ASPI

FOREST PROJECT

NOTES FROM THE FOREST

Timothy Collins has now completed two of about twelve issue papers on forestry. These first two are -- "In Defense of National Forests" and "Between a Rock and a Mandate, the Philosophy of the Forest Service."

"In Defense of National Forests" defends the idea of commonwealth as democratic and questions the motivations of those who seek to privatize government lands. The essay argues that even if the Forest Service has abused its trust, National Forests are crucial, and the Service should be reformed.

"Between a Rock and a Mandate" examines the underpinnings of "The Mandate" or mission statement of the Forest Service, which is subject to differing interpretations and full of contradictions.

Each of the dozen or so papers of this series to be produced by Timothy Collins during 1992 will be sold for $5.00 each through the ASPI Publications Department. More will be announced in the fall newsletter.

Actions -- Our ASPI forest display has been seen by at least ten thousand people. Special thanks to the many people and places that have helped in its exposure.

* In May Mark Spencer represented ASPI at the annual regional Heartwood meeting held in Ohio.

* ASPI assisted Kentucky Heartwood demonstrators with publicity and creating banners for their demonstration at the headquarters of the Forest Service - Daniel Boone National Forest at Winchester. On John Muir's birthday, the group presented a birthday cake in protest of the U.S. Forest Service's blatant mismanagement of the Daniel Boone and our other national forests. In response to the peaceful assembly of young people, the Service called in the police, furloughed the staff, locked the headquarters' doors, and sent out a spokesperson with a prepared statement accusing the group of co-opting the Sierra Club into their "radical" actions.

* Official representatives of the Forest Service in the Daniel Boone National Forest have continued a campaign of intimidation against ASPI on a number of fronts. Attempts to hinder our forest protection work have included a letter concerning the unauthorized use of the Smokey the Bear character, following the demonstration at the Winchester office. A legal response has been written to Roger Eubanks of the U.S.F.S. by Attorney Elizabeth Natter of the Kentucky Resources Council. Other actions include letters from the head of the Forest Service - Daniel Boone National Forest to other environmental groups condemning Kentucky Heartwood. The service has shared our petition list with ORV associations which have applied pressure in the most unusual places, such as the Catholic Diocese of Lexington and horseback riders associations.

* We have served notice to the Stanton District office of the U.S.F.S. that if they extend ORV traffic in that incredibly beautiful Red River Gorge area, we will alert national press and television people to do features on the systematic destruction of our forest areas.

NATIONAL FOREST LAND PURCHASE

Plans are afoot to help the U.S. Forest Service purchase two additional tracts of land for the Daniel Boone National Forest. One is on Spencer Ridge, and the other is along the Rockcastle River. ASPI has taken the position that while the purchase is a good idea, this is an excellent opportunity to inform Congressional representatives about our dissatisfaction as citizens with Forest Service management policies. This is what we have done.

Justification for the purchase includes natural resource preservation, wildlife habitat, and recreation. We argue that these are laudable goals, but the Forest Service falls far short in its operations. We believe the purchase should be funded only if these goals are met with the highest standards.