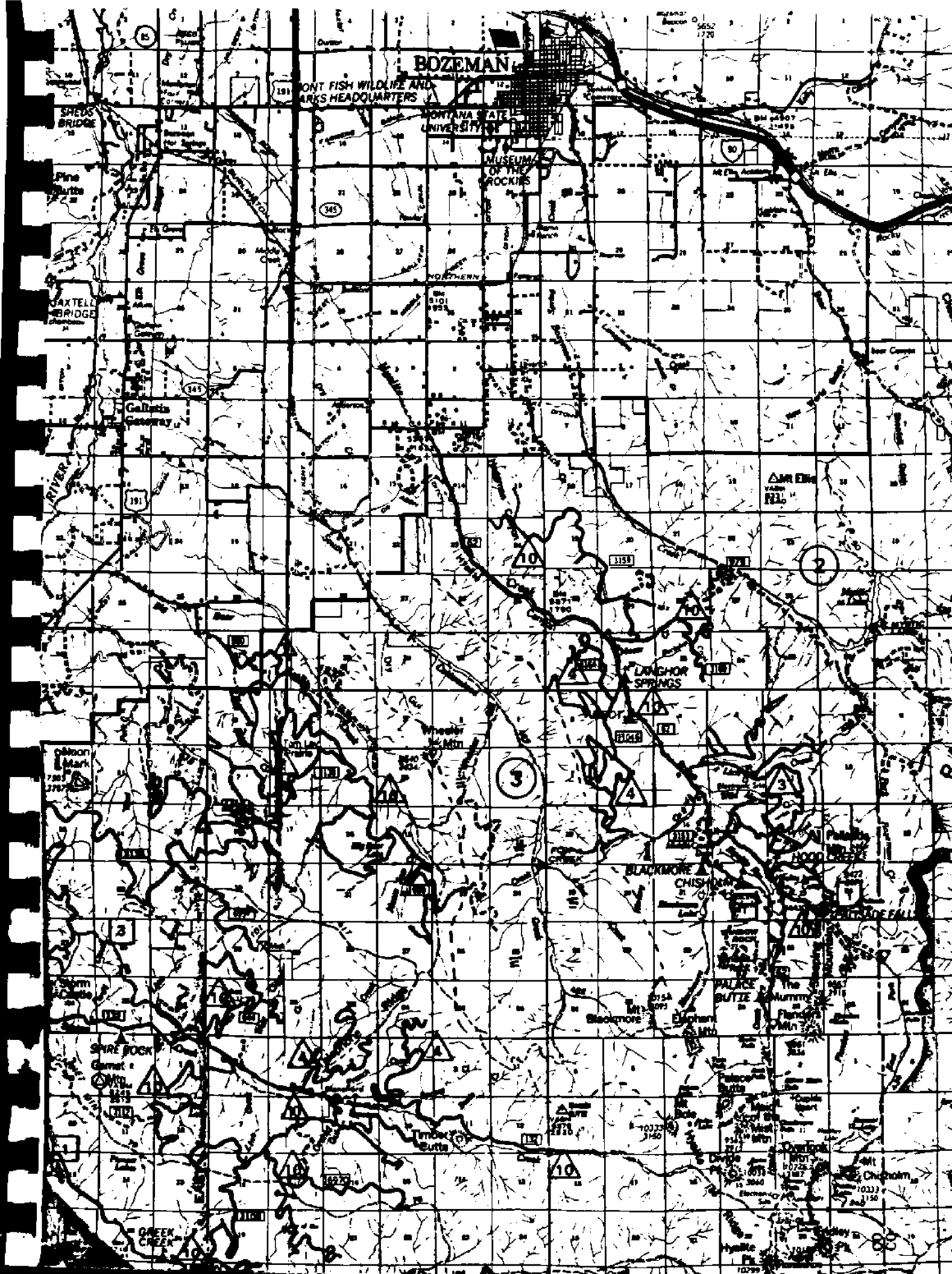


# The Case for Cottonwood Canyon: A Profile



Fox Meadows at the headlands of Cottonwood Canyon: A 1/2 mile walk from the trailhead and 10 miles from Bozeman city limits

Line Item; Gallatin National Forest, Montana, \$2 Million





Langhor Meadows on the Hyalite side of the Cottonwood Divide. Clearcuts like these encircle the unroaded, pristine canyon.



Cottonwood is also home to a rich diversity of flora and fauna, providing important sanctuary for the largest elk herd in the area.



The canyon floor is a lovely blend of old-growth, low-elevation timber and a riparian environment. Water quality is excellent.



Cottonwood's proximity to Bozeman makes it an invaluable asset; a place for everyone to camp, hike, hunt and fish in a natural setting.

Page 202  
Cottonwood Creek Trout Company, Inc.  
600 Brook

Charles P. Gray  
Vice President

August 23

Mr. Doug  
Cottonwood  
37 East  
Butte

Dear Mr.

An account  
is being  
filed with

In the event  
inferred to  
Harris  
in the

Sincerely

Charles

Charles  
Vice President  
Rocky Mountain

Charles



Cottonwood  
Lake for

where, we  
make this a  
great place  
to

The quality of the fishing in Cottonwood Creek is second to none.  
600 Brook, Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout inhabit each 1,000 yards.



**Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc.**

P.O. Box 160

Columbia Falls, MT 59912

406/882-2141

Charles P. Grenier  
Vice President Products

August 29, 1989

Mr. Doug Rand  
Concerned Citizens for Cottonwood  
37 East Main  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Mr. Rand:

As discussed in our previous letters and phone conversations, Plum Creek is willing to negotiate the sale of our Cottonwood Creek area lands for fair market value.

In the event you are not able to secure funds for this purchase, we intend to pursue a timber harvest program. Our mill in Belgrade has a limited timber supply, and it is essential that we harvest these lands in the next year. We see no other viable options at this time.

Sincerely yours,

Charles P. Grenier  
Vice President  
Rocky Mountain Region

CPG:cb



## Concerned Citizens for Cottonwood

13830 Cottonwood Canyon  
Bozeman, MT 59715



The Concerned Citizens For Cottonwood was founded in May of 1989, and currently is comprised of over 250 dues-paying members residing in and out of Montana. The purpose of the organization is to keep South Cottonwood Canyon, 10 miles southwest of Bozeman, Montana, in a pristine state, and available as a recreational resource to the residents of Bozeman, Gallatin County, Montana, and the nation.

Cottonwood is a unique canyon in that it is the only unlogged and unroaded corridor along the entire Gallatin Front, a distance of some 100 miles. Add to that its proximity to fast-growing Bozeman, and surrounding forest lands that have been extensively developed and logged (Hyalite Canyon to the East of Cottonwood is a playground for motorized use, developed to include even handicapped access; Bear Canyon to the West is a patchwork of roads and logging clearcuts), and Cottonwood emerges as a vital thread in the patterns of outdoor recreation enjoyed by us all.

