



The History of Wild Alabama

Chapter One

By Lamar Marshall

WILD ALABAMA

HOW A GRASS-ROOTS MOVEMENT REKINDLED THE CONSERVATION MOVEMENT TO SAVE THE BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST FROM CLEARCUTTING , POISONING AND THE CONVERSION TO LOBLOLLY PINE PLANTATIONS, IE, BIOLOGICAL DESERTS

The grassroots movement that launched in October of 1991 as *The Bankhead Monitor* and later Wild Alabama was, in a sense, the continuation of work begun in the 1960s by activists and visionaries who realized the necessity of organizing the people of Alabama into a powerful coalition to counter powerful polluters and resource-extracting industries that poisoned our waters and air, strip-mined our National Forests and clearcut ancient hardwood stands.

The Alabama Conservancy, later the Alabama Environmental Council, was conceived in 1967 by a visionary named Mary Burks, her husband Bob and numerous other concerned, conservation-minded people. On May 17th, 1975, the Conservancy celebrated the establishment of the 12,726-acre Sipsey Wilderness in the Bankhead National Forest, after an arduous campaign and an Act of Congress. In 1979, a second campaign culminated in the addition of 13,274 acres in 1988, bringing the acreage to up to 24,922 acres.

Many of the members of the Alabama Conservancy joined hands with us and supported us in every way.

Throughout the Conservancy campaigns to save the Sipsey area, the ridgetops surrounding the future Sipsey Wilderness were being logged mercilessly, filled with roads, sprayed with herbicides, burned, and planted in loblolly pine plantations. These lands were classified as “suitable for timber production.” This issue, the clearcutting and conversion of the Bankhead ridgetops became the focus of our campaigns. With hundreds of miles of canyons adjacent to the ridges, the impacts were severe due to runoff of silt and poisons.



Two photos of the carnage in Indian Tomb Hollow: bottom photo of the logging. Top photo is the looted graves in the Indian Tomb bluff shelter

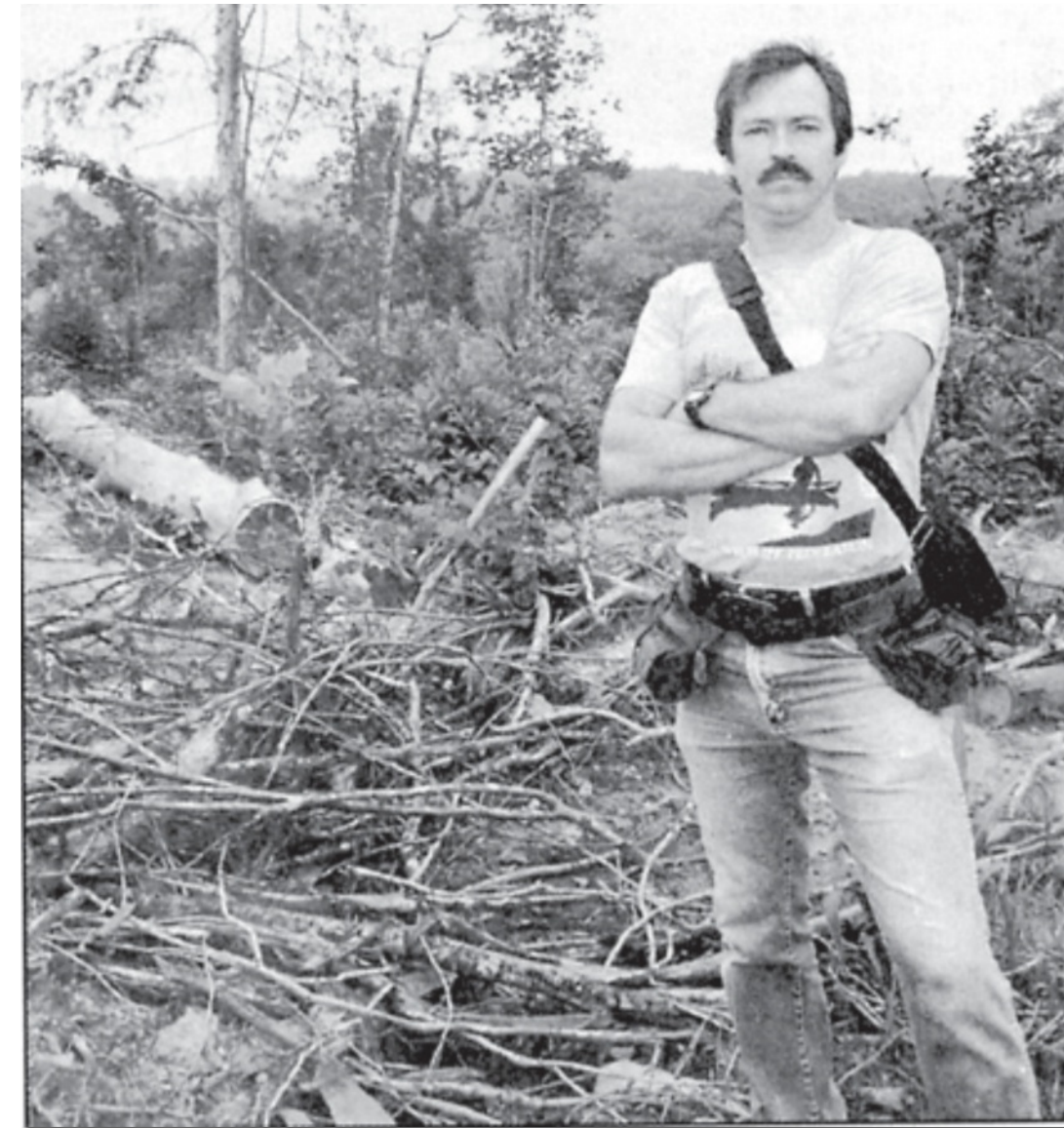


Several years into our campaign, we contracted with NASA scientists to study these impacts. We also sought special a designation and management for the geologically significant canyons that were outside of the designated Wilderness. Being riparian zones along streams, the canyons not suitable for timber management but still vulnerable for many destructive, ground-disturbing activities.

So, though I describe our founding as a continuation of the work of the Alabama Conservancy, it had an entirely different mission and goal. The mission of the Alabama Conservancy movement was to obtain federally designated Wilderness in 26,000 acres of the heart of the Bankhead. Our battle would be to protect nearly 150,000 acres of mountaintops forest-wide and later to protect all the National Forests of Alabama. The timber industry was adamantly against the creation of the Sipsey Wilderness. They vowed that not one more inch of the Forest would be off-limits to logging. When the Bankhead Monitor was incorporated and became a viable opponent to logging and roadbuilding in the Bankhead, we found ourselves pitted against an organized coalition of State and Federal agencies, including ADEM, the USFS, Forest Commission of Alabama and most dangerously, Wise Use groups of extreme conspiracy theorists funded by corporations. We were branded watermelon environmentalists - "green on the outside and pink on the inside." It is one thing to carry out a campaign from an office a hundred miles away; it is quite another to live in the "war zone" looking over one's shoulder all the time.

In August of 1991, the Forest Service clearcut about 40 acres from the heart of Indian Tomb Hollow. The local outcry was great, and having just moved into the Bankhead, I met the people who would change my life and destiny forever.

Lamar Marshall



Lamar Marshall 1991

Founder, publisher, editor, and executive director of Wild Alabama 17 years,

"By early 1980, the Sipsey had become my place of refuge. During my explorations alone, I found a secret bluff shelter deep in the central section of Sipsey Wilderness, way back beyond some twisted tangles of mountain laurel. I had to crawl under a hidden ledge which opened up into a large room. I made this my camp and left my primitive tools there between trips. During all those years, no one ever found my hide-away. I killed my first deer a mile back into the Sipsey and had to drag it all the way out and take it to the check-in station operated by Fish and Game. I built fires with a hand drill and cedar bark. (not a bow drill)."

Indian Tomb Hollow should not be logged

By Rickey Butch Walker
Advertiser Columnist

One of the earliest writings about Lawrence County's Indian legends was published in the Moulton Democrat in 1856. The author, who was listed as WHG, received his information first-hand from a Chickasaw who was familiar with the events which took place somewhere around the 1780s.

The article was researched by Spencer Waters in 1967 and was

reprinted from the original story.

The Battle of Indian Tomb Hollow was the early story about a battle in a long-running conflict between the Chickasaw and Creek Indians, who both claimed Lawrence County as their hunting ground. The center of controversy during the Chickasaw-Creek War was over the loyalty of the Chickasaw to the English and later

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Bankhead

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the American government.

The Chickasaw freely traded with the Americans, who were at the same time pushing the Creek Nation westward out of Georgia; however, the battle of Indian Tomb Hollow evolved from the capture of a beautiful half-blood Chickasaw-French maiden, Ittaloknah or Magnolia, by a small Creek hunting party.

