

NLWJC- Kagan

Counsel - Box 004 - Folder 004

Timber-China Left

Jack + Kathy -

Dinah Bear of CEA sent me the attached yesterday. She tells me that nothing happened on August 5, the date mentioned in the memo. Still, we should keep on top of this situation - and more broadly, make sure we are involved in ~~your~~ any discussions of how to handle controversial timber sales this summer.

Elena



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM FOR HAROLD ICKES

FROM: James R. Lyons
Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment, USDA

AUG 03 1996

SUBJECT: China Left Timber Sale Protests

ISSUE: The Forest Service is managing a number of controversial timber sales in the Pacific Northwest. Protests over these timber sales have increased in recent months, including sit-ins, demonstrations, and road closures. Communications over the Internet have increased environmental interest in these sales and encouraged protestors. Although the Forest Service, the Attorney General's Office and local law enforcement officials have managed these situations well thus far, the threat of violence always exists. In light of the potential for media coverage of such protests, I am providing the following information.

BACKGROUND: The sale of immediate concern is called "China Left" on the Siskiyou National Forest in Oregon. The sale is a so-called "section 318" timber sale, authorized by the FY 1990 Interior Appropriations bill. The sale involves the harvest of 12.7 million board feet (MMBF) of old-growth timber, by both clearcuts and some thinning. Although the sale involves some of the reserve areas (known as "late successional reserve") in the President's forest plan and is in a key watershed designated by the plan, the harvest of this sale unit was anticipated when the forest plan was completed -- i.e., its harvest will not have a detrimental effect on the forest plan. The sale was awarded in June of 1995. Approximately 25 percent of the sale has been harvested. The sale owner elected to continue operations on the sale this past week.

Since early July, 1996, protestors have occupied a road leading into a portion of the sale containing the most controversial units. That occupation is likely to continue and an increase in protestors and protest activity will probably occur when the sale operator begins harvest in the blockaded drainage. There are no road closures in effect.

On August 2, approximately 30 protestors attempted to block a Forest Service road accessing one of the controversial sale units. A woman was arrested by the Josephine County Sheriff's Office when she attempted to deny loggers access to the sale area. Additional protestors are actively being sought through the Internet and other networks to join the encampment on the road. A protest rally is schedule for August 5 and the Illinois Valley Ranger Station.

At the same time, the local community is becoming increasingly frustrated at the entrenchment and "failure of government" to resolve the situation. Some individuals have threatened to take matters into their own hands. Local media is giving the situation broad coverage.

DISCUSSION: Rough and Ready Lumber, who owns the sale, intends to continue logging on Monday, August 5. Forest Service law enforcement will have approximately 15 officers in the vicinity starting this weekend to prevent any further blockages or entrenchments and to attempt to ensure public safety. Josephine county Sheriff Deputies will also be available. The District Attorney and U.S. Attorney's Offices have been informed of the situation.

Plans to remove the protestors from the entrenchment location are being made. The FBI will be consulted during this process.

The situation with timber sales like these will continue to be tense throughout the summer. There is concern in the Forest Service that cancellation of China Left or other controversial timber sales will encourage further protests on future sales. I have asked the Chief of the Forest Service, Jack Ward Thomas, to provide me with a list of timber sales in the region where similar protests are likely and to recommend an overall plan of action. In addition, Tom Lyons, regional law enforcement director for the Forest Service will be in Washington, D.C. next week so that we might discuss a broader strategy.

SUMMARY: One protestor has been arrested at the China Left Timber Sale on the Siskiyou National Forest. Protests are likely to continue and possibly escalate as the more controversial units of this sale are harvested. Some media coverage is likely. Forest Service law enforcement is working with the county sheriffs office, and the offices of the district attorney and the U.S. attorney on overall strategy. There is need for a broader strategy to address future timber sale protests in the region this summer. That work is underway.

cc: Secretary Glickman
Greg Frazier
Katie McGinty
Lois Schiffer
Jack Thomas

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

05-Aug-1996 06:16pm

TO: Jennifer M. O'Connor

FROM: Dinah Bear
Council on Environmental Quality

SUBJECT: China Left Sale

Shelley said you inquired as to whether there was any update from Jim Lyons' Aug. 3rd memo to Harold. I just talked to Jim Lyons, and he said he had heard nothing about China Left today and had asked to be alerted if there was any news. He is also working with Jack to develop a list this week of problematic sales as a start to developing an overall strategy for dealing with these issues.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E , P R E S I D E N T

05-Aug-1996 06:20pm

TO: Elena Kagan

FROM: Dinah Bear
 Council on Environmental Quality

SUBJECT: China Left sale - fyi

FYI, Lyons sent an informational memo to Harold Ickes on August 3rd about the China Left sale in Oregon, yet another controversial 318 sale w/protestors and law enf. issues. Jennifer asked Shelley about any follow-up this afternoon, and attached is my response. If you don't have the memo to Ickes and would like to have it, i'll fax it to you.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

05-Aug-1996 06:57pm

TO: Jennifer M. O'Connor

FROM: Dinah Bear
 Council on Environmental Quality

SUBJECT: RE: China Left Sale

i won't be involved in the internal USDA/FS discussions, but I'll ask Jim to set up a briefing for you and other and other interested people around here when there's a proposal. . . .

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

05-Aug-1996 06:29pm

TO: Dinah Bear

FROM: Jennifer M. O'Connor
 Office of The Chief of Staff

SUBJECT: RE: China Left Sale

could you show me drafts of and involve me in discussions of the overall strategy for dealing with these -- thanks

Tack + Kathy -

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Elena

To Elena -
Tackles; does
David have this
info, too?

TO KATHY KW

DONE

ELENA



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Hand -
FYI. I've also
given copies to
Tach + Kathy

Elena
P.S. Nothing happened
on Aug 5.

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cc: Secretary Glickman
Greg Frazier
Katie McGinty
Lois Schiffer
Jack Thomas

Name	Date
<i>Steven Reich</i>	<i>6/2/99</i>

Counsel