At approximately 35 square miles, Cottonwood is too small to be called a wilderness, though it is considered to be part of the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem. Rather it is a convenient opportunity for families or individuals to enjoy day trips, hikes, picnics, fishing camping and hunting in a wild and quiet place. Cottonwood also functions as a sanctuary for a large elk herd, supports the best freestone trout fishery in the area, and encompasses a low-elevation forest of old growth timber that in turn fosters a rich diversity of flora and non-game fauna from wildflowers to wolverine.

Cottonwood's integrity and wild nature is threatened, however. In May of 1989, Plum Creek Timber Company announced plans to road the canyon and log two square miles of old-growth timber they own adjacent to Forest Service holdings near the confluence of Fox and Cottonwood Creeks. Plum Creek has stated they are willing to sell those lands, but they must be purchased now or the roading and logging will go ahead as scheduled, beginning this fall. It is the goal of CCforC to secure this property, and two other sections of Plum Creek land within the corridor, consolidating public ownership and preserving the canyon in a natural state for all time and for all to enjoy.

Line item; Cottonwood Canyon, Gallatin National Forest;  
\$2,000,000 represents the funding we need to accomplish that consolidation. Our efforts are supported by the Montana congressional delegation, by prominent conservation organizations, and by the vast majority of citizens who are familiar with Cottonwood and the important role it will play as a recreational resource in the future. We hope that by voting in favor of this funding, you will support a wild Cottonwood, too.

The Committee recommendation, the budget request, and the House allowance are shown in the following table:

	Budget request	House allowance	Committee recommendation
Acquisition management	\$4,054,000	\$4,054,000	\$4,054,000
Allegheny NF, PA		1,916,000	
Appalachian Trail	3,000,000	3,000,000	2,000,000
Boundary Waters Canoe Area, MN	900,000	900,000	
Caribbean NF, PR	430,000	430,000	
Carron NF, NH	375,000	375,000	375,000
Cascade Head SRA, OR	1,000,000		
Chattahoochee WISR, GA	1,000,000	1,000,000	
Chocomacon NF, WI		157,000	157,000
Clear Creek RCA, AL		300,000	
Columbia River Gorge NSA, OR/WA	5,000,000	4,500,000	3,000,000
Daniel Boone NF, KY		1,000,000	
DeSoto NF, MS	700,000	700,000	700,000
Denali NF, AK	12,000	12,000	12,000
Flathead WISR, MT	1,500,000	1,500,000	
Gila NF, AZ	1,000,000	1,500,000	7,000,000
Great Smoky Mountains NF, TN	1,750,000	1,750,000	
Hells Canyon NRA, ID/OR (Cadez Creek Ranch)	500,000		
Hiwassee NF, MI	3,500,000	3,500,000	
Humboldt NF, NY	1,400,000	1,400,000	1,400,000
Inyo NF, CA	1,400,000		
Klamath NF, CA			550,000
Lake Tahoe Basin, CA/NV	1,500,000	7,000,000	1,000,000
Monongahela NF, WV	2,000,000		250,000
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie NF, WA (Hokey Creek)	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie NF, WA (North Crater Area)			300,000
Mount Hood NF, OR (Squam Meadow)		500,000	550,000
Nicola NF, WA (Cathedral of Forest)			775,000
Ocala NF, FL	4,000,000	4,000,000	
Oregon Dunes NRA, OR	500,000		
Ozark NF, FL (Pinebrook Swamp)	1,750,000		1,500,000
Quachita NF, AR	5,000,000		5,000,000
Ozark NF, AR	2,000,000		2,000,000
Pacific Crest Trail	1,000,000	1,000,000	
Paseo Marquette WISR, MI	500,000		
Roosevelt NF, CO (Shaw-McNish Ranch)	900,000	900,000	900,000
San Bernardino NF, CA	2,000,000		
Sawtooth NF, ID	2,000,000		
Shenandoah NF, VA		1,500,000	
Siachen NF, OR (Big Creek property)	2,500,000	2,000,000	2,500,000
Siachen NF, OR (Sevens 8 property)			400,000
Spence Knob Service Rocks, WV	500,000		500,000
Tahquamenon NF, MI		3,000,000	
Tahquamenon NF, Carson-Isberg Wilderness, CA		2,000,000	
Tahquamenon NF, CA/NV (Hops Valley)	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
Yosemite NF, CA		200,000	
Wayne NF, OH		2,000,000	
Winchester NF, WA	700,000		
Total, land acquisition	64,821,000	61,804,000	45,012,000

With respect to the Monongahela NF, the Committee has deleted the majority of funds requested for acquisition of a property which is not within the presently authorized boundary of the forest. The Committee hopes that the Forest Service will be able to acquire the property next fiscal year. The remaining funds in this forest's recommendation are for the Blackwater Canyon property.

MAX BAUCUS  
MONTANA

WASHINGTON, DC  
20510-224-0981

MONTANA TOLL FREE NUMBER  
1-800-337-6166

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

RECEIVED

June 12, 1989

JUN 16 1989

DOUG RAND  
ARCHITECT

Mr. Charles P. Grenier  
395 Golf Course Road  
Columbia Falls, Montana 59912

Dear Charlie:

I am writing to urge that Plum Creek Lumber Company delay its publicly announced road building plans this June in the Cottonwood Drainage south of Bozeman. I understand that it may be a challenge to find short term options to keep logs flowing to the Belgrade mill. I hope you are able to meet your timber supply needs and provide the Concerned Citizens of Cottonwood some time.

As you know, they have organized and are attempting to develop a viable and acceptable proposal which will allow the last unroaded drainage in the northern Gallatin range to retain its present recreational and pristine values. Such a proposal, as you well know, is not easily or quickly arrived at. However, I believe this effort is genuine and the individuals, collectively, working on the proposal have the experience and desire to make a successful proposal. Therefore, I strongly urge you to allow more time in which a plan can be developed.

I would also like to take this opportunity to commend Plum Creek. Your cooperation and willingness to work with all parties has been exemplary and is not mentioned often enough.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

*Max Baucus*

cc: David D. Leland, President and CEO, Plum Creek Timber Company  
✓ Doug Rand, Secretary, CCC

BAUCUS  
(406) 887-8790

BOZEMAN  
(406) 586-6104

BUTTE  
(406) 782-8700

GREAT FALLS  
(406) 781-1574

HELENA  
(406) 442-3480

MISSOULA  
(406) 756-1150

SPRINGFIELD  
(406) 328-3171

June 22, 1989

Mr. Eric Wiltse  
Bozeman Daily Chronicle  
Box 1188  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Mr. Wiltse:

The Madison-Gallatin Chapter of Trout Unlimited is concerned about Plum Creek Timber Company's recently announced plans to log its holdings in the South Cottonwood district. In terms of timber harvest, it is acknowledged, Plum Creek expects to gain very little from this venture (compare, for example, the cost of roading versus the available timber).