The Battle of Indian Tomb Hollow began as a running fight between a few warriors and over a period of some three days developed into a full scale conflict with some 60 Creeks and Chickasaws eventually getting killed.

Ittaloknah, who was a casualty of the fight, died in Indian Tomb Hollow.

Skirmishes between the Chickasaw and Creek warriors

occurred from Town Creek in the western part of Lawrence County to the box canyon some six miles southeast of Moulton, now known as Indian Tomb. The dead warriors, along with Ittaloknah, were buried in a large sink within the beautiful canyon.

Today, over 200 years after the sadness caused by the death of rival red brothers, another tragedy is occurring within Lawrence County's beautiful Indian Tomb Hollow.

In 1798, the Creeks and Chickasaws agreed to live in peace, but today those of the two tribes who are buried in Indian Tomb Hollow have no peace.

Roads, clear-cutting, skidders, loaders, log trucks, and chainsaws have entered the eastern end of Indian Tomb Hollow, and some 20 acres or more have already been

clear cut.

Several months ago, I made a plea in an article to spare the hollow from the chainsaw, but this historical place will take another 200 years to return to its primeval state.

After receiving word that clear-cutting had begun, on Sunday afternoon I went into Indian Tomb Hollow to evaluate the destruction and devastation which is now occurring in the most famous sandstone box canyon of Lawrence County.

On the northwestern slope of the hollow, huge hardwood trees have been clear-cut to the very edge of the bluff line. My Indian friend and I were saddened by the impact in an area we viewed as being hallowed ground.

Desecration of such a beautiful, historical, and asthetically pleasing

area shows disregard by the U. S. Forest Service for one of Lawrence County's most precious jewels.

Indian Tomb Hollow forms the left prong of the Gillespie Creek drainage system. The hollow begins at the sandstone bluff line just uphill from James Richard Gillespie's old homeplace, with the valley proceeding southwesterly forming a beautiful sandstone box canyon.

I became intent on seeing the remaining untouched bluff line of Indian Tomb Hollow that I once walked as a small boy with my granddaddy. I stopped at all the old beech trees to read the names and dates of those who had been there many years before.

The earliest date which was clearly visible was in 1924, with many of the old trees having dates which appeared to be much earlier.

Many old remains of early campfires appeared under the massive sandstone bluffs. Someone could have had their vision quest beneath those towering sandstone cliffs.

The solitude and serenity of such a sacred place could allow one to reach within himself and truly know God's purpose for his existence.

I'm not waging a new Battle of

Indian Tomb Hollow, but I am expressing the pain that any sensitive person would feel when walking hallowed ground that is being systematically altered.

Indian Tomb Hollow, the Gillespie Spring and homeplace, and Gillespie Cemetery need historic site protection from the caretakers who are supposed to protect our public lands and resources-the U. S. Forest Service.



Rickey Butch Walker (top) and Dr. Charles Borden (left) were my first contacts and inspiration to take on the U.S. Forest Service policies that were destroying the native diversity of the ridge tops and degrading the pristine waters of the

Blue Clan

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The Dancing Rabbit Studio.

Manasco remembers her grandfather always trying to prove his Indian heritage, but added that he was never able to quite fulfill his exact dream. She continued with research into her Cherokee ancestry. "It is something I have felt and known all my life, it was just a point of tracing my roots. My family and I have always been artistically inclined. I was a basket maker before I became a potter," she said.

Manasco is not surprised that she is continuing with the crafts that her ancestors passed down through the generations. She will be displaying some of her crafts at Depot Days including water bottles and jars. "When my teacher found out I wanted to learn about Cherokee pottery, she was so excited. So few people know how to do it anymore," she said.

The Blue Clan dance team, which is relatively new will be performing in Sparkman Park the day of the Depot Days festival. Led by Greg Preston, the team will perform the intertribal, friendship, buffalo, horse and quail dances.

Blue Clan dancers will be dressed in After the Removal periodic clothing. This includes a tear dress for women made of regalia, mocassins, belts, feather fans and shawls. Traditional dress for men includes ribbon shirts, breach clothes and blue jeans.

Other Indian artisans attending include Steve Russell, leather work; Pat Weeks, bead work; Darryl Patton, herbalist; Barbara Smith, period clothing; a bow maker, Indian symbolist and story tellers.

Ruth Manasco has made her living with functional pottery for many years. She, her husband and daughter have a studio on Clear Creek in Winston County called

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INDIAN DRUMMING--Jim Manasco, left, and Faron Weeks are busy drumming out the Indian beats for the dance team to practice.



INTERTRIBAL DANCE--Each tribe, including the Echota Cherokee tribe, has their own intertribal dance which is unique. Pictured are some of the dancers practicing the steps for Depot Days.



FITTING THE MOCASSIN--Pat Weeks of Hartselle is busy fitting a moccasin on five-year-old, Alex's small foot in preparation for dance team practice.

Blue Clan Indians to Dance at Depot Days

Echota Tribe Rediscovered Cherokee Heritage By Carrying on Legacy of Authentic Crafts

By ANGIE MAPLES
Home & Family Editor

Throughout the years, history has preserved the legacy of the American Indians and has recorded their discoveries and contributions to today's society. Since modernization, many Indian descendants have lost interest in their roots, however, the Blue Clan, members of the Echota Cherokee Tribe, are making it their quest to preserve authentic crafts, dances and sacred land for their descendants.

Members of the Echota Cherokee Tribe are the descendants of the original Cherokee population of the southeastern United States who avoided removal to the west in 1838. Many of the people drifted into the hills, hollows and back country away from the mainstream of people and lived by whatever

means were available.

Since that time, these Indians have been aware of their original beginnings. The love of lifestyle, customs and oneness with nature still courses strongly through their veins. Over the years, they intermarried with the local white people or people from other tribes and there was a general dilution of Cherokee blood, but no diminishing of the desire to retain threads of Cherokee heritage and custom.

With the passage of the Davis-Strong Act in May 1984, the Tribe was given state recognition and the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission was created. The tribal structure is geared towards education. Much emphasis is placed on preserving the history, culture, language, religion and crafts of the Cherokee people.

Bobby Gillespie of Moulton is

the leader of the Blue Clan. He is currently serving the second of his elected terms. As the leader, he represents Cullman, Morgan, Winston and Lawrence counties at State Pow Wows. He and many members of the Blue Clan will attend the Hartselle Depot Days Festival where many crafts and skills will be displayed.

Traditionally, clans were divided through the blood line of the mother, according to Gillespie. Because the Indians have moved around, they are divided into districts. Gillespie is about one-third Cherokee and receives his Indian attributes from both sides of his family.

Gillespie noted that the Cherokee Indians have a rich heritage in Alabama. They were the first Indians to have contact with white people with the expedition of

Desoto in the 1540's. The Echota tribe consists of 20,000 members. Six thousand of those members make up the Blue Clan.

"Lawrence County has the largest Indian population in Alabama, according to the 1990 census. The way I see it is that we've got to get back to the Indian way of thinking. We have to be caretakers of the earth instead of just takers," said Gillespie.

In addition to leading the Blue Clan, Gillespie is a proficient silversmith. He began learning this craft in the early 1960's from the Zunis and Pueblos in Colorado. Upon his return to Alabama, he continued his skill under the leadership of a Navajo friend.

Gillespie noted that the first silversmith was Sequoyah, a famous Cherokee. He is proud of his Indian heritage and hopes to preserve a

portion of it through his craft. He noted that many Indians made their silver and metal crafts to trade for food or materials during the winter. This is where the "trading post" idea originated.

Lamar Marshall and his wife, Donna, are the founders of the *Bankhead Monitor*, a publication which prints many interesting articles about Bankhead Forest. The *Monitor* began after efforts by local environmentalists to stop the Forestry Commission from clear cutting 2,000 acres per year. "It is

economically and ecologically unsound. They are clearing out the animals, rare plants and the silt is filling the streams. I believe they could bring in a lot more revenue by using Bankhead as a recreational area as opposed to cutting down 130,000 trees," he said.



BLUE CLAN GATHERING IN INDIAN TOMB HOLLOW

Front row stooping: Derick Gillespie ?, Unk boy, Klieta Bagwell, Dawn and Bobby Gillespie, Trach and Greg Preston, Charles "Blue Snake" Kennedy, Pat Weeks, intern Lisa Mulligan, unk, unk.

Upper row: Sheila Moss, dau of Barbara...., Rusty Manasco, Gene Bagwell (hat), unk Indian visitor, ??? Man hat feather, Barbara Smith ?, unk man red cap, Steve...red bandana, visitor from native tribe, Lynn Porter, Faron

Weeks, Bill Burgess??

