

"A Look Ahead"

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INTRODUCTION:

Glad be home again

Today we have honored those who came this way before we did. We have paid our respects to their vision, their foresight. If these people had not had vision, if they had not

worked hard to make that vision come true, we ~~probably~~ would

not have ~~the~~ ^{today's} fine system of public forests here in the East.

that we do have today. ~~And we may not have had the fine~~

And we may not have had the fine system of Federal State coops. in forestry that we have today, etc.

So I say again, on behalf of all of us, that we are grateful to these folks who did look into the future, who did work to make their dreams become a practical reality.

By the same token, we of today must not fail those who do no less. we must
preceded us. We must have no less vision, no less determi-

nation to maintain and improve on what has been given us. ~~Let~~

we, too, have a responsibility
~~us here and now resolve to pass on undimmed this rich heritage~~

to our children and their children.

*have it even mentioned
but who so lead have
been required
that's*

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Today we have honored the past. Tonight, let us look again to the future. For the next few minutes let's examine together the plans for conserving and improving our National Forest heritage. This is our obligation, yours and mine, to look forward, not backward. This is what I'm sure our far-sighted predecessors would want us to do.

I propose to tell you ^{a little} of the plans we have for making these National Forest lands more completely serve you ^{-- you} who in a very real sense own them. ~~Moreover~~, I shall not talk only about the East but about all the National Forests, East and West, North and South.

~~This is the Program that the Department of Agriculture sent to Congress two years ago last March.~~ Let me make it plain that I am not talking about the Nation's privately owned forest lands. These are important, and the Federal Government has responsibilities there. ^{Tougher} Today I am talking only about the National Forests, the federally owned lands for which we in the Executive Branch have specific responsibilities of stewardship.

LIGHTS OFF - USE SLIDE OF MAP

Here is where the National Forests are. There are 15⁵ Forests and 18 National Grasslands. They total 186 million acres. Most of them were created from the public domain but about 20¹⁹ million acres, mostly in the East, were purchased.

Despite substantial progress, management of the National Forests is running behind public pressures for use of these resources. There must be still more intensive development if the people of this country are to have full benefit of the National-Forest system.

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We have developed a program to do this. We are calling this program "Operation Multiple Use" because it is aimed at full use of all the multiple resources of these public lands. ^{This} It is no "quickie" affair. We spent several years developing it. This program includes all the renewable resources of the National-Forest system -- water, timber, forage, recreation, and wildlife habitat -- with full appreciation for their close interrelationship. To show you what I mean, let me give just a little background.

LIGHTS OFF - FILM ON

The National-Forest system had its beginning in the late 1800's. For more than half a century the National Forests have benefited the Nation in many ways, providing us with numerous products and services -- with much more than just wood alone.

Water, for example, is the lifeblood of the land. What we do -- or don't do -- on the land where most of the water falls and where it first starts to run downhill can have tremendous impact on the lives of millions of people. In many places water is the most valuable crop produced on the National Forests.

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Flowing down from its mountain birthplace, water becomes a source of electric power to turn the wheels of industry, to light homes and to lighten work. Water is the indispensable component of most manufacturing processes. It is a basic necessity of life for our farms and cities.

To keep the National-Forest water crop flowing clear and in steady supply is one of the most essential objectives of multiple-use resource management. In many ways water is the coordinator, tying together the management of the other resources.

Trees are a major factor in the protection -- and management -- of watersheds. ~~There is no question about the part~~ trees also have ^{a large part} in the wildlife picture and in recreation.

When the National-Forest tree crop is mature it is harvested in such a way that trees will be left growing to protect the soil, to yield products needed for the Nation's economy, and to provide jobs and payrolls for millions of our citizens.

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slow
Our objective is to keep the amount of timber that is cut in balance with the amount of timber growing -- and to keep it balanced at a high level. Through such ~~balancing~~ ^{continuous, high-level} management for sustained yield ~~the~~ the forest is left in good condition after harvesting to supply future crops of wood, to increase water yields, to improve wildlife habitat, and, in many places, to open up new avenues of outdoor recreation.