We strongly urge the Gallatin National Forest to reconsider its decision to permit the road-building over National Forest lands that would access Plum Creek's planned clear-cut lands. The 1981 Environmental Assessment, on which the decision was based, woefully understates the quality of the South Cottonwood Creek fishery. The creek harbors excellent, self-sustaining populations of brook and rainbow trout that are 2 or 3 times greater than comparable streams in the region. This fishery resource is likely to be badly impacted by the siltation that can be expected from roading and logging the canyon's steep, unstable soils.

It seems entirely reasonable that the Forest's decision on access roads should be based on an Environmental Assessment that is current, accurate, and reflects the provisions of the Gallatin Forest Plan. Plum Creek ought not be frivolously denied access to its timber. But neither should it be granted license to access and clear-cut two sections of land if the project's economics are marginal and/or the project would result in severe and adverse environmental impacts.

Sincerely,

Les Stroncek  
For Madison-Gallatin  
Chapter of Trout Unlimited

MAX BAUCUS  
MONTANA

RECEIVED JUN 27 1989

WASHINGTON, DC  
(202) 524-6001

NATIONAL TOLL FREE NUMBER  
1-800-525-6100

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 23, 1989

Mr. Dale Robertson  
Chief Forester  
U.S. Forest Service  
P.O. Box 96090  
Washington, D.C. 20090-6090

Dear Dale:

In recent weeks, I have heard from a number of Montanans concerned about Plum Creek Timber's plans to log the Gallatin Valley's Cottonwood Canyon.

By every account I have heard, the Cottonwood is a beautiful, pristine area with heavy recreational use. It is located within an easy drive from Bozeman. Adjacent landowners are concerned about the potential effects logging may have on their property and lifestyles.

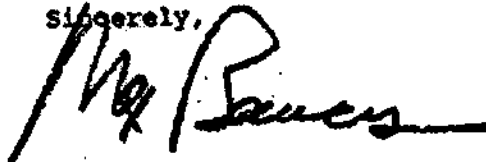
While Plum Creek has expressed a willingness to sell their property in the Cottonwood, they are also faced with some very real and immediate timber supply problems. This has prompted the company to announce plans to log the Cottonwood this summer unless a purchase plan can be worked out very quickly.

I am writing to ask that the Forest Service take a long, hard look at giving the Cottonwood priority for acquisition under the Land and Water Conservation Trust Fund. For my part, I intend to work through the appropriations process to acquire the disputed land in the Cottonwood.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I look forward to reviewing your response.

With best personal regards, I am

Sincerely,



BOZEMAN  
(406) 587-0700

BOULDER  
(406) 586-0104

BUTTE  
(406) 753-0700

GREAT FALLS  
(406) 761-1574

HELENA  
(406) 448-6400

MISSELA  
(406) 526-3123



## Greater Yellowstone Coalition

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

August 25, 1989

Subject: South Cottonwood Drainage Acquisition

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition is an organization of 65 member groups and over 3200 individuals pledged to the preservation of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. We endorse, with enthusiasm, the efforts of the Concerned Citizens for Cottonwood to bring about the purchase of four sections (2580 acres) of wild lands from the Plum Creek Lumber Company through the use of Land and Water Conservation Funds. This land, upon purchase, would be brought under the multiple use management prescriptions of the Gallatin National Forest.

That Plum Creek plans to clear cut much of this area demands, an urgency of action in this matter. Preparations for logging will begin on the ground early this fall unless purchase can be arranged.

This parcel lies within the last unlogged drainage of the Gallatin Mountain Front, a scant 12 miles from Bozeman, MT., a fast growing community of 35,000 in SW Montana. The land ownership pattern is checkerboarded, as is much of Montana and the west, from the railroad grants made over one hundred years ago. Mixed public and private land dot this area, rendering a coherent resource management policy difficult to develop.

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition feels that the consolidation of public lands when appropriate is in the best interest of not only the near neighbors, but of the American public in general. The opportunity to save a significant remnant of the once diverse and unbroken Gallatin Front with its beautiful old growth forests and wildlife resources is upon us. Of all the values to be preserved, the pure water of Cottonwood Creek, supporting a pristine fishery of an isolated native trout population is the most fragile and prone to impact from road build and logging activities.

With a willing buyer and steward in the US Forest Service, and a timber company that is a willing seller, this appropriation should proceed in the interest of both the public and private enterprise. At stake is the opportunity for future generations to visit and enjoy a place as we know it today, as well as the chance to allow natural processes to continue without significant disruption in this beautiful place.

Sincerely,

  
Ben Bachman  
Greater Yellowstone Coalition

# MONTANA NATURE CONSERVANCY



August 29, 1989

Norman Strung  
Concerned Citizens for Cottonwood Canyon  
13830 Cottonwood Canyon  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Norm:

I am writing to express the support of the Montana Nature Conservancy for federal acquisition of four sections of timberland in upper Cottonwood Canyon in the Gallatin National Forest.

As I understand it, the Senate has appropriated two million dollars for this acquisition, and the matter will now be going to a conference committee. The Montana Nature Conservancy is in full support of this acquisition. As you know, our organization is dedicated to the preservation of biological diversity. We identify habitats of rare threatened and endangered species and communities of species and then work with a wide array of cooperative techniques with private and public landowners to assure perpetual protection of those special habitats. As you may know, the Conservancy has a national membership in excess of 500,000, with 2,900 of those members living in Montana.

Cottonwood Canyon Creek contains a viable population of West Slope cutthroat trout. This is a species of special concern to us. In our view, the acquisition of the sections in question will help ensure a permanent viable population in this watershed.

We in the Montana Conservancy would like to thank the Concerned Citizens for Cottonwood Canyon for the dedication and commitment they have shown to preserving this important area. If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best personal regards,

Brian Kahn  
Montana State Director

BK/dc



ROBERT L. HERBST  
Executive Director

May 11, 1989

Mr. F. Dale Robertson  
Chief  
U.S. Forest Service  
P.O. Box 96090  
Washington, D.C. 20013-6090

Dear Dale:

I've been asked a "favor" to encourage you (the U.S. Forest Service) and Plum Creek Timber Company to negotiate and reach an agreement on a land trade to protect South Cottonwood Canyon in Montana.

This I am glad to do for these reasons:

1. I've been there. It's great and it should be a recreation area.
2. The quality of Cottonwood Creek is excellent for trout. Let's keep it that way!
3. Norman Strung asked me and I think very highly of his recommendations. In fact, I enclose his letter to me as it says the need best.

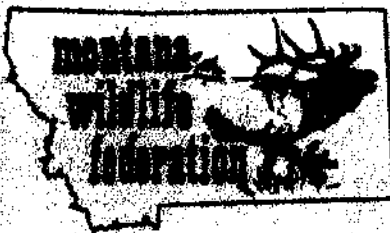
Do what you can, Dale. Thanks!