ECHOTA CHEROKEE TRIBE

P.O. Box 190103
Birmingham, AL 35219

September 20, 1991



RESOLUTION

We, the Governing Body of the Echota Cherokee Tribe, are very distressed at the news of timber cutting, earth moving and road building in Indian Tomb Hollow. We feel that Indian Tomb and Kinlock Rock Shelter are sacred Indian sites where our people can seek and be filled with power. A place to go for their vision quests and to be at one with the earth and our Creator. The High Town Path is also an historic Indian trail used by many tribes for hundreds and possibly thousands of years.

We feel that all of these sites are of significant sacred value to the Indian people in the State of Alabama and of historical value to all of the citizens in the State of Alabama.

We, therefore resolve that tribal members in Lawrence County have the full support of the Echota Cherokee Tribal Governing Body in their endeavors to stop the destruction and to provide future protection of these sacred Indian sites in Lawrence County and the Bankhead National Forest.

It is also our opinion that the National Forests belong to the "PEOPLE" and that the Forest Service is there as the caretaker; therefore, we feel that the Forest Service will be most co-operative in issuing a cease and desist order to the logging in the area and as restitution should initiate interpretative, historical and cultural awareness in Indian Tomb for our Indian children in Lawrence County.

We further resolve to set in motion efforts to have these sites set aside permanently because of their sacred and historical value to all Indian people and to set in motion efforts to obtain Forest acreage for the purpose of having a permanent gathering place for the Indian people in Lawrence County.

Charlotte Stewart
Vice Principal Chief
Echota Cherokee Tribe
Presiding Officer

September 20, 1991



Above, one of a series of meetings of the Blue Clan and Wild Alabama participants in Kinlock Rock Shelter.

Left: the framework of the Indian Tomb Hollow sweat lodge where ceremonies were held.

War whoops about saws at Indian site

By JEFF LOWE
DAILY Staff Writer

MOULTON — It's too late to stop clear-cutting of trees in Indian Tomb Hollow in the Bankhead National Forest southeast of here because...

Some residents of the Pinhook community at the forest's northern edge in Lawrence County are angry because they are destroying the site of an early American settlement...

Butch Walker, who directs Lawrence County's Indian Education Program, grew up exploring the hollow in that community. He said that the U.S. Forest Service is letting a significant historical site be "desecrated."

James Richard Gillespie, one of the first settlers in the area, settled in Indian Tomb Hollow after fighting in the Creek war of 1812 with the East Tennessee Volunteers.

Remnants of Gillespie's home and his family cemetery remain. A large slave cemetery dat-

ing after Gillespie's death when the Alexander family had a 2,000-acre plantation there lies nearby, Walker said.

"But what gives the place its unique history is not those things," Walker said, "but the battle of Indian Tomb Hollow, which was founded on the war of the Chickasaws with the Creeks" in the late 1700s.

Local historian Spencer Waters found a series of stories that appeared in The Moulton Democrat in 1856. The stories described a

battle between Chickasaw and Creek warriors over the kidnapping of a Chickasaw woman named "Ittaloknah" about 1776.

The writer signed only the initials "W.H.C." to the stories, and claimed to have heard them from an elder of the Chickasaw tribe. According to the story, Ittaloknah, which means "magnolia," was gathering berries when a Creek hunting party captured her.

The Creeks fled southwest from what is now Please see IND[AN], page A10



Early camps of the Blue Clan of Echotas in Indian Tomb and other sites across the Bankhead.

At left is Bobby Gillespie who was the leader of the Blue Clan when I met the group and we began formulating our plan to save the Forest. Bobby's ancestors are buried in Indian Tomb Cemetery. Bobby passed away several years ago. May his memory be eternal.

THE DECATUR DAILY, Monday morning, September 2, 1991

Indian

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Colbert County, across Town Creek and toward the mountainous region of southern Lawrence County, which both tribes claimed as hunting grounds.

As word of the kidnapping spread, other Chickasaws joined the chase. The tribes finally joined in a major battle deep in Indian Tomb Hollow, apparently named because of the many deaths, including that of Ittaloknah.

By 1856 when W.H.C. reported the story, the place had long been known as "Indian Tomb Hollow." He wrote that Indians often went to the hollow to grieve and even to die on the old graves.

"The 'pale face' now soon occupied the land far and wide," he wrote, "not satisfied with his treatment to the red man during life, his bones were not sacred in death. The grave of Eagle Eye and Magnolia was torn open, and the bones were left to moulder (sic) in the winds of winter and the dews of summer."

And Jackie Harville said she and some other Lawrence County residents are organizing a petition drive to protect the place from logging. She said they will present the petitions to Alabama's congressional delegation and the state historical commission.

But the move is too late to stop the logging. District Forest Ranger James Ramey said all 33 acres in the hollow planned to be clear-cut



(DAILY Photo by Mark Davis)

Butch Walker in Indian Tomb Hollow

have already been harvested.

There will be some more tree-cutting over the winter in that stand as part of a "hardwood regeneration" project, Ramey said. Trees too small to cut for timber will be cut so that sprouts will grow from the stumps. The technique is called "chain saw site preparation" and it lets the stand grow at a uniform rate, he said.

The 33 acres that was clear-cut represents about one-tenth of the more than 360 acres in Indian Tomb Hollow, he said. The hollow is part of a 977-acre "compartment" the Forest Service sold to logger O.L. Robbins in March, 1990, for \$20,713.52.

The Forest Service sells logging rights in any compartment to the highest bidder.

The contract called for Robbins to clear-cut the 33 acres in Indian Tomb Hollow, clear-cut another 135 acres outside the hollow, and thin an additional 160 acres in the compartment, Ramey said.

Ramey said the Forest Service advertises for public input before awarding contracts to log compartments, and no one expressed any concern before the contract was awarded.

Walker said that the advertisements list only north-south compartments, without names of hollows or

creeks, or other colloquial references people would recognize.

Ramey said a Forest Service archaeologist did a "cultural survey" of the compartment in January of 1989 that lasted two days and found that the logging "should have no effect on any cultural resources eligible for the National Register of Historic Places."

Walker counters that two days is not enough time to analyze Indian Tomb Hollow, let alone the compartment.

Ramey said he will "try and set up a meeting with any interested parties to find out exactly what their concerns are."



Paper blasts Bankhead log cutting

By JEFF LOWE
DAILY Staff Writer

MOULTON — Lamar Marshall said if Smokey the Bear could see how the U.S. Forest Service is managing Bankhead National Forest, the cuddly mascot of conservation would spit on the ground and say, "I quit."

To give the spirit of that disgruntled bear a voice, Marshall has published the first issue of "Bankhead Monitor," a newsletter whose masthead motto claims to be "Taking the pulse of the Bankhead National Forest."

To say the publication takes a critical view of the Forest Service is, perhaps, putting it lightly. A few examples from the inaugural issue:

- "Why is the Forest Service so devoted to taking away our forest? Somewhere one will find the color of green and it is not tree green. It is money green."

- "Our precious, 200-year-old forest giants are being eradicated by the U.S. Forest Service. They are regularly being sold and cut. And in the process, the very land itself is suffering permanent damage."

- "While it cannot be dug or re-



**Bobby
Gillespie**

Our first media hit was this piece in the Decatur Daily just after October 1991. After this, there was a never-ending in coverage of our work in the local news as well as Associated Press, television documentaries, and invitations to speak at Rotary Clubs, garden clubs, environmental orgs, historical societies. Within a year, I was travelling all over the East.

August 29, 1991

TO: JAMES RAMEY, RANGER, U. S. FOREST SERVICE

FROM: RICKEY BUTCH WALKER *Butch*

RE: PLANNED MEETING WITH YOU CONCERNING SIGNIFICANT
BANKHEAD INDIAN SITES

I am an Alabama Indian of Cherokee and Creek ancestry and a member of the Echota Cherokee Tribe. I have publicly declared Indian Tomb Hollow and Kinlock Rock Shelter as sacred Indian sites. Indian Tomb and Kinlock are also historic Indian sites located in Bankhead National Forest. The High Town Path, a historic Indian trail and boundary, has been recorded in history books for many years.

The U. S. Forest Service should identify the areas of both Indian Tomb Hollow and Kinlock Rock Shelter as historic and sacred Indian sites of significant cultural interest. Timber harvest within the immediate areas of Indian Tomb and Kinlock should be eliminated and the sites should be designated and developed as cultural recreational areas in honor of our Cherokee and Creek ancestors whose lands were taken.

The U. S. Forest Service should identify a protective recreational corridor for the High Town Path and should develop a trail system through Bankhead National Forest along the High Town Path. The trail should be designated as an Indian trail with future connections to the Appalachian Trail which follows the same Continental Divide through prehistoric and historic Cherokee and Creek Country.

