Sandy Neily (Maine Audubon Society) Report On Fly-In for Freedom Conference
Washington, DC, September 1994

This five-day conference began with about 75-100 people representing Wise Use
groups from all over the USA; even a Norwegian whaling family was represented. By
Sunday afternoon the group was much larger as more people arrived for the critical days of
lobbying on the "Hill." When I left on Sunday afternoon, at least 250 people had filled the
meeting hall.

Here's the list of items/issues they say they are "fighting against": greenways, Wild
and Scenic river designation, rails to trails, Endangered Species Act, battlefield preservation
expansions, grizzly protection, wolf restoration, federal fishing initiatives to protect stocks of
fish, wetlands protection, river corridor protection, national heritage corridors, rangeland
reform, Clean Water Act, and more (Biodiversity Treaty).

I was the only official person from the environmental community, although some
people may have come unannounced and "under cover." I was clearly the object of intense
scrutiny and while many people came to say they were glad I had come, just as many were
clearly puzzled by my presence.

After several days, it was clear that most people had no regular human contact with
real environmentalists as people. They were unable to think of any of us as real people with
real life experiences. Of course, the "hype" of the conference portrayed us all as the enemy,
but the fact remains that the personal gulf seems huge.

Observations:

Grassroots: These people clearly are genuinely grassroots: Montana Women in Timber,
people who work in slaughterhouses, in the woods, on the tuna boats, etc. These groups do
not receive large support from industry. The organization budget of the Alliance is made up
of moderate pledges from member groups and genuine grassroots organizing. (I saw the
pledge sheets.)

Industry support is subtle, but there: time off to work on Wise Use projects, allowing
groups to assess donations from workers at a slaughterhouse, donating a dollar for each
loaded log truck that makes it to the mill, bake sales allowed on corporate property. Georgia
Pacific flew up black loggers from Georgia (third generation), but that kind of direct support
was rare.

*First and foremost, these people represent their friends, co-workers and themselves
and if they are in a fight to preserve the industries they work in, it's to preserve a paycheck
and a way of life.

Industry is either ignorant of these groups' potential to shape public policy or they are
very smart and know that they must keep their distance in order to enhance the "struggling
worker" ethic at work here. To continue to suggest these people are "paid off" by industry radicalizes them and underscores their contempt for those of us who do not take them seriously as real people.

501(c)(3) Status: Alliance will be now seeking large grants from foundations and wants to act as an "education and information machine" and empower members to be the lobbying machine. Interested in broadening their base and issue fields to other conservative groups.

How We Say It: When Bruce Babbitt says the solution to fires (out West this summer) was zoning and the wilderness should be better zoned so "people aren't interfering with the wilderness," we need to hear how this affects real people...who, right or wrong, have real mortgages and real lives staked on a piece of land. They aren't "interfacing"...just living.

If we say the Yellowstone fires should have burned West Yellowstone because it's a blight on the land, what are we saying to everyone who puts food on the table from working in West Yellowstone? If we slam large paper companies and forest practices, we've inadvertently shredded people who work in those professions...if we castigate agribusiness for land management, we've also devalued the individuals who work the land...and these individuals believe they are good stewards...(right or wrong).

Together, they represent a real block of people who appear to have more credibility than those of us who are paid, professional environmentalists. As one Alliance member said, "One person with beliefs is stronger than 90 people with interests."

Fear and Loathing: Of course, for most of these Wise Use grassroots people, their anger, fear, and paranoia seem hugely out of proportion to the real events they've lived through, although many have lived through bureaucratic cruelty or just plain ineptness and many have lost something they consider to be very valuable.

To me it seems they want to be protected from risk, change, the vagaries of life, economies that are "adjusting" to new global realities, others' goals to protect finite natural resources. They behave like people who are backed into a corner who are fighting for survival. That explains the emotional intensity, because they do see it on a survival level.

What's Next: I'm not sure yet of the strategic implications of how real and immediate this grassroots movement is. I do know that by implying it is industry manipulation we will be unable to design a strategy that works—a strategy that prevents them from advancing an agenda that is definitely anti-environmental and will create loss for all of us.

P.S. National environmental groups should definitely be taping Wise Use programs shown on the National Empowerment Television. We need objective proof of the Wise Use agenda...not our own propaganda.

