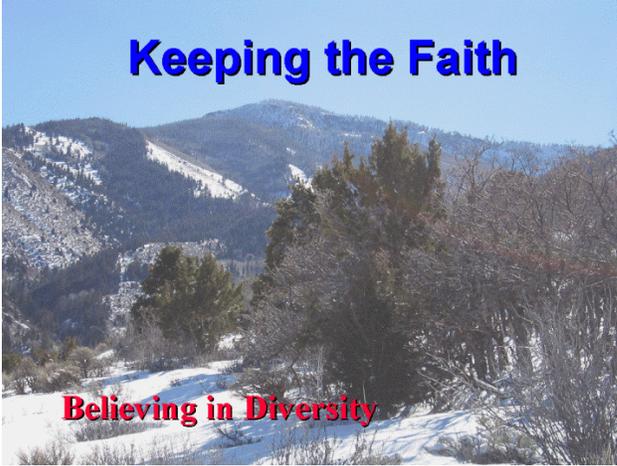


Appendix D3 – Retain 1982 Rule – Ray Vaughn

Keeping the Faith



Believing in Diversity

What is most important to you?



What do your forests mean to you?



Keep One Thing in Mind

- Who gets rich off work in the National Forests?



Who gets rich?

- Loggers?
- Forest Service Staff?
- Environmental Activists?



Who gets rich?

- People who don't even go into the forests:
- A few corporate executives.
- A few lobbyists.
- A few politicians.
- The people who care for the forests, the people who go there and know the forests, do it for reasons other than money.

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Should those who care for the forests let those who don't care about them decide their fate?



Then let's stop letting people who are only after money divide us.



Those who care about the forests need to work together.

There is a way to protect forests, restore past damage and get people back to work in the woods.



And it can be done without any change to current laws and regulations.

We need to remember a few things:

- Why do I go into the woods?
- How do I want to be remembered?
- What is the meaning of my life and my work?
- What about the forests means the most to me?
- Can I get what I want without taking away from what others want?

There is a proven way to get beyond the current gridlock.



Basic Rules to Insure Diversity

- Regulatory requirements must be scientifically valid.
- Requirements must be legally enforceable.
- Requirements must fit into the multiple-use goals, not be biased toward any one goal.
- Requirements must be “doable” for the agency and verifiable for all.

Appendix D3 – Retain 1982 Rule – Ray Vaughn

What Proposals Meet these Rules

- Diversity Option #1 of the 2002 Regulations?
- No.
- Diversity Option #2 of the 2002 regs?
- No.
- The 1982 Regulations' Viability requirement?
- Yes!

The 1982 Regs Can Work

- WildLaw's proposed option to maintain diversity under NFMA is simple:
- Keep the 1982 regulations and their viability requirements until some **clearly improved** regulations are developed.
- When implemented in good faith, projects done under the 1982 regulations work.

Alabama was once the prime example of bad management

- In 1992, the National Forests in Alabama were the WORST of the forests in the whole Forest Service system.
- They violated every federal law as often as they could in order to "get the cut out."
- A series of lawsuits, appeals and other legal actions shut down all logging in the National Forests in Alabama in 1999.

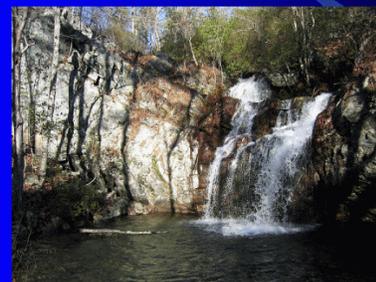
Alabama now exemplifies the best of GOOD management

- Since 1999, the leadership of the Forests and much of the staff have been changed.
- Now, the National Forests in Alabama are proposing and implementing scientifically-valid restoration programs.
- All the areas that cause problems (roadless areas, old growth, natural forests) are avoided.

Doing it Right

- The agency claims that site-specific surveying for MIS and PETS species is too difficult.
- **But they do it in Alabama!**
- They say you can't thin forests without selling big, old trees as well.
- **But they do it in Alabama!**
- They say you can't get beyond the "process predicament" under the current rules.
- **But they do it in Alabama!**

If it can be done right in Alabama, it can be done right anywhere.



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How do they do it in Bama?

- The first to do this new type of work under the 1982 regulations was the Conecuh National Forest.
- The Conecuh prepared a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on what restoration is needed for that forest's unique Longleaf Pine/Wiregrass ecosystem.
- That EIS focused on what could be done in five years to correct past mismanagement and restore the natural and healthy forest native there.

How do they do it in Bama?

- The Ranger and his staff are open and honest with everyone. They seek out ideas from everyone who cares for the forest.
- The work focuses on what the land needs instead of what special interests (including environmentalists) want.
- The agency staff decided that their work should be rewarding instead of frustrating.

Restoration is the Key

- The work focuses on what the land needs to restore natural forest ecosystems.
- In the Conecuh, this means clearcutting Slash Pine plantations (retaining all Longleaf), replanting Longleaf Pine and reintroducing fire.
- Timber production is not a factor in deciding what to do but is usually an inevitable byproduct.



What are the advantages?

- No need to do any further NEPA analysis or ESA consultation for five years.
- Decision is made locally, by the District Ranger or Supervisor.
- Decision fits locally, as it is tailored to that specific forest's restoration needs.
- Decision has local buy-in, because all the local stakeholders have the opportunity to be involved in crafting the plan for that forest.

What are the advantages?

- Decision works locally, because a five-year restoration program gives loggers and other restoration practitioners long-term assurance that the work is there and constant.
- Decision works nationally, because all federal laws and regulations are complied with fully.
- Decision works scientifically, as it is based on what the land needs and what can reasonably be done to correct problems.

What are the advantages?

- Decision sets up long-term stability. No forest in the nation will have all its restoration needs completed in five years.
- Once a forest starts down this road, the work will be there for decades to come.
- Every five years, a new five-year restoration program tiered to the past program(s) will continue the work to make the forest as natural and healthy as possible.
- That will ensure decades of work in the woods for loggers and restoration practitioners.

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Those who care for the forests
must remember our faith.

We must recall that
we can solve
problems and do
things right as long
as we do what we
know is right instead
of what is expedient
for special interests.