Since the U. S. Forest Service has multi-million dollar recreational facilities at Clear Creek, Corinth, and Houston in Winston County, Lawrence County should receive equitable recreational facilities and funding.

cc Jane Weeks
Charlotte Stewart
Honorable Bud Cramer
Senator Howell Heflin
F. Lawrence Oaks
U. S. Forest Supervisor

August 29, 1991



Indian Tomb Hollow clearcut



The sacred marker tree in Indian Tomb Hollow. Butch Walker in center in light blue shirt

The Genesis of Wild Alabama

The starting point for the Wild Alabama (formerly the Bankhead Monitor) movement began when I unknowingly encountered extensive clearcuts while riding my horse along remote ridgetops that joined my private inholding in the National Forest which coincided with the protests of Rickey Butch Walker over the clearcutting of Indian Tomb Hollow. I found his article in *The Moulton Advertiser* in a weekly column called "Bankhead Back Trails." I called Butch and he agreed to take me to Indian Tomb Hollow and show me the destruction. Afterwards, he introduced me to Dr. Charles Borden, who educated me concerning the Forest Plan of Alabama, which directed the Forest Service to cut the forest into a checkerboard of forested and naked squares.

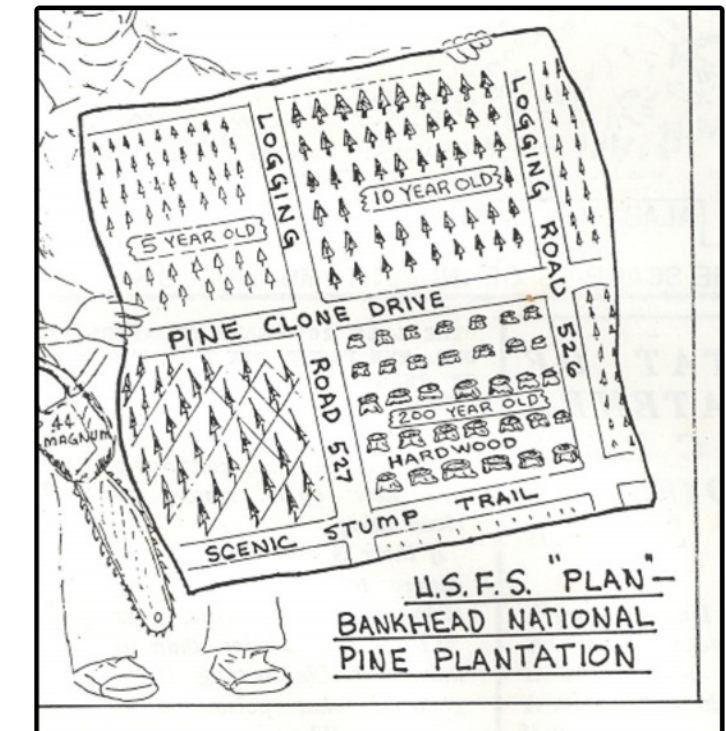
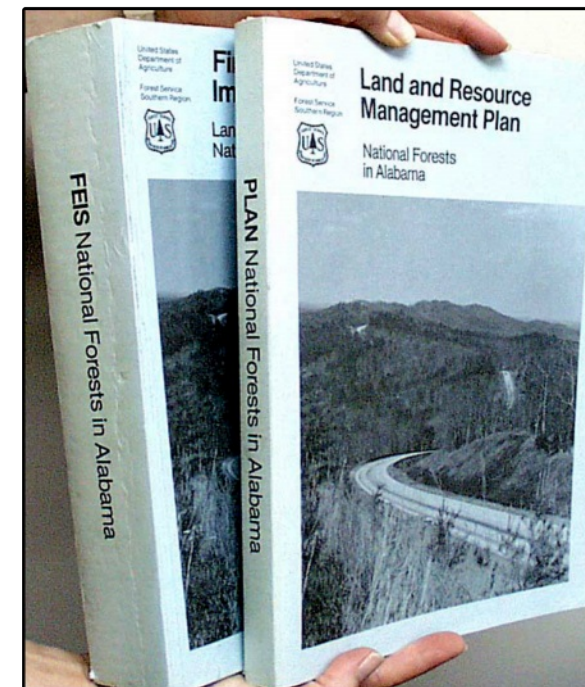
I was working in Decatur for Amoco Chemicals as an electrical and instrumentation designer. The pay was good. I had no idea that in a few months I would leave corporate America and become a forest activist. It was as if I was swept up in a whirlwind of energies beyond my ability to resist. I can only attribute the new path as a divine circumstance. This is a history of how a tiny grassroots group in a National Forest grew into national prominence in less than a decade. It began with the clearcutting of Indian Tomb Hollow in the summer of 1991.

Though it has been fifteen years since I left Alabama to extend our Alabama cultural conservation to the National Forests of North Carolina, I want to document how The Bankhead Monitor became Wild Alabama and eventually helped to revise the Forest Plans that manage the Southeastern National Forests. These successes include promoting the restoration of native plant and animal habitats, ending the conversion of hardwood communities to biologically impoverished pine plantations, the writing of new cultural heritage management prescriptions and prescriptions to recognize and protect Bankhead's limestone and sandstone canyons. Our successful special projects include the designation of the Kinlock and Indian Tomb Hollow Historic Districts and the Flint Creek Botanical Area.

I want to record my story as a conservationist who was continually harassed and threatened with physical harm in a dangerous rural setting from local and State opponents and how so many good people from all walks of life, appeared and like a snowball rolling down a blanketed mountainside, the movement grew into an avalanche. Native American descendants, hikers and campers, botanists, scientists, philanthropists, fishers, schoolteachers, garden clubs, birders, foresters, and plain folks took a stand and demanded an end to industrial forestry practices in the Bankhead National Forest in north Alabama.

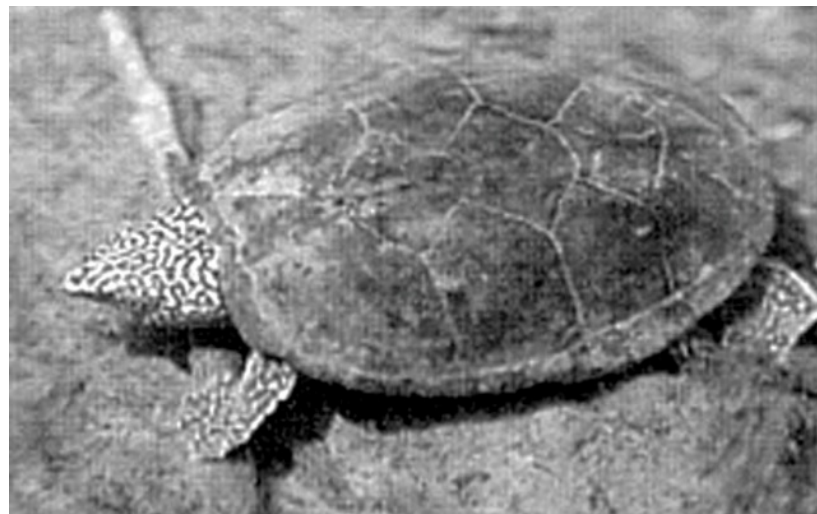
The Endangered Species Act signed by President Richard Nixon in 1973 addressed the imperative need to conserve plant and animal species that face danger of extinction, not only from the loss of habitat but from the polluting of the environment. In the late 1980s and early 1990s the spotted owl became emblematic of the issue of massive clearcutting in the large National Forests of Oregon and Washington State.

In 1976, the National Forest Management Act came into being. This act mandated that the Forest Service maintain viable populations of existing native species in planning areas. Planning areas are where logging, controlled burning, thinning, habitat improvement, road building, or recreation, could take place.



Killing the hardwood forest for loblollies

Although there was resistance to the Alabama campaign of the early 1970s that led to the establishment of the Sipsey Wilderness and a decade later, its expansion, the political landscape was much more congenial then. The Conservancy meetings were far away and most of the action was in the preparation of plant and animal studies and the legal wranglings of elected officials. This was something new and the industrial timber lobby had not yet established an organized resistance to forest preservation in the eastern United States. The Forest wars at that time were in the Pacific Northwest. The 1964 Wilderness Act was for western Wilderness and the concept did not cross the Mississippi River until the Alabama Conservancy launched the Eastern Wilderness Movement that resulted in the Eastern Wilderness Act of 1975 which was introduced by Alabama Senator John Sparkman. The Act establishing the Sipsey Wilderness in Alabama also gave birth dozens of new Wilderness areas across the United States. Where originally only virgin lands could qualify for wilderness designation, restored lands were now eligible under the new requirements.



Flattened Musk Turtle, left and the Alabama Streak Sorus Fern are two threatened or endangered species found in the Bankhead. There are also several species of mussels that are listed and found in the Bankhead.