And finally, We need a precise analysis of their fax network and we need to assess if it is effective. If so, we need to match and exceed their mastery of this technique.
Questions and Answers about the Alliance for America

"The fiercest political action organization is an umbrella group called the Alliance for America which operates a nationwide computer-driven fax network...that boggles the average mind."
(Sierra Club National Conservation Director)

This September, hundreds of people representing the Alliance for America will travel to Washington, D.C. for the annual Fly-In for Freedom. Organized in September, 1991 as a broad-based grassroots coalition, the Alliance for America was formed in an attempt to curb excessive government environmental regulations, harassment by environmental extremists and violations of constitutional property rights which were resulting in family and community despair. The Fly-In for Freedom has become both a celebration of the principles this country was founded on and a growing annual pilgrimage for Americans across the country that recognize without action now, we may never get those principles back.

What is the Alliance for America?

The Alliance for America is a fifty state network of over 500 independent grassroots organizations whose collective membership numbers in the millions. These groups represent a variety of vocational, cultural, and political interests including farming, grazing, forestry, commercial fishing, mining, recreation, energy, animal welfare, private property protection, local government and various community and regional organizations.

Does the Alliance for America have a formal structure?

Yes. The Alliance has an elected Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Its membership is recruited primarily from new and existing grassroots organizations, trade and community groups, and
What are the goals of the Alliance for America?

In general, the goals of the Alliance are to bring reason back to the debate surrounding environmental protection and accountability to government regulators and bureaucrats. Although many issues continue to intensify and add to the complexity of the debate, the Alliance mission statement focuses on three key points: to balance the needs of people and the environment, to advocate responsible multiple use of public lands and natural resources; and, to restore and protect constitutional private property rights.

How does the Alliance leadership plan on accomplishing those goals?

The movement across America to fight back against government intervention in people’s lives is rapidly picking up steam. The numbers and variety of the organizations under the Alliance banner are indicative of a national political force that is poised to act and carry out their goals through means including but not limited to: supporting or opposing critical legislation or regulation; holding members of Congress and the Administration accountable for extremist votes or actions, increasing exposure in the media to tell our side of the story and report the facts; maintaining and building a broad-based voice in the political arena; and expanding our communications and action networks into urban areas where we can gain greater political awareness.

Where does the Alliance get its financial support?

Membership in the Alliance, which ranges from $25 for an individual or family to $500 for a trade or business organization, is the primary source of funding. All staff time is voluntary and most computer equipment and other necessary items are contributed by individuals or organizations. Large scale projects such as the Fly-in For Freedom are financed by additional funding efforts including phone banking, individual solicitations and even community projects, such as sponsorships and bake sales.

Does the Alliance advocate gutting environmental laws?

No. The Alliance believes in scientifically sound, peer-reviewed environmental laws that recognize people as an integral part of the natural world. However, we also recognize that laws that destroy economies and families for the benefit of animals, plants, and insects are equally as irresponsible as no environmental protection at all. We believe that laws and regulations governing wetlands, forest management, endangered species, multiple use and access to public lands, as well as protection of our constitutional right to own and enjoy private property, and other issues are being abused and desperately need to be strengthened to protect people’s rights. As mostly rural Americans, Alliance members strongly advocate an increased emphasis on local input to land use and resource conservation issues instead of the top-down approach being pursued by many politicians and special interests.

Does the Alliance support opening up parks and wilderness areas to logging, mining, agriculture, and other industrial operations as purported by some media and environmental extremists?

No. The Alliance believes our parks and wilderness areas should be protected. However, we also believe that no more land should be set aside as wilderness areas or park expansion areas. Our current policies of setting aside large tracts of land for single species protection and other environmental concerns have not only been an ineffective means of environmental protection but an economic disaster. The Alliance believes that environmental protection and economic productivity are not inconsistent goals but if done correctly can compliment each other.

Is the Alliance for America a front for big business as purported by some environmental extremists and media?

No. The Alliance is truly a grassroots operation that receives, for the most part, only moral support from large corporations. Our frustrations, in fact, are often founded in the unwillingness of big corporations to be involved. On the contrary, major corporations have and continue to support powerful environmental organizations with millions of dollars of annual contributions.

