, oversight & budget
 - Administration-rule making, initiatives
- Serve as liaison to environmental, forestry & other groups
- Committee on Forest Policy

SAF Policy Activities

- *Witnesses*
- *Testimony*
- *Briefings*
- *Meetings & Conference Calls*
- *Submitting Comments*
- *Task Forces & Reports*



Why should YOU get involved?

- Laws & regulations from the local to the federal level will be made with or without your input
- Forests & forest management are in the limelight
- If we don't inform policy makers and politicians, who will?



Why politicians listen to you



- *You're a constituent*
- *You're a knowledgeable professional and you have practical experience*
- *Your profession and job is critical to the environment*
- *Your profession and job is critical to the economy and local community*
- *SAF members are truly from "all walks of forestry"*



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"You just missed him. Try back in about one year to 18 months."

How do you get involved?

Stay active in SAF through:

- Local chapter activities
- Stay informed through SAF publications
- Volunteer with SAF
- ***Get to know your elected officials and contact them!***
- ***Answer Calls to Action!***



Example: Biomass Energy



Bingaman /Natural Resources Committee

Biomass Definition

- (K) If harvested from Federal land in accordance with applicable law and land management plans and in quantities and through practices **that maintain or contribute toward the restoration of ecological sustainability**—
- (i.) slash; and
 - (ii.) brush and trees that are byproducts of ecological restoration, disease or insect infestation control, or hazardous fuels reduction treatments and –
 - (I) Are from stand that—
 - (aa) were killed by an insect or disease **epidemic** or a natural disaster; and
 - (bb) **do not meet the utilization standards for sawtimber**; or
 - (II) Do not meet the **minimum size standards for sawtimber**.

Important Questions About Biomass

Logging for Electricity?

By THOMAS M. POWER

First, wood-fired generation tends to produce considerable air pollution because the wood has... Third, for a half-century or more to come, the impact of burning trees to generate electricity means increasing the release of carbon into the atmosphere. While it is true that if new forests grow up to replace the burned trees, carbon will slowly be removed from the atmosphere, in Montana's slow growing forests, that will take many, many decades.

Fourth... this could require a substantial increase in logging on public lands. Logging and the roads required to support it have significant impacts on water quality, soil erosion, and wildlife. **This fundamental fact has been recently obscured by the increasingly shrill claims that our forests are in desperate need a lot more logging to make them "healthy," to fight bark beetle infestations, and to reduce wildfire danger that threatens our homes and our towns.**

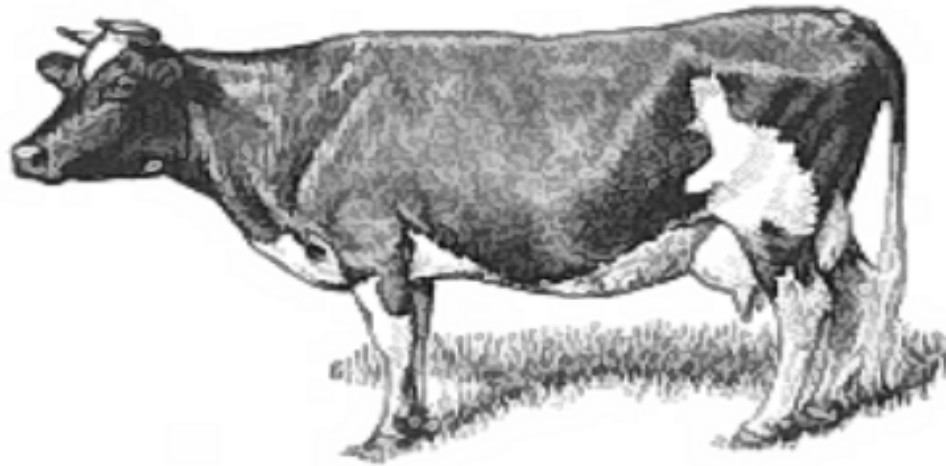
These scary stories of what will happen if we do not log our forests are largely based on "rural myth," supported by timber interests, and built around the fantasy of natural forests as a open, park-like areas, full of very large, towering trees. In comparison, our contemporary forests are degenerative dense thickets of relatively thin trees that, we are told, are the result of some combination of the failure to log and thin the forests or misguided fire suppression. For most of our forests, this simply is not true.