This meeting nearly ended with me getting beat up. The preacher intervened and said "There'll not be any bloodshed in my church!"

When Eastern Wilderness areas began to be designated, it didn't take long for Wise Use groups to spring up. They were organized by wealthy mining and timber lobbies and began strategic planning to neutralize any new wilderness proposals that would "lock up the land" from mining, road building, and logging. Propaganda was disseminated from coast to coast. Loggers and local saw-millers were contracted by the Forest Service. Most of the people employed by the local and corporate timber industry were good friends with Forest Service personnel, and while government employees careful to avoid violent situations, the rural ruffians were not bound by behavioral regulation. Truck-driving coal mine employees and loggers could get mad, mean, and dangerous. Later, when Wild Alabama launched its National Monument Campaign, a Wise Use group called "People for the West" came to the Bankhead and organized against the movement. I will devote a whole chapter to this campaign and perils it brought with it. As an evolving strategy, we realized that most people in Alabama at that time did not identify as environmentalists and were not very interested in protecting endangered species. They were led to believe by mainstream corporate polluters that the implementation of environmental regulations would kill jobs and the economy. Our message and mission had to be different from the status quo environmental message of protecting endangered species and attacking polluters. This is where my upbringing and various corporate disciplines gave me a great advantage over others in the national environmental movement in the early 1990s. I can expound on this subject in detail later but I was not confined to Alabama for long before I traveled across the country and was exposed to Green Peace, Earth Firsters, and every national flavor in the spectrum of forest activist.

I was not an ordinary environmentalist. I must give a brief sketch of my early years which were critical to my ability to carry on the campaigns in the Forests. I grew up in a very conservative and patriotic family. As a Christian, I viewed the world through the lens of the Holy Scriptures. I saw (and see) myself as a steward of God's incredible creation. I grew up well-versed in conservative Democrat and Republican political philosophy as my Daddy was a Democrat and my Uncle a Republican. I worked with the John Birch Society as a youth director. (Gasp!) It empowered me to deal with the Wise Use groups after 1991. I was a young naturalist who never played grammar school sports or little league. I spent all my time in the local woods studying birds, snakes, tadpoles, and the lost ways of the most free people on the earth, Native Americans of Native America. I abhorred the concrete jungles of the city and the torrents of pollution that spewed out of the smokestacks of the steel mills in Birmingham, Alabama in the 1960s.

Battle for Bankhead



Conspiracy theories abound in wilderness

By Scott Morris
DAILY City Editor

BANKHEAD FOREST — The movement to establish a national monument here is wandering through a wilderness of conspiracy theories. These range from a United Nations takeover of land

If the conspiracy is correct, it will shut down Interstate 65 between Decatur and Birmingham. It will close Interstate 59 between Birmingham and

Please see **Theories**, page **A8**

"You go messing with people's living, you better watch out," said Chris Riddle, one of about a half dozen loggers and former loggers sitting on the porch of the store last week.

Riddle calls the monument's chief proponent, Wild Alabama Executive Director Lamar Marshall, a coward for carrying a pistol and complaining about death threats.

Marshall confirmed he is armed and said he hired off-duty law-enforcement officers to guard his Wild Alabama out-

Publisher leads fight to save Bankhead

U.S. Forestry Service said turning hardwood forest into pine tree farm

BY RHONDA HUNT
Times Correspondent

MOULTON — There is a growing public outcry against clearcutting the Bankhead National Forest, and a Moulton publisher is waging war with the United States Forestry Service with his magazine, *The Bankhead Monitor*. Lamar Marshall, editor in chief, says the USFS is "murdering our forests" with clearcutting practices that began in 1960.

The USFS says clearcutting improves the land for wildlife and boosts the local economy.

A barrage of letters has poured into the offices of Alabama congressmen recently in protest of the practice of stripping areas of the 180,000-acre forest, asking for a full-fledged investigation into the land-management practices of the USFS. According to Marshall, over 65,000 acres of land has been stripped of hardwood and other rare vegetation and replanted with pine saplings.

Much of the land is considered by many residents of Indian heritage to be sacred. An area in the forest of Lawrence County known as Indian Tomb Hollow was one area that was clearcut as part of the USFS 50-year plan of forest management.

Indian Tomb Hollow is said to be the site of a fierce battle between the Creeks and Chickasaws during the 1770s. Indians say about 60 warriors were killed in the area.

"It's rape, pure and simple," said Marshall. "No one bothered to check and see if the land was of a historic significance."

Clearcutting has been halted in that area pending further studies, according to John Yancy, Alabama National Forest supervisor.

"Ignorance of the law is no excuse to destroy the land," said Butch Walker, a Moulton environmentalist.

The *Bankhead Monitor*, a subscription-based non-profit magazine, delves into Indian folklore and focuses on educational instruction into various sites within the forest. Many of the editorial cartoons appearing in the publication are critical of the USFS and bear a striking resemblance to officials.

Articles on plant and wildlife also make up the magazine's content.

Marshall said he is not against trees being cut down, but wants more thought into the consequences that clearcutting has on the environment and wildlife.

"When an area is clearcut, the ground is bulldozed and stripped of any natural vegetation. Whatever is left is sprayed with toxic poisons to make sure hardwood vegetation doesn't sprout back up," he said. "The runoff fills our waterfalls and streams with silt and toxins, and that has an adverse effect on the whole ecosystem. Selective harvesting, though less profitable for the lumber companies, would be a kinder and gentler method of harvesting."

Among the endangered wildlife within the forest are various types of mussels and the Red Cockaded Woodpecker.

Marshall's May issue of the *Monitor* stated that an official census by the USFS showed that active colonies of the woodpecker have vanished from the Bankhead. An article written by Yancy in the summer publication of *Pathways*, a newsletter of the National Forests of Alabama, stated that recent surveys by the agency noted 139 active colonies of the endangered bird within Bankhead.

Marshall also charges that, for years, the USFS sprayed clearcut areas with Agent Orange containing Dioxin.

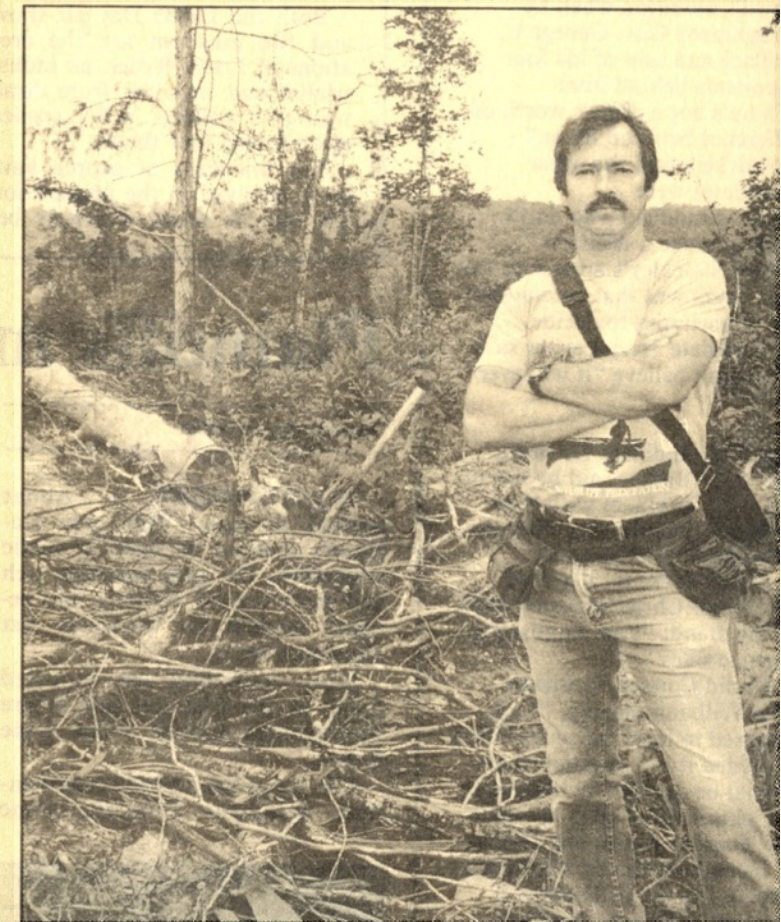
Marshall said the USFS wants to make a "tree farm" out of Bankhead Forest, citing the practice of replanting clearcut areas with pine saplings.

"Pine trees are a scab tree. They grow first as nature's defense when woodlands have been burned down or destroyed. They provide little vegetation for the wildlife and make the soil acidic."

Marshall accuses the USFS with planting the forest with "even aged" lots of pine trees because "they are cheap, easy to cut and if they are all the same size, it is more profitable for the lumber mills."

"Fifty percent of the Bankhead's woodlands have been converted to pine, which would have been normally about 95 percent hardwood," he added.