Is the Alliance for America only out to protect the interest of rural Americans whose job security in antiquated industries is at risk and do its members stubbornly resist improving
Is the Alliance for America only out to protect the interest of rural Americans whose job security in antiquated industries is at risk and do its members stubbornly resist improving their way of life in a rapidly changing world?

No. There is no doubt that the Alliance membership is filled with rural Americans who love their way of life and hold on to the values of faith, family, a hard work ethic, and a strong community. Who wouldn't? What all Americans must realize is that these are the people who provide our food, clothing, shelter, minerals, and recreational opportunities. Without their efforts and the substantial investments of their employers, maintaining economic prosperity will forever be an unreachable goal.

For more information regarding the Alliance for America, please write to: Alliance for America, PO Box 449, Caroga Lake, New York 12032 Phone (518) 835-6702.

In St. Louis, Mo. on November 8, 1991, grassroots leaders from all over the United States came to talk, to get acquainted, to commiserate, and to create what is now known as the most powerful grassroots organization this Country has ever seen. We are regular working people with a common bond and need, born of frustration and personal loss: The need to put people back into the environmental equation.

We are farmers, cattlemen, private landowners, fishermen, miners, loggers, teachers, carpenters, truck drivers, and a thousand more . . . . the people, families and communities that make America the greatest nation on earth. This nation, however, seems to no longer be one whose government is of, by, and for the people, but one which is of, by, and for the unelected bureaucrats and regulators. Today government and environmental regulations, some of which seem to be based on tea leaf readings and Tarot card predictions, have made criminals of ordinary citizens doing ordinary things. It is time for the common sense people of this land to wake up and take back the control of their lives and futures.

We are not fighting environmental protection nor the environment. In fact, those of us involved in this organization are far better stewards of the land and environment than our opponents: the unelected, unresponsive bureaucrats of state and federal government or the national so-called environmental groups whose collective budget is in the billions of dollars.

The Alliance for America has grown from a small get acquainted session in a Washington DC hotel room to a national organization with network operations in all 50 states, with over 500 independent grassroots groups participating nationwide.

At our organizational meeting on that snow blown November day in 1991, we set goals that seemed to stretch the bounds of possibility . . . . and then set about to achieve them. Among those goals were the following:

1. To achieve representation in all 50 states.
2. To create a comprehensive communications network.
3. To hold members of Congress accountable for extreme environmental votes.
4. To establish an identity in the national press.
5. To develop and maintain communications with the U.S. Congress as well as state government legislatures.
Our accomplishments toward these goals to date have been considerable:

1. State representation was achieved in the first 7 months of operation.

2. A state of the art, computer driven communication system was up and running within 15 days of our meeting in Nov. '91 (Carl Pope, Cons. Dir. of the Sierra Club has said that our nationwide fax system "boggles the average mind").

3. The name 'Alliance for America' has graced the pages of such newspapers as the New York Times, Chicago Tribune, the Washington Post, the Seattle Post Intelligencer, the Denver Post, and hundreds of others nationwide, our presence has been noted on radio and television throughout the land. We are no longer an obscure "movement".

4. We have the capability to reach each individual member of the U.S. Congress in a matter of hours, and shortly will be able to access every state legislator as well.

5. And if that were not enough, we are instituting educational programs and speakers bureaus throughout the country to finally counter the "chicken little" arguments with solid science and unquestionable and fully documented facts.

If all this seems to be a monumental achievement... IT IS!

All of this would have been impossible for a well paid professional staff; what makes it even more incredible is that it was all accomplished by an UNPAID VOLUNTEER FORCE, SCATTERED FROM COAST TO COAST, WITH A BUDGET THAT COULDN'T PAY FOR THE AUDUBON SOCIETY'S EXECUTIVE LIMOUSINE!

None of us are professionals: we are doing what we have to do to regain our lives, we have a weapon that has always been invincible - we are fighting for what is honorable, right, and Constitutionally guaranteed; we all stand to lose everything we and our children have - it's all on the line. Our opponents are paid mercenaries, they don't understand, nor know how to react to our passion. We will not be denied.

We would ask that you join us...

We are a nationwide family, we stand together, we fight together and we leave whatever small differences we have between us at home.