Warm regards,

Robert L. Herbst  
Executive Director

RLH/lmp

cc: Norman Strung



EDUCATION - CONSERVATION

P.O. Box 6537  
Bozeman, MT 59715  
(406) 587-1713

STATE AFFILIATE OF THE  
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

EARTH DAY - EVERY DAY

August 29, 1989

Senator Max Baucus  
Senator Conrad Burns  
Representative Pat Williams  
Representative Ron Marlenee

Dear Montana Congressional Delegation:

The Montana Wildlife Federation, representing eighteen affiliate clubs and over 6000 members, supports the efforts of the Montana Congressional Delegation in securing funding from Congress for both the acquisition of the four sections of land in South Cottonwood Canyon south of Bozeman from Plum Creek Timber Company and the lands proposed for securing big game winter habitat near Gardiner.

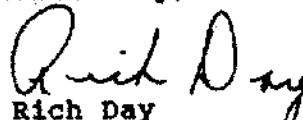
As all of you are aware, South Cottonwood Canyon is the last remaining canyon in approximately 100 miles along the Gallatin Range that has not been extensively logged and roaded. However, Plum Creek intends to road and log this area in the very near future if their four sections are not purchased. The wild character of Cottonwood offers much needed security cover for wildlife in addition to back-country recreational opportunities just a short distance from Bozeman. Cottonwood has been described as Bozeman's "vest pocket wilderness."

The acquisition of additional wintering areas for elk and buffalo migrating from the northern part of Yellowstone National Park will certainly help alleviate the deficiency of winter range outside the park and also resolve landowner problems.

Acquisition of the lands in both of these areas will be of great benefit to not only Montanans but the rest of the U.S. as well.

The Montana Wildlife Federation thanks you for your continuing support for these very important acquisitions.

Sincerely,

  
Rich Day  
Executive Director



# MONTANA CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

415 NORTH 17TH AVENUE • BOZEMAN, MONTANA 59715 • (406) 587-9782

29 August 1989

To Whom It May Concern:

The Montana Chapter wishes to go on record as supporting the Federal purchase of certain lands in a drainage roughly ten miles southwest of Bozeman, Montana, commonly referenced as the South Cottonwood drainage. Specifically, these lands are Sections 11, 13, and 15 of T4S, R5E, and Section 19 of T4S, R6E, Gallatin County.

Support for purchase of these sections by Federal entities should not be construed as a preference for them as compared to other candidates for such purchase, but rather as based on their particular suitability for public ownership.

Not only is the timbered portion of the South Cottonwood drainage the only essentially pristine valley or canyon on the Gallatin Front between the Porcupine drainage well to the south, and the Livingston area approximately the same distance to the east, but it supports a first rate trout fishery, important populations of big game such as elk, other animal species including big horn sheep and mountain goats, and numerous birds. It is the last undeveloped and unspoiled canyon close to Bozeman and thus easily accessible by the public; in our judgment, it should be in public ownership and managed to preserve its present status.

*Sherman H. Janke*  
Sherman H. Janke  
Chapter Chair

Rich Morse  
Bozeman Viewshed Council  
3015 Star Ridge Rd.  
Bozeman, MT  
59715

Doug Rand  
Secretary,  
Concerned Citizens for Cottonwood  
13830 Cottonwood Canyon  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Aug. 29, 1989

Dear Mr. Rand,

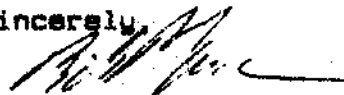
The efforts of the Concerned Citizens for Cottonwood have the strong support of the Bozeman Viewshed Council. As you know, the mission of the Viewshed Council is to encourage and assist in protecting and maintaining the scenic, recreational and wildlife attributes of the lands, mountains and forest surrounding the City of Bozeman which contribute so much to its quality of life and economic future.

I feel that your efforts are directed to a major portion of our scenic viewshed, as well as a very significant recreational and wildlife resource. The area that your efforts address is then of great importance to our community's quality of life and economic health.

There is presently millions of dollars of new investment at stake in our area dependent specifically on the preservation of scenic values.

As you know also, the Bozeman City Commission is considering endorsement of wording supporting viewshed preservation. This concept is not new to the commission or the community, and endorsement from the Commissioners of your project, should it come, will be later in September. I will let you know as things progress in this area.

Sincerely,



Rich Morse  
Vice President  
Bozeman Viewshed Council





August 30, 1989

Doug Rand, Secretary  
Cottonwood Concerned Citizens  
13830 Upper Cottonwood Canyon Rd.  
Bozeman, MT. 59715

Dear Doug;

I'm writing on behalf of the Madison-Gallatin Alliance, concerning the CCC effort to protect Cottonwood Canyon from clear-cutting by Plum Creek. We understand that Congress will shortly be considering allocating monies from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for purchase of four Plum Creek sections, to be incorporated into the Gallatin Forest. We support this acquisition with enthusiasm. The importance of Cottonwood Canyon as a refugium for wildlife is tremendous. Its (locally unique) roadless status also makes it a major asset to the trout fishery and the water quality of the Gallatin River. And the current checkerboarding with public land means that incorporation into the Forest would render management of these sections reasonable - in line with that of all the surrounding land - for the first time. Given the substantial advantages to keeping these sections in their current condition, incorporation into the public land seems to us the most sensible plan.

For the record, the Madison-Gallatin Alliance is a Bozeman-based conservation group concerned with land use and water quality issues in the watersheds of the Madison and Gallatin Rivers. MGA is a non-profit organization, founded in the 1970s, with a membership of about 200 people.

Let us know how MGA can be of help in the effort to preserve Cottonwood Canyon.

Sincerely,

*Gretchen Rupp*

Gretchen Rupp  
Vice President  
MADISON-GALLATIN ALLIANCE

# Montana Land Reliance

Office: 187 W. Lawrence, Helena

Helena, Montana 59604

P.O. Box 355

(406) 443-7027

August 31, 1989

Mr. Doug Rand  
Concerned Citizens for  
South Cottonwood Canyon  
37 East Main Street  
Bozeman, MT 59715

Dear Doug:

The Montana Land Reliance supports the purchase of the Plum Creek sections in Cottonwood Canyon by the Federal Government. It is our understanding that Plum Creek, Inc. is a willing seller, and has expressed this desire in writing to you.

Cottonwood Canyon supports both an excellent fishery and important elk habitat. Management of the upper and lower canyon is for dispersed recreation. We feel purchase of the Plum Creek sections in the mid-canyon and subsequent management designation for dispersed recreation maximizes the ecological and social benefits of the canyon.

Sincerely,

*Jan Konigsberg*

Jan Konigsberg  
Lands Director

jw/ld

cc: Bud Lilly



# THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

September 1, 1989

The Honorable Robert Byrd, Chairman  
Interior and Related Agencies Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Byrd:

Don Hellman of our Washington office has recently provided you, for use during Conference Committee, an overview of The Wilderness Society's priority Land and Water Conservation Fund projects nationwide. As the Society's Northern Rockies Regional Office, we would like to provide you with some supplemental information on projects our region. Some of the projects listed below were funded by the Senate, others by the House. We urge the Conferees to appropriate funds for them all.