At the same time, mills are kept operating and people at work, a prime result of good forest management.

Roast beef here on your table in Asheville may seem a far cry from the western range. And yet it's possible that the top-quality beef that you had at this dinner tonight might have summered on the hoof on one of the western National Forests. In many places domestic livestock graze on the same lands used to produce crops of water, wood and wildlife.

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 The 81½ million recreational visits to the National Forests ^{last} ~~this past~~ year were just a forerunner of things to come. Paren-
~~thetically, this already has jumped to 93 million and~~ ^{it} will exceed
 100 million this year. And we are not alone in our planning for
 the future. Cooperation with local governments and communities
 is building all the time. Last year these local groups contri-
 buted -- in money and services -- 1½ million dollars to strengthen
 National-Forest recreational use development.

Many kinds of wildlife grow on the National Forests. One
 of the biggest thrills any National-Forest visitor can have is
 to see wild animals and birds in their natural habitat. Deer,
 elk, bear, moose, many small animals and wild birds, the fish
 in streams and lakes -- all of these provide enjoyment for
 millions of National-Forest visitors.

Wildlife, water, timber, forage and recreation -- multiple
 resources, all to be utilized at a high, sustained level of
 productivity, and each in harmony with the others. This is
 the basic policy. The potential of the National Forests for
 greater and greater usefulness is a reality we are trying to
 face up to ... to match up with another reality ... the growing
 needs of a growing population. In 1957 our population roughly
 was in the neighborhood of 172 million people.

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Three years later, the big meter in the lobby of the Department of Commerce building ^{in Washington} had this figure to report -- a net gain in three years of more than 8 million people.

LIGHTS ON

About 35 years ago ^{This country had} ~~there was~~ a net gain of 1 person every 20 seconds. Today it is a net gain of 1 person every 10½ seconds. In another 20 years, at the present rate of population growth, it will be 1 every 6 seconds.

*Means more + more people needing more of everything
set these from lands - shrinking land base - competition for land*

We are already feeling the pressure of increasing demands

on the resources of the National Forests. This pressure will not decrease: it will increase. ^{We want NFs do their share meeting needs people} This is where Operation Multiple Use fits into the picture. It is an all-inclusive, comprehensive program designed to respond to the Nation's population growth and economic development ... to utilize our water, timber, and other renewable resources more effectively.

LIGHTS OUT - FIRST SLIDE ON

The long-range objectives of Operation Multiple Use are geared specifically to what must be achieved in resource management by the year 2000, when population is expected to be 330 million people and the gross national product 1800 billion dollars.

Nationwide, the need for water by the year 2000 is expected to be 2½ times what it is today; the need for timber will be double; for livestock, somewhat more than double; for wildlife also about double; and for other outdoor recreation, four times the present level. The National Forests can help to bridge the gap between our people and their needs. ^{As said} We are trying to see to it that they do furnish their proportionate share of the Nation's total resource requirements.

In this program we deal with all of the major renewable surface resources of the National Forests. We shouldn't develop one resource and lag behind in another. Effective multiple use planning and application require that development and utilization go forward at an orderly and coordinated pace among all surface resources -- a balanced program of development. [Development of the subsurface resources -- the minerals -- is another extremely important use of the National Forests.]

Operation Multiple Use is both a long-term and a short-term program. These action proposals that make up the short-term program must be done in the next 10 to 15 years in order to achieve the longer range objectives. It is this short-term program that I want to talk about particularly. There are six groups of activities. Let's consider the resource development jobs first. I'll start with water.

These
~~Plotted on the map~~ are the major water-yield areas of the West. This is where almost all the water used in the West comes from.

Here, plotted on the same scale, are the locations of the National Forests; they correspond closely with the areas of heaviest water yields. More than one-half of all the water of the West comes from National-Forest lands. Because so many people depend on National-Forest watersheds, specific things must be done to protect the quality of water and to increase the quantity.