We will return common sense to Environmental Policy. We will win the Battles and then the War - and at that point all of us... the reluctant warriors, will go back home - none of us will ever be the same, but we will never forget those who have become friends, and yes, family, and stood shoulder to shoulder and risked it all for nothing more, but certainly nothing less, than principle.

This Nation and our individual way of life is too important not to stand in defense of it. United we will be successful, divided we will be picked off one by one.

The way to create the future is to make it happen.
MISSION STATEMENT

The Alliance for America is a nonprofit, grassroots organization of conservationists dedicated to finally bringing human concerns into environmental decision-making.

As an umbrella organization, the Alliance represents 555 diverse groups in 50 states. Ranchers, teachers, shrimpers, homemakers, loggers, nurses, citizens, we are mainstream America making itself heard.

* Human needs come first. We value animals, but we reject the view that elevates animal rights above human needs, and plant communities above human communities.

* Unlock our natural resources. Economics must inform what is environmentally feasible.

* Protect private property rights. Property owners are being trampled in the name of the environment. Congress must balance “the public interest” with the Constitutional rights of compensation for property owners.

In accordance with these aims, the Alliance is dedicated to achieving balance in environmental issues. Situated between the far right and the far left, we are uniquely positioned to achieve such balance solutions. Finally, we are a clearinghouse dedicated to public education and outreach.

In short, we are the new face of conservation, one that cares about the environment and people.
The formation of the Alliance for America assured us that we were not alone. We have recognized the strength that comes with unity and with numbers. Our Alliance family has grown more rapidly than we ever imagined, making it more important that we be able to communicate with one another quickly and effectively.

We have established a variety of means by which we share information.

Almost immediately upon founding the Alliance we initiated a Fax Alert network. The size of our network has grown along with its effectiveness. When immediate action is needed, letters, phone calls, etc., people in all 50 states are alerted to the need for their help. This system is so effective that we have been able to lock down the phones system of the Speaker of the House simply because of the sheer number of calls that were place to his office concerning issues of importance to our members.

We have recently initiated distribution of Alliance materials to federal officials and agency directors. It is our intent to also correspond with state officials by mail and fax.

Our next step must be to get our message out to the general public. The news media must receive on a regular basis the true story—News Releases from across the United States which emphasize the effect of extreme regulatory policies on people, families and communities. Who better to tell it than people whose lives are held hostage to them. We are faxing news releases to over 600 media outlets throughout the nation. News releases come in from local organizations and are routed to the national, regional or state news media. As funds become available we intend to increase our coverage.
VIRGINIA ALBRECHT

Virginia is a partner in Beveridge & Diamond's Washington, D.C. office, practicing primarily in the field of wetlands, endangered species, and private property rights. Virginia represents mainly developers, major industrial corporations, and state and local government agencies. She handles permitting matters and enforcement cases and has been involved in federal and state comprehensive planning efforts, advance identifications and "veto" cases under Section 404(e) of the Clean Water Act and Section 7 consultation, listing proposals and habitat conservation planning under the Endangered Species Act. She has litigated some of the landmark wetlands and endangered species cases, including Messina vs. Robichaud, Hoffman vs. EPA and Marin Audubon Society vs. FDIC.

Virginia is on the associate faculty of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, and is a frequent author and speaker on natural resource and private property issues. She has a bachelor's degree in history from the University of Wisconsin, and an M.A. in communications from the University of Pennsylvania. She received her law degree from Vanderbilt University.

NADINE BAILEY

Nadine Bailey and her husband owned and operated Bailey's Timberfalling in Hayfork, Calif. Due to the injunction placed on the national forests Nadine and her husband were no longer able to operate their business, and as a result Nadine began to involve herself in the political area.

Nadine currently works as a political consultant with the California Forestry Association and the Trinity Bio-Regional Group. She also works closely with the California Department of Natural Resources to coordinate strategy where rural communities are concerned and continues to participate in forestry politics on the national level. Nadine is also the president of California Women in Timber.

For over five years Nadine has played a roll in bringing national attention to the plight of rural communities that depend on natural resources for their well being. She has made presentations to President Bill Clinton, Vice President Al Gore, former President George Bush and former Vice President Dan Quayle. She was one of the few private sector representatives asked to participate in President Clinton's Forest Conference in 1993. ABC news said Nadine's account of the problems facing the logging communities was the turning point in which the Conference ceased to be just another conference, but a real look at the problems facing rural America.

