Appalachian Alternatives

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FOREST COMMONS: THE TIME HAS COME

For the more than 200 participants from 19 states at Eastern Kentucky University on March 31st and April 1st, the message was one of deep concern: how are we going to preserve and enhance our American private forestlands? A sizeable portion of our forests (95% of Eastern American woodlands) is threatened by economic pressures and environmental pollution. Chip and pulp mill operators cast a hungry eye on these lands; air pollution continues to take its toll. While participants possessed a wide range of opinion and background, they voiced satisfaction in the process of soliciting suggestions for actions within a small discussion group format. Among ideas voiced at the conference:

* a need to regulate private woodlands in some degree;

* this regulation need not be oppressive in nature;

* governmental agencies should spend as much time assisting the private small woodland operators as in caring for large corporate loggers and wood products operators.

Forest Commons Conference

We have a great number of folks to thank and hope we did not leave out any. Besides the coordinating team of Mary Davis, Paul Kalisz and Al Fritsch we deeply appreciate the work of Martha Bond who fielded a thousand questions, filled packets, and heard the gripes of the discontented, of Paul Winther for assembling press and distributing press packets, of those at the registration desk -- Pam Broadston, Jerry Waddle, and Janet Melton, of the Conference ushers Wade Davidson, Keith Aitkin, Jason McGaughey, and Dan Bond, of the video and still camera crew of Joey Kesler, Mark Spencer, and Jack Kieffer, to the small group discussion leaders, and to the main speakers -- Eugene Hargrove, Kristin Shrader-Frechette, Tom Barnes, Wendell Berry, Eric Freyfogle, Don Girtin, Denny Haldeman, Dan Berry, and Sharon Duggan. Without their generous support this Conference could not have occurred. We are also indebted to the Lyndhurst Foundation and to the Educational Foundation of America for furnishing much needed money to allow this conference to occur.