## National Forest Lands

Flathead National Forest - The House appropriated \$1.5 million for acquisition of land within the Flathead Wild and Scenic River corridor, adjacent to Glacier National Park. It is important wolf, grizzly bear and elk habitat. There has been new interest in oil and gas development on private lands in the River corridor, thus making acquisitions critical. Proposed housing development also threatens the area.

Gallatin National Forest - The House bill contained \$3.5 million for important winter range acquisition in the Upper Yellowstone Valley adjacent to Yellowstone National Park. These acquisitions are critical to protect Yellowstone's elk, bison, antelope and deer herds. Buying land in the Upper Yellowstone Valley will help alleviate the problems experienced by the Park's wildlife last winter.

The Senate appropriated \$2 million for purchase of four sections of land in the South Cottonwood drainage of the Gallatin Range. This area is the last drainage on the north side of the Range which remains unlogged. It is a haven for wildlife and is

NORTHERN ROCKIES REGIONAL OFFICE  
105 W. MAIN STREET, SUITE E, BOZEMAN, MT 59715  
(406) 586-1600

included in our Gallatin Range wilderness proposal currently before Congress. South Cottonwood will be logged next year unless the land is acquired.

#### Bureau of Land Management

Big Hole River - The Senate appropriated \$180,000 for acquisition of the Hagenbarth property. This property along the Big Hole River in southwestern Montana is excellent habitat for bald eagles, turkeys, mule deer and waterfowl. Its tributary streams provide critical spawning habitat for the river's world famous fisheries. Supported by sportsman's groups, conservation organizations and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks this acquisition will prevent potential development which could restrict access for hunting and fishing.

#### Upper Missouri

The Senate appropriated \$200,000 for the Upper Missouri. This area of spectacular cliffs and abundant wildlife is part of the Wild and Scenic Missouri. It contains important Native American religious sites and provides a glimpse of the experience Lewis and Clark had during their landmark trip to the Northwest.

Thank you for your attention to the acquisition needs of the Northern Rockies. We appreciate the number of projects included in the House and Senate versions of the Interior Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Scott  
Regional Director  
Northern Rockies

cc: Senator Max Baucus  
Senator Conrad Burns  
Representative Pat Williams  
Representative Ron Marlenee



# THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

September 1, 1989

The Honorable Sidney Yates, Chairman  
Interior Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Yates:

Don Hellman of our Washington office has recently provided you, for use during Conference Committee, an overview of The Wilderness Society's priority Land and Water Conservation Fund projects nationwide. As the Society's Northern Rockies Regional Office, we would like to provide you with some supplemental information on projects our region. Some of the projects listed below were funded by the Senate, others by the House. We urge the Conferees to appropriate funds for them all.

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NORTHERN ROCKIES REGIONAL OFFICE  
105 W. MAIN STREET, SUITE E, BOZEMAN, MT 59715  
(406) 586-1600

included in our Gallatin Range wilderness proposal currently before Congress. South Cottonwood will be logged next year unless the land is acquired.

Bureau of Land Management

Big Hole River - The Senate appropriated \$180,000 for acquisition of the Hagenbarth property. This property along the Big Hole River in southwestern Montana is excellent habitat for bald eagles, turkeys, mule deer and waterfowl. Its tributary streams provide critical spawning habitat for the river's world famous fisheries. Supported by sportsman's groups, conservation organizations and the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks this acquisition will prevent potential development which could restrict access for hunting and fishing.

Upper Missouri

The Senate appropriated \$200,000 for the Upper Missouri. This area of spectacular cliffs and abundant wildlife is part of the Wild and Scenic Missouri. It contains important Native American religious sites and provides a glimpse of the experience Lewis and Clark had during their landmark trip to the Northwest.

Thank you for your attention to the acquisition needs of the Northern Rockies. We appreciate the number of projects included in the House and Senate versions of the Interior Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Scott  
Regional Director  
Northern Rockies

cc: Senator Max Baucus  
Senator Conrad Burns  
Representative Pat Williams  
Representative Ron Marlenee

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OUR OPINION

# Canyon controversy

4-14-89

*Negotiations more likely to succeed than confrontation*

The mountainsides sheltering Bozeman to the south are a mosaic of clearcuts and logging roads. But there's one unscarred lodgepole-filled canyon where man has yet to leave his mark — South Cottonwood Canyon.

A stubborn landowner at the end of the road into the canyon has kept the Forest Service at bay by refusing to grant access across her property. But as roads have spider-webbed in adjacent Hyalite and Little Bear canyons, the head of South Cottonwood Canyon has become vulnerable to the chainsaw.

Plum Creek Inc. plans to log two sections of its private land in South Cottonwood, starting as soon as 1990. A logging road could be built into the Fox Creek section this summer.

Residents of the canyon want to preserve their home territory. Some might call them NIMBYs — not in my backyard. But all Bozeman residents who cherish the scenery from their in-town backyards should care about what happens in South Cottonwood.

This isn't a case of pressuring the Forest Service to stop logging on public land, as was successfully done several years ago in the Bozeman Creek drainage.

Plum Creek owns land and timber in South Cottonwood. Harvesting those trees is how Plum Creek stays in business.

Still, Cottonwood residents are trying to drum up widespread public opposition to the logging to persuade Plum Creek to change its plans.

Public concern didn't stop Plum Creek from logging its land in Jack Creek near Ennis, and it's unlikely that tactic will work in South Cottonwood, either.

Logging South Cottonwood is a business decision by Plum Creek, and logging opponents should approach a solution in a businesslike fashion.

Plum Creek officials have indicated they would consider a reasonable purchase offer or other attempts to resolve the conflict.

Some solutions being kicked around include a land trade between the Forest Service and Plum Creek, or a federal purchase of the Plum Creek land using the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The problem with those is that once the government gets involved, the process slows down. Plum Creek has waited most of the 1980s for Congress to approve a land swap with the USFS in the Porcupine Creek drainage near Big Sky. Proposals to buy Plum Creek land in the Gallatin Range with Conservation Fund money haven't panned out either.

Plum Creek officials say they want a fair and timely solution in South Cottonwood.

Logging opponents should continue to pursue those options with the feds. But they should also sit down at the bargaining table with Plum Creek to develop a speedy solution that benefits both parties.

Don Leal of the Political Economy Research Center suggests Plum Creek could sell a conservation easement as a way to preserve South Cottonwood's natural resources. An easement could compensate Plum Creek for not logging at all, or the company could agree to logging at a reduced volume or only in areas where erosion wouldn't occur — not on steep slopes.

Jan Konigsberg of the Montana Land Reliance adds that Plum Creek could donate the timber and give up its development rights and take a tax deduction for charitable contributions. Or the company could donate the land to a private, non-profit organization like the Land Reliance and write off the entire value of the property as a deduction.

However, Konigsberg explains, under the current tax structure the deductions probably wouldn't be worth as much as harvesting the timber. Plum Creek would have to make any donation in South Cottonwood largely as a goodwill, public relations gesture.