KATHLEEN BENEDETTO

Kathleen Benedetto is president of Western Resource Associates, Inc. (WRA) based in Reno, Nevada. WRA—incorporated in 1989—provides geological consulting services in grassroots mineral exploration.

In February 1993, Kathleen proposed to mining companies that they send women from the industry to Washington, D.C. to meet with legislators working on mining law reform, in an effort to educate them about the industry. The proposal was accepted enthusiastically. With the help of two other geologists, and the support of the industry, the Women's Mining Coalition (WMC) was formed. WMC representatives have made several trips to Washington, D.C. to discuss the modern domestic mining industry with legislators and testified at the Abandoned Mined Lands hearing in 1993. WMC along with the Minerals Resource Alliance has also initiated efforts to educate people within the mining industry and communities about the importance of being part of the political process.

Kathleen holds a B.S. degree in geology from Oregon State University. She began seasonal work with Amoco Minerals in 1977 and accepted a position with Houston Oil and Minerals in 1979.

JIM BENSBERG

Jim currently serves as Washington representative of the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA). He is responsible for monitoring all federal legislation and regulatory initiatives, including the California Desert Protection Act.

Formerly, Jim was AMA's legislative affairs specialist and responsible for state and local issues, primarily transportation, safety and insurance. He aided in the passage of the National Recreational Trails Trust Fund. Jim was responsible for coordinating federal and state efforts to open HOV lanes to
bikes. He is the administrator of AMA’s PRO RIDER public awareness safety campaign.

Jim is a frequent lecturer, talk show guest and spokesperson for AMA. He is a graduate of Reg
Prendmore’s CLASS School, and has a B.A. from Colorado State University in technical journalism,
and a minor in political science. AAS degree in photography from Colorado Mountain College.

ROGER BROWN

Roger Brown is a film producer and director who lives and works on 60 acres outside of Gypsum, Colorado. Recently, Roger has been working on films dealing with natural resource issues. His most
recent films are Western Ranching: Culture in Crisis (to be shown on Discovery Channel in September 1994), and the just released, The Local Forest: A Solution to the Timber Wars. He is currently produc-
ing an issues-oriented documentary for the California Forestry Association focusing on management
practices titled, Logjam.

Previously Roger produced and directed special films and series for ESPN’s Expedition Earth, National Geographic Explorer, Fox Television, Guinness Book of World Records and AMC Sportsman. He has also produced and directed a full length feature film, The Edge, numerous travel films and commercials. He has 28 national and international awards for his films, which include two Clio Awards
and an Emmy.

Roger started out as a cinematographer and continues to shoot all his projects. He works with his
three sons on many of his projects.

DAN HYFIELD

Dan recently became director of legislative affairs for the Farm Credit Bank of Texas. His legisla-
tive responsibilities place an emphasis on property rights, water and environmental issues.

Prior to coming to Farm Credit Bank, he worked in the legislative office of Texas Farm Bureau for
six years. During the 1993 legislative session Dan was heavily involved in the Edwards aquifer nego-
tiations which resulted in specific language protecting the property rights of irrigators and landowners
over the aquifer.

Dan helped create the Natural Resources Foundation of Texas, a nonprofit conservation, research
and education organization.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in journalism, specializing in public relations from University of
Texas, and also has a law degree from the South Texas College of Law in Houston.

DR. MICHAEL S. COFFMAN

Dr. Michael Coffman is president of Environmental Perspectives, Inc., where he provides profes-
sional guidance and training in defining environmental problems and conflicts so appropriate solutions
can be developed.

Before that Michael was a manager for Champion International, a leading U.S. forest and paper
products company. During his tenure he became Chairman of the Forest Health Task Group within the
National Council for the Paper Industry for Air and Stream Improvements. He testified before the
Forestry 2000 Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Michael received his B.S. in forestry and M.S. in biology at Northern Arizona University at Flag-
staff, and his Ph.D. in Forest Science at the University of Idaho at Moscow. He has been involved in
ecosystem research for over 20 years in both academia and industry. He taught and researched forest
ecology and forest community dynamics for ten years at Michigan Technological University.

