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LOCAL AND NATIONAL INTERESTS IN USING PUBLIC FORESTS

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I. Incredibly Dumb Conference Title

A. Of the three possible answers, none are specific entities.
   2. "The West" is too amorphous to define. Is it:
      a. Los Angeles:
         i. in the West; and
         ii. with a hell of a lot more congressional representation, than...
      b. The rural West, which we have historically thought of as "the West".
   3. "The Community" is the most vague of all.
      a. Is it:
         i. at least 3rd generationers (excluding Native Americans, as usual);
         ii. someone who just moved in but dresses the part; or
         iii. even someone who just moved in who doesn't dress the part; or
         iv. whoever is there now (assumes only one "community")?

B. For discussion here we presume the "public lands" is modified by "federal".

II. The answer is "Washington"

A. If you define "Washington" to be the government of the United States.

B. You can reach this answer deductively:
   1. in that the other two entities are not definable.

C. You can reach this answer inductively:
   1. The government of the United States is the federal government.
   2. The question pertains to federal lands.

D. There is no legal authority to "govern the (federal) public lands" except:
   1. The Congress shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States (Art. IV, Sec. 3, Constitution of the United States)
   2. Congressional directives to consult/confer with others are gratuitous.
      a. Where such directives exist they apply to:
         i. Indian nations;
         ii. states; or
         iii. local governments.
      b. No references to "The West" or "The Community".

III. The real title of conference is "Who Should Govern the Public Lands..." *(emphasis added)*

A. Local interests can exist, but have no rights and are junior to any national interest.
   1. "National" Forests name given to most forested *(Federal) Public Lands"
   2. Attempts at "Custom and Culture" Laws are a joke.
      a. The US Constitution is superior to:
      b. State Constitutions & state law; and
      d. County governments.
         i. have no sovereignty.
         ii. are mere political subdivisions for the convenience of the state.
      e. The same arguments for preserving "custom and culture" were used by:
         i. Slave-Owners in the American South;
         ii. Apartheid enthusiasts in South Africa;
         iii. Royalists in the American Revolutionary War; and
         iv. Those who opposed a women's right to vote, own property, etc.

B. "Local control" has often been a euphemism for abuse.
   1. Segregation in the American South.
   3. The right of women to vote in the United States.

IV. This "whole lot of bitchin' goin' on" is due to:

A. The public and/or the government questioning:
   1. the exalted position of elite special interests at the public trough;
   2. the wisdom of 19th Century subsidies in the (going on) 21st Century.

B. These elite special interests ("ESIs"), include, but are limited to:
   1. welfare ranchers grazing the public lands;
   2. subsidized public timber cutters;
3. farmers;
   a. no longer modify "farmers" in any way, as subsides are so pervasive.
4. life-sucking hydropower interests;
5. inefficient barge companies on our inland waterways;
6. ad nauseam.
C. "ESIs" are upset for the same reasons as:
1. a thief who get caught stealing after having done it in his family for generations;
2. a motorist gets mad for getting a speeding ticket. It is still illegal, even though:
   a. others are doing it; and/or
   b. the motorist and his family have done it that way for four generations.
3. an invited house guest, whom you try to get to leave after they have:
   a. overstayed their welcome;
   b. drank all your liquor;
   c. sold your furniture (giving you nothing but $2.50/chair; $5/couch)
   d. ate all your food;
   e. crapped in your living room; and
   f. raped your sons and daughters.
V. In spite of the total illegitimacy of their claims;
A. Compassion is called for.
   1. We all fear change.
   2. We are all people (except corporations, in spite of what the Supreme Court says).
B. Compensation for ESI inconvenience due to implementation changed federal policies:
   1. Socially fair.
      a. these people built their lives on a set of assumptions, now invalidated.
      b. the "disaster" is a real as:
         i. an earthquake;
         ii. a hurricane; or
         iii. a flood.
   2. Environmentally necessary.
      a. these lands need relief now, can't wait for land abusers to die out due to:
         i. changing economics.
         ii. changing lifestyles.
   3. Economically efficient.
      a. Hell, it is just money.
      b. Public land grazing permits can be bought:
         i. at fair market value;
         ii. for less 4-10 years of ongoing government subsidies.
      c. We can subsidize wheat hauling on the Columbia River by rail instead
         i. for half the cost of money and save fish.
4. Case Model: Clinton's Westside Forest Plan (Option 9)
   a. 10,000 jobs attributed the plan.
   b. Clinton (us taxpayers, really) spending $1.2 billion.
   c. $120,000/dislocated worker.
   d. Being spent on porkbarrel and suck up by the government bureaucracy.
   e. Can't craft a plan that meets the needs of all individuals and communities.
   f. Better to split three ways:
      i. $40,000 per dislocated worker for watershed restoration.
      ii. $40,000 for each worker to the county for economic transition.
      iii. $40,000 tax free (like other disasters) to the dislocated worker
   g. Worker can:
      i. coast into retirement;
      ii. pay off the house;
      iii. retrain;
      iv. start a business;
      v. finish high school and/or go college;
      vi. move; or
      vii. party one's way through denial.
VI. Environmentalists may be hell to live with, but they make great ancestors.