Confrontation probably will not work in South Cottonwood Canyon. But negotiation might keep the lodgepoles standing, the creek running clear and the wildlife secure in Bozeman's "vestpocket wilderness."

# 4-29-89 Plum Creek logging plans upset group

By JoAn BJARKO  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Residents around Cottonwood Canyon south of Bozeman are organizing a fight against Plum Creek Timber Co.'s intentions to log an area they call "the last, best drainage" in the northern part of the Gallatin Range.

The residents, who live in the canyon and the surrounding area, have scheduled a May 4 public meeting for resource experts to explain the problems they foresee from the proposed logging operation.

Canyon resident Bob DeWeese said today they also plan to solicit the help of Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont. Canyon residents are solidly opposed to Plum Creek's logging plans, which would haul timber out of the Fox Creek drainage into Hyalite Canyon and out Hyalite Canyon Road. DeWeese said.

Plum Creek's timberlands superintendent in Belgrade, Dick Wick, said today that the company doesn't want to get involved in a "high-pitched public forum" over the issue, but will meet with interested groups as the company develops its logging plans.

Wick said Plum Creek is planning to build a road into Fox Creek this year, but it is too soon to tell whether the company will begin logging there this year. Wick said residents should understand

Plum Creek's logging plans would haul timber out of the Fox Creek drainage into Hyalite Canyon and out Hyalite Road.

that Plum Creek is not a public agency which can be prevented from logging its land, but it is open to suggestions on ways to do a better job.

Local resource experts will be speaking at the Thursday, May 4, meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks building, 1400 S. 19th Ave. They include Jon Gutko, president of the Gallatin Wildlife Association; biologist Kurt Alt; researcher Terry Lonner of the state FWP; wildlife biologist Sam Johnson, who recently resigned from the Forest Service; geologist Jim Schmitt from Montana State University; and Bud Drake, aquatic habitat consultant.

DeWeese said Cottonwood residents have been working w

See LOGGING, page 8

## Logging/ from page 1

the Greater Yellowstone Coalition in Bozeman to organize the meeting. A letter from the Concerned Citizens for Cottonwood, the GYC, the Gallatin Wildlife Association and the Sierra Club Headwaters Group said more logging can be expected once the Fox Creek drainage, which runs through Section 19, is clearcut.

The letter said Section 19 and South Cottonwood provide some of the best opportunities for quality elk hunting remaining in the northern Gallatins. They contended road construction could hurt the water quality in Cottonwood Creek, which "is the only remaining roadless, pristine drainage along the Gallatin Canyon north of Porcupine Creek."

"Because of its remoteness, numerous seeps, bogs, meadows and rich old growth habitat, Cottonwood Creek harbors abundant wildlife," the letter said.

"Elk, deer, black bears, pine martens, moose and an occasional bighorn sheep frequent the area, and will suffer, or may be lost from the area, as a result of Plum Creek's disregard for responsible and environmentally sound logging practices."

The groups also suggested that Plum Creek could include Section 19 in a land exchange with the Forest Service, or sell it to a private party. Wick said, however, the company needs the section and does not think an exchange or sale is a viable idea.

The opponents also complained that the Hyalite Road was recently improved by the Forest Service for recreational purposes.

"If Plum Creek does clearcut Section 19, you can expect logging trucks to run continually up and down Hyalite Canyon all summer long — posing a dangerous situation for local recreationists, and likely damaging the recently paved road," their letter said.



LINDA SEEST/CHRONICLE

Dave and Kit Welch, standing next to Cottonwood Creek, and other Cottonwood Canyon residents are trying to prevent logging on Plum Creek Timber Co. lands farther up the drainage.

## Cottonwood campaign Group hopes to stop firm's logging plans

By JoAn BJARKO  
Chronicle Staff Writer

**A** campaign for public support to protect the small Cottonwood Canyon drainage south of Bozeman from roads and logging drew a crowd of about 200 into a cramped meeting room Thursday night.

Concerned Citizens of Cottonwood, a recently organized group of people living in and around the canyon, is trying to prevent Plum Creek Timber Co. from logging what the residents call "the only remaining wild place left along the Gallatin Front."

The Cottonwood citizens hope to stir up enough support between now and this summer to convince Plum Creek, a subsidiary of Burlington Resources, to postpone road-building plans and sell the land to a private lands protection group or exchange lands with the Forest Service.

Plum Creek's local timberlands superintendent, Dick Wick, said today that his company is willing to consider a reasonable purchase offer or other attempts to resolve the conflict.

"We still have to do business, but we're willing to consider a fair and timely approach to resolve the issue," Wick said.

Canyon resident Norman Strung said Plum Creek, a private timber company that obtained its lands under the 1964 Railroad

"It's not too late to change. The road is not built; the area is not logged. We all can change the course of events in South Cottonwood."

— Louise Willcox  
Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Grant Act, plans to log two key sections in the drainage in 1990 and 1991. Road construction from the Hyalite divide into Plum Creek's Section 19, called Fox Creek, could begin in July, depending on the weather. Plum Creek also has plans to reach its Section 13, northwest of Fox Creek, by roads coming in from the Bear Creek drainage to the west.

"They have every right to try to make a buck," said Strung, a field editor for *Fish & Stream* magazine. He urged the audience to find an alternative to preserve what he called "Gallatin County's vest-pocket wilderness."

"It's not too late to change," Louise Willcox of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition told the crowd. "The road is not built, th

See COTTONWOOD, page 8

# Residents want canyon left alone

By JoAn BJARKO  
Chronicle Staff Writer

5/5/89

Cottonwood Canyon is easy for a passing motorist to miss unless the driver is looking for it.

A "dead end" sign greets anyone who turns off Cottonwood Road onto the canyon road, which is graveled but clearly gets little use other than local traffic.

About 15 homes line the canyon, many of them on ranches that date back to the late 1800s and early 1900s. Living there now are retired people, writers and artists. Despite divergent backgrounds, they have recently rallied to protect an upper portion of South Cottonwood Creek from logging.

This year they realized that a long-feared intrusion into a timbered area miles beyond eyesight from their canyon homes, but still in the Cottonwood Creek drainage, could finally take place. It was no surprise, but something they hoped would never happen.

Plum Creek Timber Co., which owns about 7,600 acres in a

checkerboard fashion in the drainage on the northern crest of the Gallatin Range, plans to build a road into Section 19, an area known as Fox Creek. Once the road is built, Plum Creek can start logging.

"Can't they leave some things alone?" retired rancher Dave Wolny asked during an interview in his home at the mouth of the canyon.

Wolny and his wife, Kathryn, moved into the canyon 34 years ago when they bought an existing ranch. They are concerned about what could happen to wildlife and their clear-running creek if there is logging further up the drainage.

"It's just a tiny little spot in their operations," Kathryn "Kit" Wolny said. "Three years from now, they'll never know if they logged it or not."