Michael has written two books exposing the environmentalist agenda; Saviors of the Earth? The
Politics and Religion of Environmentalism and Environmentalism! The Dawn of Aquarius or the Twi-
light of a new Dark Age?

CLARK COLLINS

Clark Collins is founder and executive director of the BlueRibbon Coalition and the publisher of
BlueRibbon Magazine. He realized motorcyclist, snowmobilers, ATVers, four-wheelers, hunters and
even mountain bicyclers and horseback riders had many common interests concerning our public lands.
The BlueRibbon Coalition has since gained over 250 member organizations nationwide and is recog-
nized as a major recreational coalition. Their purpose is illustrated through their motto, "Preserving
our natural resources FOR the public instead of FROM the public."

The Coalition has been featured in Sierra, Buzzworm: The Environmental Journal, US News and
World Report, Outside and Country Life magazines. One of the Coalition’s greatest achievements has
been the passage by Congress of the Symms National Recreational Trails Act in November 1991.

Collins is also on the executive committee of the Environmental Stewardship Foundation and board.

Collins is also on the executive committee of the Environmental Stewardship Foundation and board of directors of American Trails association.

SENATOR LARRY E. CRAIG (R-ID)
Senator Larry E. Craig is serving his first term as a United States Senator.

He was born on the family ranch homestead by his grandfather in 1899. After graduating from the University of Idaho, he pursued graduate studies before returning to the family ranching business in 1971.

In 1974, the people of Payette and Washington counties sent Larry to the Idaho State Senate, where he served three terms before winning the 1980 race for the U.S. Congress from Idaho's First Congressional District. He was re-elected four times before winning the U.S. Senate election in 1990.

As a Westerner and a former rancher, he plays a leading role in the formation of our nation's natural resource and agricultural policies. Senator Craig is a member of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, where he is the ranking Republican on the Subcommittees on Energy Research and Development, and on Public Lands, National Parks and Forest.

He also serves on the Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee where he is the ranking Republican on the Subcommittee on Agriculture Research, Conservation and Forestry. In addition, he is a member of the Subcommittee on Agriculture Production and Stabilization of Prices, and the Subcommittee on Agricultural Credit.

MIKEL DAIL
Mike is president of Federal Land Bank Association of Mason, Texas. He is also a member of the Federal Land Bank Association Legislative Committee. He holds a B.S. degree in business management from Texas A & M University.

MITCHELL M. DUBENSKY
Mitch Dubensky is the director of timberlands and water quality for the American Forest & Paper Association, the trade association representing the pulp, paper, and forest products industry. His responsibilities include forest industry wetlands policy and nonpoint source water pollution strategies, analyzing Clean Water Act legislative proposals and preparing comments on EPA regulations.

Before joining the AF&PA Environment & Health Program, Mitch was a regulatory impact analyst with the Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Solid Waste and the Office of Water for five years. There he developed and managed economic, benefit and cost methodologies for rule makings.

Mitch has a B.S. degree in law and natural resource policy from the University of New Hampshire, an M.S. degree in resource management from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and an M.B.A from Syracuse University.

J. JON DOGGITT
Jon Doggitt is director of governmental relations in the Washington, D.C. office of the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF). He specializes in issues involving natural resources, including public lands, private property rights, grazing fees and endangered species.

Before joining the AFBF, he was the associate director of the Public Lands Council from 1990 to 1991. Prior to that he worked on Capitol Hill in the office of Rep. Ron Marlenee (R-MT) as a legislative assistant for agricultural policy. He spent the previous ten years in the private sector as a district manager for Allis Chalmers Corporation, and as a stockbroker.

Jon is a native of White Sulphur Springs, Montana. He has a degree in finance from the University of Montana. He has been active in a family-owned livestock ranch his entire life.
CINDY DOMENIGONI

Cindy and Andy Domenigoni are fifth generation farmers in Riverside County south of Winchester, California, in the Domenigoni Valley (named after Andy’s great-great grandfather who settled there in 1879). They grow grains, irrigated alfalfa and run a cow/calf operation.

