



Owens Foundation for Wildlife Conservation

February 16, 1998

Dear Everybody:

Cy the grizzly bear once lived in the Selkirk Mountains of Idaho. She, like thousands of other bears, elk, mule deer and other animals, were killed because too many people got too close to her too often. Poachers drove their trucks and R/V's along the hundreds of thousands of miles of logging roads in our National Forests right to Cy's home. Over the years, our US Forest Service, using your tax dollars, has built up to eleven miles of logging roads per square mile of National Forest – so that private timber companies can cut timber, often clear-cutting old growth forest, which cost you and other taxpayers more than ONE BILLION dollars between 1992 and 1994. In short, without knowing it, you have, through Congress, which sets timber quotas and appropriates money for timber roads, allowed your tax dollars to subsidize the cutting of our old growth forests and the killing of bears like Cy in our National Forests. These roads, and the timber cuts they have serviced, have also promoted soil erosion, mud slides and the sedimentation of streams. Together with dams, this has virtually eliminated the Pacific Northwest salmon, bull trout, other fish, and the otters and birds of prey who feed on fish. Together with the actual cutting of the trees, road construction is the most devastating aspect of logging our National Forests.

Please help us stop this. Recently, Mike Dombeck, Chief of the US Forest Service, has suspended all new road construction in our National Forest roadless areas. His is inviting comments on this 18 month freeze, and also on a secondary proposal that would prohibit – forever -- the construction of roads in roadless wilderness areas of our National Forests. One of the most important actions you can ever take to promote conservation is to write, call, fax or e-mail the Forest Service, the White House and your congressional representatives to support these initiatives. We know you are swamped with pleas for help, and Delia and I try not to bother you with too many requests. But this is an especially important issue, and you really can make a difference. Please, take the time now to register your opinion. All it takes is a single line on a post card, and if each of our 8,000 members writes, we can help reverse the wholesale destruction of our National Forests. You have until February 27th to register your opinion on the 18 month freeze; and until

March 27th to support the permanent end to road construction in wilderness areas.

Please help us so that there will be a place for bears, wolves and others with whom we share, or ought to share, our Earth.

In your message to the White House, and to your Congressional representatives, please also demand that the wolves be allowed to remain in Yellowstone. A recent court decision in favor of the Farm

Bureau could overturn restoration efforts and cause the removal of the wolves -- or even their destruction. If this court decision stands, it will undermine endangered species restoration programs nationwide.

Thank you from the wilderness.

Mark and Delia

Note: For your convenience, a response card to the Ecosystem Management Staff has been included. Please sign and add your address, plus postage and mail immediately.

In addition, if you can write, fax , call or email the following government officials it would be a very effective effort.

1. President Clinton
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
(White House Comment Line: 202-456-1111)

2. Your Congressmen
3. Your Senators

4. Mr. Dombeck
Ecosystem Management coordination Staff
US Forest Service, USDA
Mailstop 1104 Box 96090
Washington D. C. 20090-6090
e-mail: <roads/woAfs.fed.us>

5. Mr. Skip Cogle, Acting Director
US Forest Service, USDA
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, D.C. 20090-6090

It would be a great help if you could help defray the cost of this mailing with a small donation. As always, your help is so greatly appreciated.

Note: For a variety of mail related reasons, approximately 300 of our members did not receive their December 97' "Dear Everybody" newsletter. A re-mailing of these missing letters is planned for this week. Our apologies for the delay.