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I want to distinguish between watershed protection and watershed management. Watershed protection is necessary to safeguard the quality of water. But protection alone is not enough to meet the Nation's need for ~~much~~ ^{-- much more water --} more water in the years immediately ahead of us. To increase the amount of water, watershed management is necessary. Management to increase water yield is done mainly by manipulation of the vegetative cover. In snow areas, for example, as ~~illustrated~~ in this picture of patchcutting of timber near Fraser, Colorado, it may mean changing the forest cover by logging in such a way that more snow is caught and held on the ground -- not evaporated back into the air from the tree tops. This not only prolongs the snow melt until water is needed but substantially increases streamflow.

Now a word about timber. Based on predicted overall requirements of the Nation, the long-range timber goal for the National Forest system is an annual harvest of 21 billion board feet of sawtimber by the year 2000. Our timber activity has expanded so greatly that we may reach or exceed the original short-term goal of 11 billion board feet ahead of schedule. This 11 billion board feet, however, is pretty close to our present limit. To achieve the much larger goal for the year 2000, we have a tremendous job of tree planting, timber-stand improvement and other work to do.

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Another National Forest resource is forage. For the 68 million acres of rangeland in the National-Forest system, intensified management, better range practices, and more balanced use are called for.

Still another National Forest resource is recreation. Visits to the National Forests for recreation have multiplied four times since World War II. We expect them to nearly double in the next decade. They will be seven times more than present levels by the end of the century. Our long-range recreation objective is to prepare to accommodate this tremendous number of people adequately but modestly and with due safeguards for their health.

We are having a good deal of overcrowding today in many picnic and camping areas where people are turned away or must line up and wait for hours to be assigned a camping site. Sometimes these people who can't get into campgrounds build fires in unsafe places. We have spent millions of dollars controlling fires that get away from these campers.

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To keep up with the phenomenal increase in hunters and fishermen, the food and cover on one and a half million acres of key wildlife areas are slated for improvement, as well as 7,000 miles of fishing streams and 56,000 acres of lakes.

The 14½ million acres already officially set aside as wilderness are being protected and managed to remain in their natural state. We are examining new areas for recreational use.

Hand in hand with resource development and management must go protection against disease, insects, fire, and other destructive agents. These take a tremendous toll every year. We need a 50 percent increase over present levels of protection against insects and disease. We need to double our present protection against fire.

Adequate access to National-Forest lands continues to be a problem. It is a real obstacle to intensive management, utilization, and protection. During the short-term program we plan to build 8,000 miles of trails and 90,000 miles of National-Forest development roads - equivalent to 30 roads between New York and San Francisco.

Intermixed public and private lands in many National Forests make effective management difficult -- for the Forest Service and for the private landowners. Because it's just plain good business to block up both public and private holdings, we propose to exchange 1.4 million acres of scattered or checkerboard National-Forest land for other areas. ^{208,000} ~~100,000~~ miles of property lines must be surveyed and posted and corner markers established. ^{= 200 times around Rome} The determination of surface rights of mineral claimants must be completed for 120 million acres.

more than 4 times size NC

In this stepped-up program of protection, management, and development, administrative structures and equipment are absolutely necessary. During the short-term period, we plan to build 2,700 service buildings and about as many dwellings. ^{= 3x size Canton} We need 25 new aircraft landing fields. Thirty-seven existing fields must be rebuilt. We should build over 500 fire-lookout towers and modernize radio communications.

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We have a similar ^{long-range} program for 15
forestry research already under way.

Research, ~~the hand maiden of progress,~~ has an extremely important role to play in Operation Multiple Use. It must show the way to new methods in the management of timber, soil and water, forage, wildlife habitat, and recreation resources. ~~We have a similar program for forestry.~~ We will need additional laboratories, greenhouses, scientific equipment, and other facilities. ~~Outlined in the short-term~~ ^{There are} program are some 14 specific fields of research covering each of the basic National-Forest resources.

Included is accelerated research in forest genetics to produce trees superior to present ones -- in growth rate, wood quality, resistance to insects and diseases, and other special qualities.