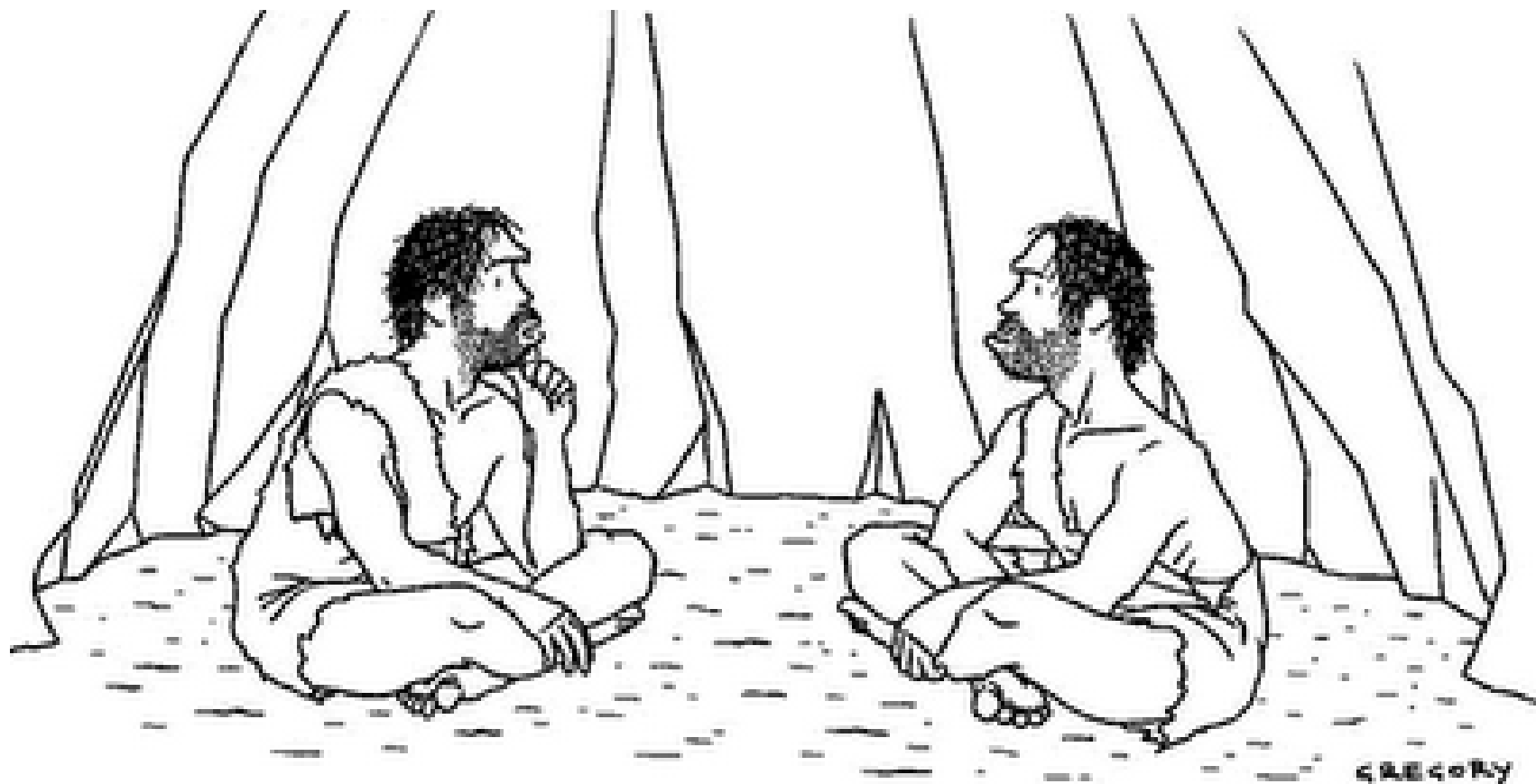
It is far cheaper to protect our homes and communities by managing the vegetation within a few dozen feet of our homes and by maintaining our homes so as to reduce the likelihood of fire ignition. That is much less costly and much more likely to work that trying to fire-proof millions of acres of forestland.

Dr. Thomas Michael Power is former Chair of the Economics Department at the University of Montana, where he currently serves as a Research Professor.

Congressional Update: Cap & Trade, Renewable Energy

I think it's the sheep





“Something’s just not right—our air is clean, our water is pure, we all get plenty of exercise, everything we eat is organic and free-range, and yet nobody lives past thirty.”

Other Congressional Efforts

- Healthy Forests Caucus
- HFRA II (Sec. 45, update HFRA, biomass energy for hospitals, FS facilities)
- State specific bills
- Bark Beetle bills



Questions?

Erica Rhoad
Society of American Foresters
Bethesda, MD
301-897-8720 ext. 115
rhoade@safnet.org
www.eforester.org

***“Democracy is the worst form of government
except all the others that have been tried”
-Sir Winston Churchill***