

**Regional**

# Timber compromise gets mixed reviews

By Carol Ann Riha  
Associated Press

PORTLAND (AP) — Environmentalists were satisfied the one-year timber compromise approved by the U.S. Senate on Saturday was a short-term setback that heralds a more sensitive approach to selling federal timber.

"This is a last-ditch attempt by Sen. (Mark) Hatfield to forestall the inevitable," Oregon Natural Resources Council spokesman Wendell Wood said Saturday. "The level of cutting adopted by the Senate is not sustainable."

The plan, approved as an amendment to Interior appropriations legislation, provides for the sale of 9.6 billion board feet of timber in Northwest federal forests during the fiscal year that started last Sunday.

However, the compromise expires Sept. 30, 1990, at which time the U.S. Forest Service is required to have completed its 10-year management plans.

"Very clearly, Congress and the agency itself are going to reassess how they manage the national forests. I see the potential for us really to begin thinking about how we can integrate ecological and commodity values," Jerry F. Franklin, an expert on old-growth forest ecology, told *The Oregonian*.

Reps. Les AuCoin, D-Ore., and Norm Dicks, D-Wash., had battled Reps. Chester Atkins, D-Mass., and Rep. Sidney R. Yates, D-Ill., in committee sessions for days to achieve the version approved Saturday.

"Pull one thread and the whole thing will unravel," AuCoin had said after the Sept. 28 session in which the final language was drafted. It passed the House on Tuesday.

Hatfield, R-Ore., whose own version was shot down earlier by environmentalist lobbying in the House, was not overly enthusiastic about its passage.

"I cannot say that this is perfect legislation, or that it is my preferred approach, but this compromise does provide an adequate balance between two competing desires — the need to protect old-growth forest stands for the northern spotted owl, and the need to provide raw materials for the wood products industry," Hatfield



Wendell Wood

said Saturday.

Wood said he, too, was not pleased with the details. The sales involve "in excess of a billion board feet that are in the middle of critical owl habitat," he said. "You can't continue to accelerate the level of clear-cutting and argue that you're protecting the spotted owl and other old growth-dependent wild-life species."

Federal forest managers in the Northwest already had begun reviewing the measure, Bureau of Land Management spokesman Ed Ciliberti said.

"We're pleased that the delegation had been successful in getting this compromise through," Ciliberti said. "It will provide both the agency (BLM) and the timber industry and, I think, the environmentalists, a sense of certainty over the next year as to how the forests are going to be managed."

"Perhaps most important, hopefully it will allow all the parties in this to focus their attention ... on our planning for the '90s process, which is well under way at this time," Ciliberti said.

The compromise sets timber sales quotas of 7.7 billion feet for the U.S. Forest Service and 1.9 billion board feet for the BLM.

"During '89 we sold about 750 million million board feet, so our actual target for fiscal '90 is actually 1.15 billion board feet. And that's roughly our average allowable sale quantity for one year," Ciliberti said.

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