In 1988 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) listed the Stephen’s Kangaroo Rat on the federal list of endangered species. More than one half (1,600 acres) of their 3,000 acre farm was put in a Stephen’s Kangaroo Rat Study Area. In 1990, they were prohibited from farming 800 of the 1,600 acres in the Study Area because the land was considered prime rat habitat. After a four year fight and the 1993 fire devastation they were given verbal permission by FWS to resume farming, but still fear further regulations since they have not received written confirmation from the FWS. They have had a major loss of income from leaving the land idle and have accrued significant lawyer, biologist and consultant fees over the last four years as a result of the Endangered Species Act.

MARY FLANDERKA

Mary Flanderka represents the Black Hills Regional Multiple Use Coalition, a grassroots organization which formed approximately three years ago as a result of the Sierra Club Wilderness Proposal for the Black Hills National Forest. The group has the support of 31 organizations representing over 20,000 people throughout Wyoming and South Dakota. Mary is a forester and is employed by the Black Hills Forest Resource Association.

JACK N. GERARD

Jack Gerard co-founded the firm of McClure, Gerard & Neuenschwander, Inc. (MGN). He has a diverse background in government relations, legislative activity, and government administration which includes service to legislators in Congress and the state executive branch.

Prior to joining MGN, he served as director of legislative activities for U.S. Senator James A. McClure. Along with supervising a legislative staff, Jack was a senior policy advisor and strategist. He was involved in drafting legislation and developing successful strategies to secure passage.

Jack served in a similar capacity for former U.S. Rep. George Hansen. In addition to his legislative responsibilities, he served as co-director of the campaign and assisted with fundraising efforts.

Prior to his House service, Jack was a consultant/lobbyist before the Idaho State Legislature and as an aide to the Governor of Idaho in the Department of Parks and Recreation.

He attended the University of Idaho, and graduated with special honors in political science from George Washington University, and received his law degree from the National Law Center at George Washington University.

ROBERT GORDON, JR.

Rob Gordon is co-founder and director of the National Wilderness Institute (NWI). Established in 1989, NWI promotes common sense, science-based environmental strategies which emphasize active resource management and a free market approach to environmental concerns ranging from endangered species to wetlands. NWI accomplishes its mission through public education programs designed to enhance overall understanding of issues relating to natural resource management.

As director of NWI, Rob lectures to professional groups, students, foundations and associations across the country. He has been on radio and television programs such as It's Your Business, Technopolitics, NPR and CNN's The World Today. Rob has also written articles for National Review, Policy Review and newspapers across the country. He has also testified before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in Soviet studies and Russian from Vanderbilt University.

RICHARD GUTTING, JR.

Richard Gutting is the vice president of governmental relations of the National Fisheries Institute (NFI). NFI was founded in 1915 and is the largest trade association serving the U.S. seafood industry. NFI includes over 1,000 companies engaged in harvesting, processing or marketing fish and seafood.

Richard has been actively involved in fishery issues for over twenty years. He has held several positions in government including serving as director of the Office of Policy and Planning for the National Marine Fisheries Service, the NOAA assistant general counsel for fisheries, counsel for the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, and as a senior level advisor to the President’s Council on Environmental Quality.
National Marine Fisheries Service, the NOAA assistant general counsel for fisheries, counsel for the House Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment, and as a senior legal advisor to the President’s Council on Environmental Quality.

Prior to his government service he practiced law as a specialist in oceans, environmental and natural resources law. He received his law degree from Stanford Law School.

JAMES J. HICKEY, JR.

James Hickey is president of the American Horse Council (AHC) in Washington, D.C. AHC is a nonprofit national legislative representative for the horse industry. AHC works with Congress, federal agencies, media and within the industry itself to ensure a healthy future for the people who depend on, care about and enjoy horses.

James has also served as legal counsel and director of government relations for AHC. Before joining the AHC he was in private practice and represented the AHC and other sports and equine organizations as well as horse owners and breeders. James has a B.B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law School.

SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN (D-AL)

Senator Howell Heflin was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1978 and is serving his third term.

Senator Heflin is a graduate from Birmingham-Southern College and the University of Alabama Law School. He began practicing law in 1948. He was Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court from 1971 to 1977. He gained national recognition for his court reform package, which opened Alabama’s state courts to newspaper and radio coverage and television cameras.

Senator Heflin presently serves on the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, and the