Alabama has 20 million acres of timberland, and the Bankhead makes up less than 1 percent of that. Marshall feels that private timberland is adequate to supply



Rhonda Hunt/Huntsville T

Lamar Marshall, editor in chief of *The Bankhead Monitor*, says clearcutting like this is "murdering our forests."

lumber needs to the area.

Logging crews are routinely allowed to clearcut 40-acre sites within the forest, which provides jobs and economic benefits to the area, according to James Ramey, Forest Service District Ranger. Ramey said clearcutting forest has an undesirable effect for three to five years. "Trees are a renewable resource," he said. According to Ramey, an average year would net \$1.4 million, with about a fourth of the revenue returned to the counties where the wood was removed. The remaining money is set aside in federal treasuries and used to reforest clearcut areas.

Marshall said he would like to see the area promoted and developed for tourism.

"Selective harvesting can still be done without stripping the land of its natural habitat," he said. "And tourism would make up for revenue lost if clearcutting were to stop."

The Huntsville Times

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During my early summer years from about 8 to 12, I spent months with my grandparents on the same farm my father grew up on and I worked in the gardens, helped put up food and hunted rabbits with my Paw Paw. My grandmother caught the Sunday chicken in the yard, wrung its neck and processed it for lunch. I learned to hunt, fish and to shoot. I was given my first rifle, a .22, at thirteen and taught firearm safety. I later became a proficient combat shooter with handguns.

I joined the Boy Scouts at 13 and spent the next seven years under one of the last old time leaders who could have been a Marine Corps Drill Instructor. We learned orienteering in the wild and traversed cross country by topographic map and compass. Failure was not permitted. We honed our skills and I eventually crossed all the major wilderness area in the Rocky Mountains of the West cross-country for weeks at a time. By 17 and 18, my ex-scoutmaster and I were making three-week canoe trips across Quetico Provincial Park in the Canadian Wilderness, and I expanded the canoe adventures across the Okefenokee Swamp, the Mobile Delta Country and all the major rivers in the Southeast. I build a Tom Sawyer/Huck Finn raft and floated ten days from Selma, Alabama to the Mobile Bay. I trapped fur for many years and did so for a living for one year on the Locust and Mulberry Forks of the Warrior River. I studied martial arts and was the Alabama State Powerlifting champion in 1971. All of these skills gave me complete confidence in the wilderness and also whenever I was physically threatened by, let's just use the term, "ruffians," in Winston and Lawrence Counties. Those days are gone and the current era of partnerships and collaboration are working well. U.S. Forest Service management practices have changed with the new Forest Plan and the new Wild Alabama should enjoy a more friendly atmosphere.

I worked for 24 years in corporate America for engineering companies primarily on the design of paper mills including Champion International. I became a designer and draftsman. After that, I worked for a land surveying company in north Alabama that surveyed the Talladega National Forest boundaries. To summarize, all of my life experiences prepared me for the perfect moment in time to move into the Bankhead National Forest in 1991 and step into the ongoing arena of contention over the logging of Indian Tomb Hollow. My experience also helped me to use a cultural heritage strategy as our message of outreach. We wanted to defend our national forests because our ancestors lived, died and are buried there. We all live downstream and the Tennessee Divide is

the backbone of Alabama from whence pure headsprings of water emanate from the earth and water the emerald canyons. The National Forests of Alabama are representatives of Native America and filled with sacred cultural sites.

For me, the early Wild Alabama years were a boots-on-the-ground profession and a dream come true. I had a warrior spirit and I wanted to defend my habitat. That habitat was Bankhead and Sipsey. Those that destroyed it were to be countered by all (but only) legal means: litigation when necessary and expedient, the petitioning of elected officials, and campaigns and the news media. We exploited all the above.

The battle for the Bankhead provided the opportunity I had always dreamed of. A life in the woods, hiking, camping, exploring the endless canyons by map and compass, and teaching young people outdoor skills.

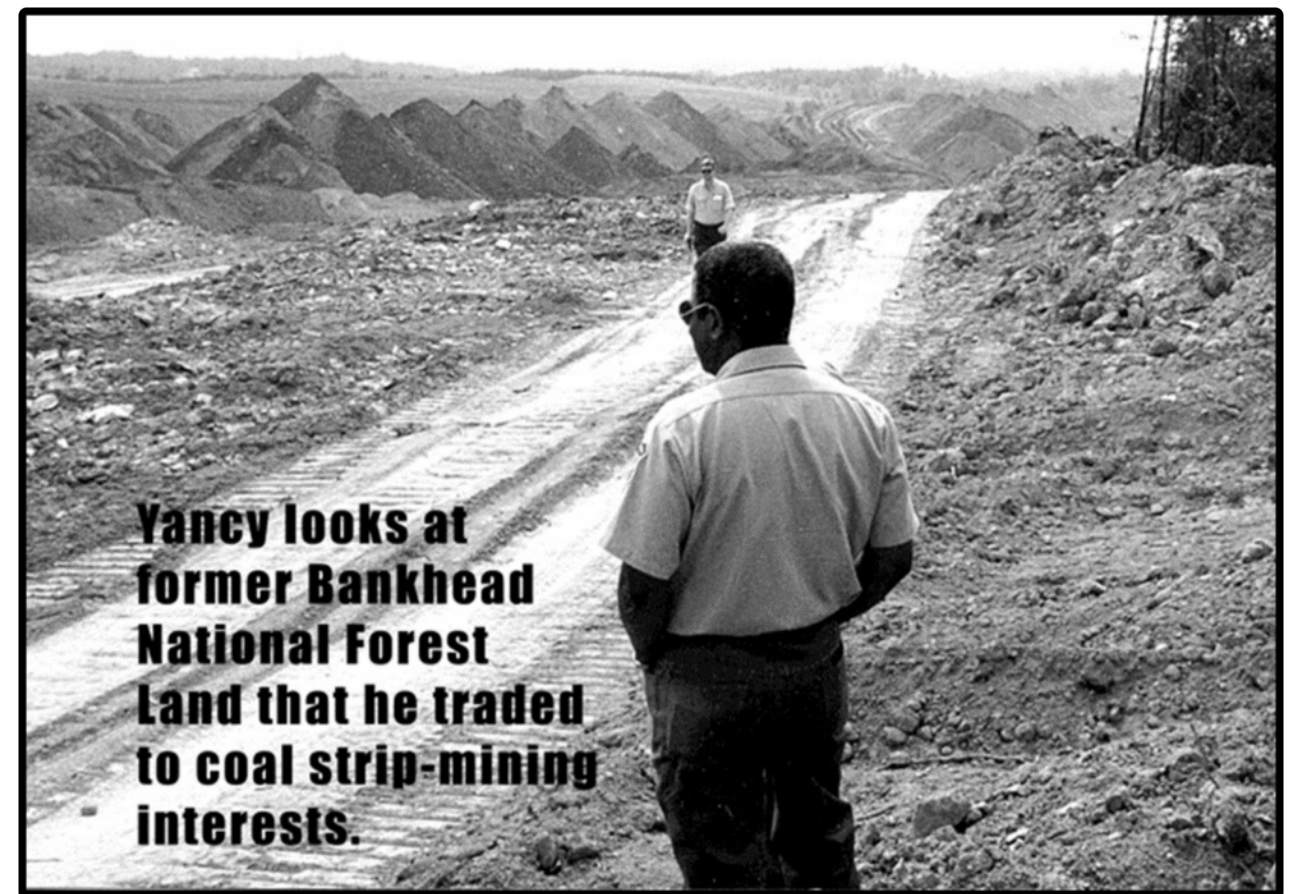
Now, my job became creating a campaign that would end the clearcutting on the Bankhead National Forest. I had a feeling in the back of my mind that I was some type of mercenary. After all, I was soon salaried and staffed and given a green light to do something productive. Unfortunately, this would require the attending of public hearings with the timber industry, their Wise Use cronies, government spokespersons, as well as conservationists.

Loggers wanted more logs, the Ruffled Grouse Society demanded more clearcuts to create grouse habitat, horseback riders wanted more horse trails, and The Bankhead Monitor wanted an end to clearcutting, poisoning, more roads and loblolly pine plantations. The work would include endless field trips for groups like the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Audubon, or local schools who brought entire busloads of children to hike along a trail with instructors who would reconnect them to their ancient roots in the earth. Our headquarters was first located at the entrance to the Bankhead at Wren and the intersection of Highways 33 and 36 in an old building owned by a man across the road with a store. We could not sell candy, cold drinks or anything that competed with his sales.