Another research "must" is the development of new and improved practices in watershed management, vitally important to the management of the timber and range resources. This will include studies of water yields, the management of snow packs at high elevations, and soil stabilization.

Through research we will gain a better understanding of fire behavior and new techniques needed to eliminate the runaway fires now responsible for 90 percent of fire losses.

LIGHTS ON

Other research studies will help to get better protection against insects and diseases, to improve the growth and harvesting of National-Forest timber, and to aid in development of recreational and wildlife resources.

Altogether there are some 65 major actions and numerous subitems involved in the six groups of activities which make up the short-term ^{NF development} program. In this time I have been able to give you only a rapid run-through of ^{just a few} some of the key work proposals in the overall National-Forest job that must be done in the next 10 to 15 years. ^{I've just skipped around. Hope have shown enough to indicate that} It's a big job.

Most of you will agree that such a program is desirable but may be asking yourselves, "Will it pay out?" My answer is a flat "Yes." To do what this program calls for will take ~~some~~ hard work and it ~~will cost~~ ^{take} money -- substantially more ^{money} than we now get. But -- you don't get something for nothing. You can't have the benefits of this program without paying for them. I won't bore you with the details of our cost figures. To fully implement the Program will cost about ⁵⁰40 million dollars a year more than we are getting now. It can't be bought for ^{Most these expenditures are time - capital investment -} less. [↑] But the benefits will be large, substantially larger than the costs, ^{unlike most of the cost} and they'll be continuous.

Some of these returns for your money can be measured in dollars; some can't. For example, there will be more and better water. But how can you place a realistic dollar value on water? *Raise part the cost by further expansion hoses on water.* Water is worth whatever you have to pay to get it.

There will be more and better recreational opportunities. But how do you express the true worth of recreation provided by National Forests for millions of people?

Some benefits of course can be measured in dollars. There will be a big increase in receipts from sale of products and services -- up from 148 million dollars last year to four times as much -- to 600 million dollars -- by the year 2000.

This is a very satisfying prospect -- a financial return far greater than the cost. But let me emphasize this point: The National Forests were not established to make money. Benefits that we can't measure in dollars get full consideration in our multiple-use management.

Operation Multiple Use is not something for the indefinite future. Operation Multiple Use is a going project right now. We are well along on it. But we still have a considerable way to go. Not only a long way but a difficult way, and we want your interest and support. After all, these National Forests are not Forest Service property; they belong to you -- and to all Americans. You need to be concerned with how well we manage them for you.

"Operation Multiple Use" will benefit every citizen. Whether it is wood, or water, recreation, wildlife, or forage, the maintenance of jobs or creation of new jobs and new payrolls, the impact of this Program is going to be felt, directly or indirectly, in every American home.

It has been two years since the Department ^{formulated} ~~sent~~ this Program ~~to Congress~~.

There is strong public support for it -- in and out of Congress.

When the Secretary sent this Program to the Hill, he told Congress that appropriation requests would be made after due consideration of overall fiscal needs and financial resources of Federal Government appropriations. [Now almost on schedule.]

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I'm glad to report that the new Administration also supports this Program. In his message on Agriculture, President Kennedy specifically directed the Secretary of Agriculture to bring the Program for the National Forests up to date and carry it

This has been done. Only last Friday Secretary Freeman, in turn, has instructed me to do this
Pres. Kennedy sent Program to Congress. First time and report back to him as soon as possible.
by President of U.S. Significant area to NC

I can think of no better way to end than by recalling for you what President Kennedy said in his recent message to Congress on natural resources:

"From the beginning of civilization, every Nation's basic wealth and progress has stemmed in large measure from its natural resources. This Nation has been, and is now, especially fortunate in the blessings we have inherited. Our entire society rests upon -- and is dependent upon -- our water, our land, our forests, and our minerals. How we use these resources influences our health, security, economy, and well being.

"But if we fail to chart the proper course of conservation and development -- if we fail to use these blessings prudently -- we will be in trouble within a short time."

Anything else I might add to that would be an anti-climax.