"They (Plum Creek) could leave us just one little spot." Access to the Fox Creek area has to be made through the Hyalite drainage or Little Bear drainage because the county road in Cottonwood Canyon dead ends on private land. Many of the

See CANYON, page 8

## Canyon/ from page 1

canyon residents don't hike into the area anymore, but they remember what it looks like.

"It's kind of a peek into history — like the Indians found it," Kit Wolny said, adding everybody in Bozeman should be proud of it.

Despite hopes of preserving the Fox Creek area and some adjacent lands from road construction and logging, the canyon residents still have some sympathy for the interests of a private landowner like Plum Creek.

Swedish immigrant Karl Anderson, 83, who settled in the canyon in 1951, said he likes the idea of a

land trade between the Forest Service and Plum Creek even though the federal government also could log the area. It might be easier to persuade the government rather than a private company to stop logging an area, he said.

The Fox Creek area lies within the boundaries of the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area. But that does not protect it from private development because other laws guarantee private landowners access to their property. Plum Creek obtained an easement from the

Forest Service to get to its Fox Creek lands via Langohr Road in 1981.

Some Cottonwood residents were hoping Fox Creek would eventually be included in a wilderness bill, but it was not in the Montana wilderness bill vetoed by President Reagan last year.

Residents like the Wolnys and artists Bob and Gennie DeWesse are concerned that more road building and logging in the upper drainage will muddy Cottonwood Creek, cause faster runoff in the spring and possibly kill fish in the creek.

Dick VanAusdol, who lives on the canyon ranch that's been in his family since the turn of the century, said a lot of people who had bought land there had to leave over the years because the weather and terrain made it difficult to make a living. Many of the residents who live there now are retired like VanAusdol, who has seen a lot of deep snow and short summers in the canyon.

Over the years he has watched areas burned by forest fires regenerate because of the harsh climate. "This whole canyon is very fragile," he said.

of the South Cottonwood area, which was completed as part of Plum Creek's request for an easement across national forest land to its land in Fox Creek. Wilcox called the assessment "old and deficient."

Gallatin Forest spokesman Jim Sanders said today the Forest Service will review the assessment to make sure it addressed the issues. But, Sanders said, the Alaska Lands Act requires the Forest Service to allow landowners road access to their private lands inside forest boundaries. The Forest Service, however, sets the standards for road building on its land when a company like Plum Creek has to cross national forest to get to the private land, Sanders said.

Bozeman District Ranger Bob Dennee said the Forest Service has given Plum Creek a legally binding easement and has already approved its road design and construction methods.

But Wilcox said the existing easement does not mean the Forest Service is "off the hook."

"A lot depends on how a road is engineered and built and how it's used after it's built," she said. "The Forest Service cannot hide

and exchange proposals which were included in the vetoed Montana wilderness bill. The lands cannot be exchanged without approval from Congress.

"We will take any proposal seriously," Dennee said, adding that the Forest Service has to evaluate all the tradeoffs of a land exchange. "Plum Creek would probably want to acquire other lands with high timber production."

The audience that crowded into the state Fish, Wildlife and Parks meeting room Thursday night heard biologists, geologists and wildlife spokesman tell about fears of what could happen to plants, animals and fish if there is more logging in the upper reaches of South Cottonwood Creek.

Western portions of the drainage along the Bear Creek divide have already been roaded and logged by both Plum Creek and the Forest Service.

An associate professor of geology, Jim Schmitt, said Forest Service studies show lands in Fox Creek are susceptible to landslides and erosion. Aquatic habitat consultant Buddy Drake called South Cottonwood Creek "a jewel from a fisheries standpoint."

# THE DAILY PHOENIX

## Plum Creek postpones Cottonwood cuts

By BILL BRICK  
and JOHN BJANKO  
Chronicle Staff Writers

The Concerned Citizens for Cottonwood are celebrating Friday's announcement that Plum Creek Timber Co. will not start logging its land along the Fox Creek tributary of South Cottonwood Creek next week.

"I'm absolutely overjoyed; this buys us some breathing room," said Cottonwood Canyon resident Norris Strung, who is the CCC president.

"Our efforts are proving fruitful and Plum Creek is being very cooperative."

Concerned Citizens for Cottonwood organized this spring in an effort to stop the private timber company from logging its lands in the South Cottonwood drainage, particularly in an area known as Fox Creek south of Huachuca. The group was concerned that road building and logging would hurt wildlife and also study South Cottonwood Creek.

Plum Creek earlier had told the citizens' group that it wanted a workable proposal for buying or trading the land by the end of June, so the company could get its logging

road built this summer. Friday was the first time the company said it would wait beyond the June 30 deadline.

Plum Creek spokesman Daniel Sagers on Friday said the company has no immediate plans to begin logging in the area.

"We are still communicating with the CCC and our development plans are on hold," he said in a telephone interview from Miami.

"We have no plans to commit to roading or logging that area as long as productive talks continue."

"It's great, terrific," said Houston architect Doug Raud, who is the CCC secretary.

Both Raud and Strung lauded Plum Creek for negotiating with CCC.

"There's been a lot of goodwill on their part," Raud said. "They've been very good to work with and they've stood by what they've said — and then some."

"I think they want to see this worked out, too."

Even though Plum Creek's announcement is good news for friends of Cottonwood, Strung warned against complacency.

"There's a real danger now that people will lay back and say, 'We don't have to do anything now,'" he said.

The CCC raised \$2,000 to fight the Plum Creek logging proposal and another \$35,000 has been pledged, Raud said.

"We've got a couple hundred people in our group now and we're in touch with a lot more people whom we hope can help," he said.

"But, we've still got a lot to do, ignoring not how to purchase the land or trade for it."

Western District Congressman Pat Williams said in a telephone interview on Friday that in just years he repeatedly tried to get Plum Creek to trade the land to the public or sell it. Plum Creek, however, "never indicated the slightest willingness to discuss" the matter when past land exchanges were negotiated, Williams said.

Concerned Citizens for Cottonwood is working on several ideas to get the South Cottonwood/Plum Creek area into public ownership, including hopes of a federal appropriation to buy the land from Plum Creek. The price for four sections of land could go as high as \$3.8 million.

Williams said Friday that he doubted any money for South Cottonwood could be obtained from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund in time to stop Plum Creek from logging the area, however.

"There are hundreds, if not thousands, of similar proposals ahead of this one and they've been waiting in Congress for years to be funded," he said. "So I don't hold out any significant hope we can do it that way."



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**Friday, July 28, 1989, Bozeman, Mon.**

# Cottonwood funds OK'd

By ERIC WILTSE  
Chronicle Staff Writer

The U.S. Senate approved Thursday night spending \$2 million to buy Plon Creek's timber holdings in South Cottonwood Canyon, Utah. Many have an interest today.

The money would be used by the Galatin National Forest to buy 1,200 acres of Muss Creek land in the roadside canyon south of town. The money would be used by the Galatin National Forest to buy 1,200 acres of Muss Creek land in the roadside canyon south of town. The money would be used by the Galatin National Forest to buy 1,200 acres of Muss Creek land in the roadside canyon south of town.