Through the next decade I found myself in dangerous situations and had many threats against my life and property. I was beginning to wonder if it was smart to live in enemy territory. For several years I lived in an underground house on a two-acre plot of land only 100 feet from the eastern boundary of the Sipsey Wilderness and surrounded on the other three sides by the Bankhead National Forest. My nearest neighbors were miles away and I can't say they were neighborly. Logging and coal trucks ran the highway adjoining my property and

the Wilderness 24 hours a day. They knew where I lived and maxed out their loud "jake brakes" when they passed my house on that desolate stretch of highway. Over the years I found myself in some serious situations. I was held hostage with a gun aimed at my chest for near a half hour in the Sipsey Wilderness once, another time threatened to be lynched, still another to have my store burned down, and once almost cornered and beaten up in a remote church during a meeting. I was called a communist, an agent of the United Nations and many descriptive unrepeatable names.

After this introduction, I will present a more detailed history, blow by blow, graphically illustrated with photos, maps and news stories of the growing influence and power of the Bankhead Monitor and Wild Alabama. In addition, I will be bringing into the story chronologically all the folks not yet introduced, the Manascos, Weeks, Russells, Bordens, John Randolph, Prestons, Maples, Janice, Littlefords, etc.



Former Forest Supervisor John Yancey and Wild Alabama attorney Ray Vaughan survey Bankhead National Forest land that was traded away and strip mined.

The Battle for the Bankhead!

Historic sites destroyed by the U.S. Forest Service!

High Town Path, Indian Tomb Hollow, and Kinlock Historic District under the blade!

By Lamar Marshall



In the summer of 1991, the Alabama Division of the US Forest Service clearcut a historical and sacred area in the Bankhead National Forest. A significant bluff shelter once inhabited by Native Americans was clearcut below, up to, and over the cliff above. It was then looted so completely that it no longer qualified for the National Register of Historic Places. The official USFS report states that no archaeological sites were found in their survey. The question was argued as to whether the Forest Service ever surveyed the area at all. Discrepancies in stories were repeated in Forest Service circles as well as public meetings. Local citizens were outraged that the Forest Service did not regard the beautiful canyon as historical even though a story was published in the Moulton Advertiser over a year before the area was clearcut. In fact, the original account of the battle was published in 1856 in a local newspaper.

In April of 1991, Flint Gillespie and Randy Gillespie asked the Forest Service not to cut in Indian Tomb. They

were assured that Indian Tomb would not be touched. But in August the heart was cut out of not only the most beautiful section of the main canyon, but of the hearts of all those who went there to reflect on the handiwork of the Creator. Eventually, a call for a congressional investigation of the activities of the US Forest Service was announced in local newspapers.

The Blue Clan, Indian Affairs Commission, and other individuals met with Robert Taylor and James Ramey, District Ranger of Bankhead National Forest. Two questions emerged from the meeting that stand out in the memory of those attending. Bobby Gillespie, Blue Clan leader asked Ramey, "Doesn't the name Indian Tomb Hollow imply anything to you?" "No," said Ramey. "Don't ya'll use toilet paper?" one of the foresters is recalled to have asked the Native Americans. In February of 1992, the Alabama Historical Commission notified the Forest Service of violations of the National Historical Preservation Act.

Meanwhile, local historians, an archaeologist with the University of Alabama, the Blue Clan of the Echota Cherokee Tribe and the Indian Affairs Commission began a series of pleas with Forest Supervisor John Yancy to preserve three areas in the Bankhead National Forest: **Indian Tomb Hollow**, the **High Town Path Corridor**, and the **Kinlock Rock Shelter**. These areas, the Native American community insisted, were not only historically significant, but were revered and used ceremonially as sacred sites to practice Indian traditions. Thus began a 5 year controversy between the U.S. Forest Service and the Native American community as well as the public of Alabama.

In July of 1993, Michael Wilder, USFS Archaeologist for the Bankhead District, quit his job citing that he was prohibited from doing his job and was, in fact, forced to violate federal laws including the National Historical Preservation Act.

John Yancy, after public pressure and adverse publicity, made the following pledge: he would "protect the areas from abuse, mis-use and overuse." He ordered a map drawn with a boundary that protected approximately 900 acres. According to an expert with a surveying and mapping background, the boundary was not approximate. It was accurately depicted and fixed on a scaled topographic map. Due to the irregular shape of the boundary, the area within was estimated at approximately 900 acres. Other provisions were made in regards to protecting all three areas.

On November 17th, 1995, Gov. Fob James signed the official state designations for the Kinlock Historic District which included about 2,630 acres surrounding dozens of historical sites and the High Town Path

The excerpt at left was published in Wild Alabama in 1996 after the Oakville Indian Mounds Protest which brought regional U.S. Forest Service representatives to Alabama to listen to the grievances of the public. The 18,000 acre moratorium was the result.

This is part one of the Battle for the Bankhead and it leads off with a brief recounting of how Indian Tomb Hollow was illegally logged with a bogus archaeological survey performed by a silviculturist (tree specialist) with no anthropological, archaeological or cultural training. He stated he didn't see any signs of Indians having been there and didn't realize that there was a connection between the name "Indian Tomb Hollow" and Indians or graves.



The Oakville Indian Mounds Protest

Greg Preston at left; Lamar speaking, our attorney from Wildlaw, Ray Vaughan upper right. The Forest Service had just damaged more areas of Kinlock and the High Town Path (Leola Road.)

The Song of the Sipsey's Son: Earthcamp and Deerskull Falls

From the Memoirs of Lamar Marshall



A Song of the Sipsey's Son

In a maze of twisted canyons
Deep within the Sipsey wild,
Hidden in the rocks and crevices,
At home am I, the Sipsey's child.

Watching from a secret lookout,
Seeing all but never seen;
Like a reptile on the lichens
In a world of jade and green.

Crawling through the laurel thickets
Along the narrow creature trails
Like a leafy stove-pipe tunnel
A pilgrim byway of the snails.

Partridge berries, mystic ginseng
Herbs of healing and renown
A thousand flowers live and die there
In the Sipsey's fertile ground.

Deerskull Canyon in the twilight
Singing waters sneaking by
Fernglades dancing in the breezes
Crawling mists have hid the sky.

Crystal droplets glaze the leaf mold
Spongy carpets cliff to cliff
Afterthoughts of passing storm clouds
Where the hawks and eagles drift.

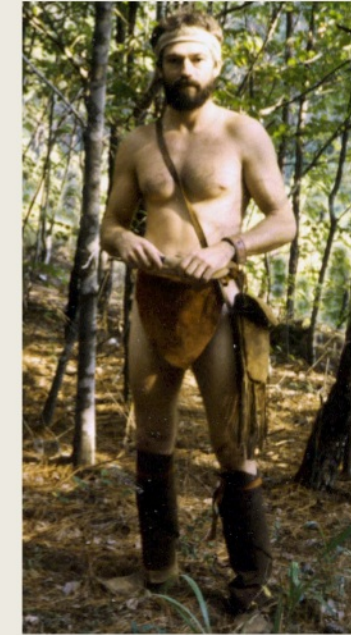
Colored rock walls hid in jungle
Above a thousand mandrakes pad
Home of ancient nature-dwellers
Weathered bodies loin-cloth clad.

Boughs of hemlock, oak and linden
Shading Wolfpen Canyon's floor
Living fossils from the eons
Grow and die and launch their spore

Come, my friend, and seek the lonely
Quiet forgotten life of old;
Share with me the age old mysteries
That only wilderness can hold.

Immerse yourself in timeless freedom,
Restore a heritage torn apart
Touch the earth - our nurturing mother,
Find your roots and free your heart

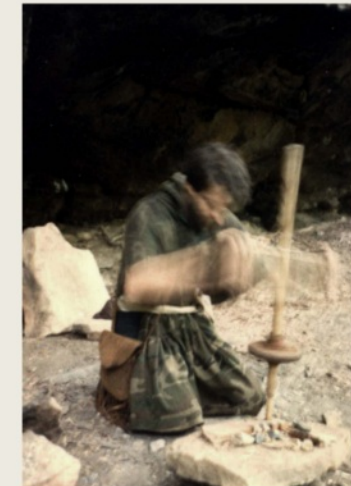
From the Annals of Time - Lamar Marshall.



On a ridge between
Deerskull Canyon and
Highway 60 Sipsey
Wilderness. Several
eons ago.



Earthcamp



Cane mats for bed,
Fire by friction,
Squirrel dinner,
Crude pottery



BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

US Forest Service clearcut

IS THIS ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT?

FS Road 235, 1 1/2 miles East of Sipsy Recreation Area on Cranal Road. Only yards from Sipsy Wilderness

Cranal Road

← Sipsy Wilderness →



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Warrior Mountain

TRADING POST

& INFORMATION CENTER

IPSEY WILDERNESS / SCENIC RIVER BOOKS & MAPS
DIAN POTTERY - SILVER JEWELRY - ARTS & CRAFTS

An illustration of a Native American man's face, wearing a feathered headdress. The illustration is positioned to the right of the text.