The \$2 million is included in an Interior Department appropriations bill passed Thursday night, Bureau, D-Mont., said in a news release.

This is a pristine area heavily used by Gallatin recreationists, said Ilawson. "Now it's time for Plum Creek and the Forest Service to begin negotiating for terms of a sale to benefit many Montanans."

Final approval of the appropriations rests with a joint House and Senate appropriations conference committee that will meet in

the next few weeks, he said.

Phon Creek Timber Co. planned to build roads and start staked off within the Chinese group logging in the canyon this year.

Food was to have the tracks.

Local residents feared logging would harm wildlife and Creek.

Plum Creek has estimated that its four sections of land are worth \$2.5 million.

But Norm Strung, a leader of the Concerned Citizens for the 62.5 percent

"I can't believe they wouldn't accept this offer," Stirling said. "I can't believe they wouldn't accept this offer."

contact with the citizens group about the program, not be reached for comment this morning. Williams said today

Gallatin National Forest (United States Forest Service) that the Forest Service has not yet contacted Pecos Creek about Creek Collaborative holdings.

"We don't know if it's even for sale," he said, adding the word

If the appropriation is approved, "we'll meet the intent of value would mean to be appropriate."

Strung said the conference committee "will be the best of the Congress, in fact."

"As far as I know, the entire Montreal delegation supported including Ron Marston," Strong said.

# Cottonwood deal won't hurt firm

## Plum Creek needs more timber for Belgrade plant; cooperation praised

By MAC DANIEL  
Chronicle Staff Writer

*Boseman 8/1/89*

Plum Creek Timber Co. will look for alternate sources of timber if it sells its 1,280-acre holdings in South Cottonwood Canyon to the U.S. Forest Service, say company officials.

The Senate last week appropriated \$2 million for the land purchase in the controversial roadless canyon south of Boseman, but final congressional approval may not take place until September.

"I think there's a general concern for timber availability and how long we're going to be able to run this plant," said David Morgan, manager of the Plum Creek sawmill in Belgrade.

The canyon contains about a half year's worth of sawmill timber, said Charles Grenier, vice president of Plum Creek's Rocky Mountain region.

Workers at the plant are not overly concerned about the

Cottonwood sale, which is one of many land swaps and sales the company has conducted recently, Morgan said.

There is confidence that an alternative source of timber will be found, he said.

The firm hopes to gain the trust of recreationists and canyon neighbors through the sale, added Grenier.

"We feel we're responsible land managers," he said. "We, like others, don't want to disrupt those high recreation values."

Although the company wants to please its neighbors, Grenier said the company's primary concern is to find an alternative wood supply for the firm's Belgrade mill, which employs about 150 workers.

Local residents who lobbied for the congressional appropriation said they are pleased with the company's cooperation.

"I think they have a public conscience and they give a damn, which is quite a reversal for a logging company," said Norm Strung, a leader of the Concerned Citizens for Cottonwood.

Plum Creek has estimated its four sections of land were worth between \$2.1 million and \$2.8 million, Strung said, but a detailed

See TIMBER, page 8

## Timber / from page 1

appraisal has not yet been done.

Final approval of the measure rests with a joint congressional appropriations committee, according to Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont.

The money for the Cottonwood sale was added by the Senate to a House bill and must therefore be approved by the joint committee.

Congress is expected to go into recess Aug. 4, and return Sept. 6. Michael Scott of the Wilderness Society said the Cottonwood appropriation may not be considered until September.

The timber company planned to build roads and log the canyon sometime this year. The company

stopped when the Concerned Citizens of Cottonwood expressed interest in buying the land.

Canyon residents contend logging would hurt wildlife and the trout fishery in Cottonwood Creek.

Plum Creek and the Concerned Citizens for Cottonwood have had good relations throughout their dealings, Strung said. The company even let an independent appraiser estimate the value of its canyon holdings, Strung said.

"All our dealings with them have been above board and not antagonistic," he said.

The appraisal was cut short by last week's Senate decision to allot

money to the Forest Service for the land purchase. Strung said the appraisal will now be run by the Forest Service and Plum Creek.

Plum Creek has fared well while other Montana-based timber companies have suffered during the past several years. The Belgrade mill's employment has increased from 120 workers in 1987 to 150 this year. Last year, the company's payroll was up by 20 percent to \$3.5 million, said Morgan.

The Belgrade plant, which is non-unionized, specializes in the export of prefabricated homes to Japan, China and Spain and other specialty products, Morgan said.

OUR OPINION

# Cottonwood land buy

## Responsive logging company, grassroots effort paying off

**I**t's not a done deal yet, but the local effort to save South Cottonwood Canyon from the chainsaw seems assured now that the Senate has appropriated \$2 million for a federal land buy there.

The Senate late last week stuck the money into the Interior Department appropriations bill. The measure now goes to a joint conference committee to iron out differences between the Senate and House versions.

Assuming the \$2 million stays intact, the South Cottonwood effort is a rare example of citizen concern combined with corporate cooperation resulting in government action.

Canyon residents were worried by plans by Plum Creek Timber Co. to road and log its lands in upper South Cottonwood starting this summer. Damage to elk and other wildlife and to the trout fishery in Cottonwood Creek was among their concerns.

After holding a public meeting, the Cottonwood folks were able to rally support from Bozeman residents and environmentalists who wanted to protect the last unlogged drainage on the Gallatin Front.

The coalition, Concerned Citizens for Cottonwood, looked at ways to acquire the tracts from Plum Creek, including conservation easements, land swaps and outright purchase.

Their letter-writing campaign resulted in more than 250 messages to Montana's delegation. According to CCC spokesman Norm Strung, even conservative

Rep. Ron Marlenee supports the Cottonwood purchase.

For its part, Plum Creek agreed to delay building roads and logging to give the citizens' group some time to try to acquire the land.

The sale would cost Plum Creek about a half year's supply of timber for its Belgrade sawmill. But a company vice president says the deal is worth it for Plum Creek to gain the trust of recreationists and canyon residents.

The company estimated the fair market value of its 1,280 acres at \$2.1 to \$2.8 million. There was no way that private citizens could raise that much money in a short time. So, while private funding would have been preferable in many ways, the federal government was the only realistic avenue to find the funds.

If the money passes congressional muster, the next step is for the U.S. Forest Service to negotiate the purchase with Plum Creek.

Putting the land into national forest would give the public more say on the future of South Cottonwood Canyon. Residents could comment on the forest's management plans for the canyon. Forest officials would consider their comments while drafting plans for logging, recreation or other activities there.

Moving ownership of South Cottonwood from the private to the public sector likely won't be the end of controversy there.

Plum Creek has been very responsible and cooperative in the South Cottonwood matter. But that attitude could change if the land were sold to another company.

Decisions about the canyon's future are probably better made in the public arena where a wide range of issues are addressed than in corporate board rooms where profits are usually the bottom line.

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# ADDENDUM

FOLLOWING  
MAPS

FOR 'FUEL REDUCTION  
2025