BANKHEAD MONITOR



TAKING THE PULSE OF THE BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST



NATIONAL FOREST? WHERE?

THE FOREST WAS AWESOMELY BEAUTIFUL WHEN IT WAS CONTROLLED BY ITS INDIAN OWNERS 200 YEARS AGO. It's too bad the same cannot be said of the U.S. FOREST SERVICE TODAY. TO THEM, THE LOVELIEST GREEN IS THAT OF MONEY. IN COUNTLESS PARTS OF YOUR NATIONAL "FOREST", THERE IS NO FOREST AT ALL. JUST HEAVILY ERODED HILLSIDES THAT LOOK LIKE THE BOMBED-OUT COUNTRYSIDE OF A THIRD-WORLD, WAR RAVAGED NATION.

THE DEEP SHADED WOODS WHERE GINSENG AND OTHER "ENDANGERED" PLANTS & ANIMALS called home is now a hostile, changed environment to them. They cannot SURVIVE HERE UNTIL A NEW FOREST EMERGES FROM THE RUINS. IN THE CATEGORY OF MATURE HARDWOOD STANDS- THAT COULD BE 100 YEARS LONG, AFTER YOU ARE GONE. AND LONG AFTER YOUR

CHILDREN. IS THIS HOW THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE (PUBLIC SERVANTS) CARES FOR OUR FORESTS? CUT THEM DOWN! LET THE RICH BLACK HUMUS ACCUMULATED OF AGES WASH INTO THE STREAMS, CHOKING THEM WITH SILT AND CHANGING THE LANDSCAPE THAT SHOULD BE PRESERVED FOREVER. TO QUOTE AN OLD IRISH MAN - "SOMETHING'S ROTTEN IN DOUBLE SPRINGS."

BANKHEAD

MONITOR



VOL. I No. 1
FALL 1991

TAKING THE PULSE OF THE BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

ALABAMA CHAINSAW MASSACRE : CLEARCUTTING A HISTORIC SITE

An Alabama chainsaw massacre took place this summer as a U.S. Forest Service sanctioned clearcut ripped a 40 acre swath out of the heart of Indian Tomb Hollow in the Bankhead National Forest in Lawrence County. This particular canyon with its sandstone cliffs contains one of the shrinking number of Old-Growth Hardwood Stands in the BNF. It also contains numerous historic sites of which some are sacred to the Native Indians of this area. They are outraged over this defilement. The public who has been robbed of a magnificent

potential for a historic park and recreational area should also be outraged. I visited the area to check out the damage for myself. The first stump that I examined proved to be about 150 years old. Born in the 1840s; killed in the 1990s by the caretakers of the forest. Maybe this tree ended up in a roll of toilet paper or a Japanese lumber store. I would rather have the tree. A logging road has been cut into the mountain in order to get the century old timber out. Large rocks which lay for millenia along the slope have been pushed out of the way

along with umbrella magnolias and other trees considered to be undesirable by the Forest Service. A pioneer settlement, white and slave cemeteries, Indian burials and other special places of interest are located along this hollow. But now it is scarred. And this scar is the beginning of the decimation of a stand of very old hardwood trees that cannot be replaced in our or our children's lives. Why is the Forest Service so devoted to taking away our forest? Somewhere one will find the color of green and it is not tree green. It is money green. The rich black humus has been dozed away with machinery. What little that is left will wash down the hill and become a choking silt in the creek. That which took nature centuries to develop is gone in one day. Ditches will appear long before the briars and ragweeds take over in impenetrable tangles of thorny jungle. The great stumps will rot. But the ugly scar on the land will last longer than the men who signed it into existence.



PHOTO - "The heart of Indian Tomb." Just a tiny sample of the 40 acre swath clearcut up and over the canyon wall.

Page 1

The first sketch of a newsletter

The first newsletter



BRIEFS

8.4 SQUARE MILES CLEARCUT IN B.N.F.

1989 - 2110 Acres cut
1990 - 1391 Acres cut
1991 - 1877 Ac. in progress
This is a total of 8.4 square miles. This does not include "seedtree cutting" which leaves one pine approx. every 60 feet each way.

BRUSHY CREEK

Brushy Creek is a very beautiful canyon in the stretches between U.S Hwy 278 and a point not far below Brushy Lake. This stretch can in fact be canoed except for times of summer low water. It should be considered a candidate for a wild and scenic river.

BLACK BEARS BACK TO THE BANKHEAD ?

How do the local residents feel about the talk of re-introducing the black bear back into the B.N.F. ? This is a question that will be discussed in the next issue of the Monitor.

MAPS TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE MONITOR:

- ▶ Guide To Scenic Clearcuts.
- ▶ Historic Sites Of The Bankhead.
- ▶ New East-West Bankhead Trail Proposal.
- ▶ 1992 Clearcutting Map Schedule.
- ▶ Scarred Lands Of The Bankhead.
- ▶ Old-Growth Hardwood Stands In The Bankhead.



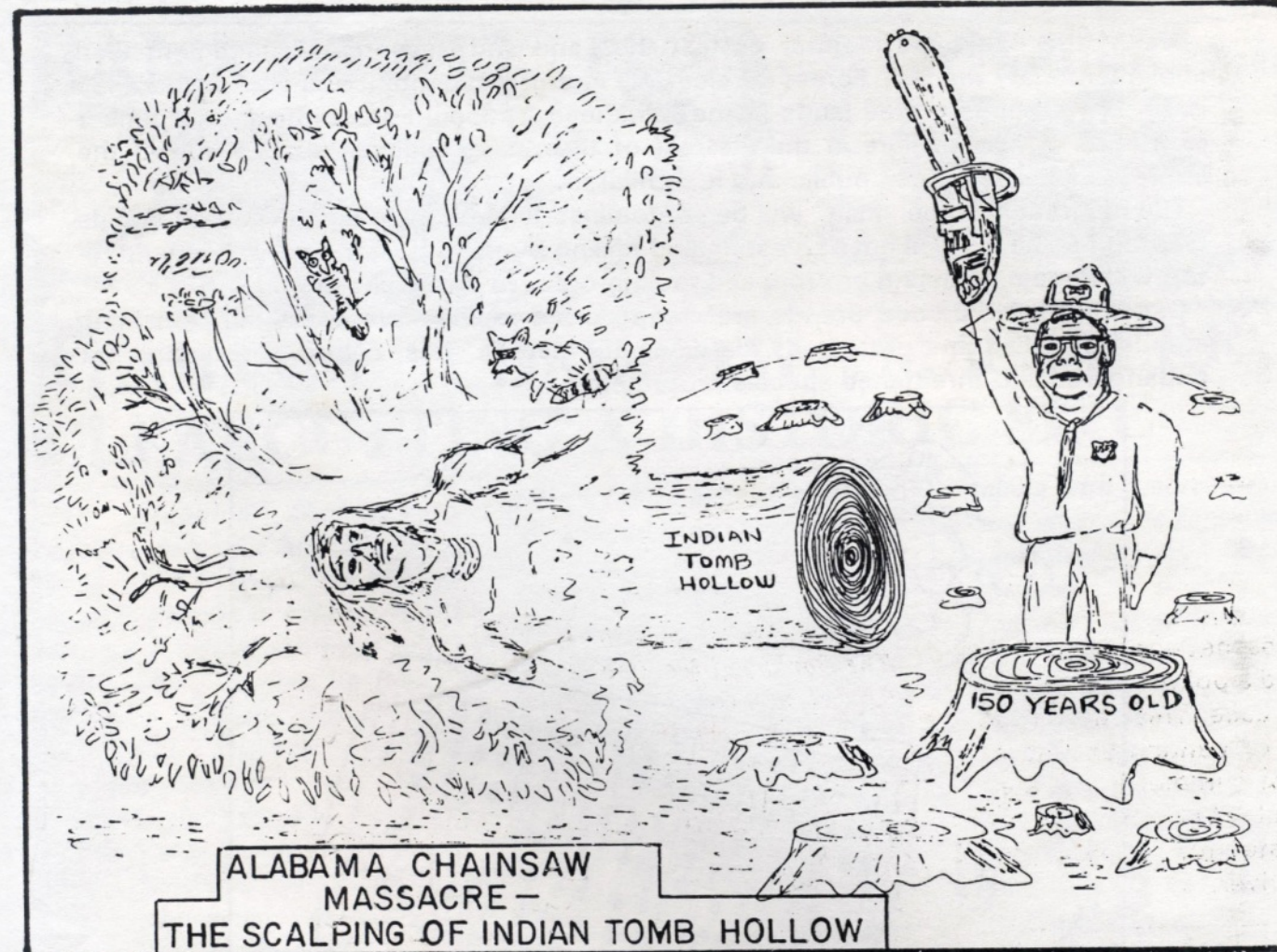
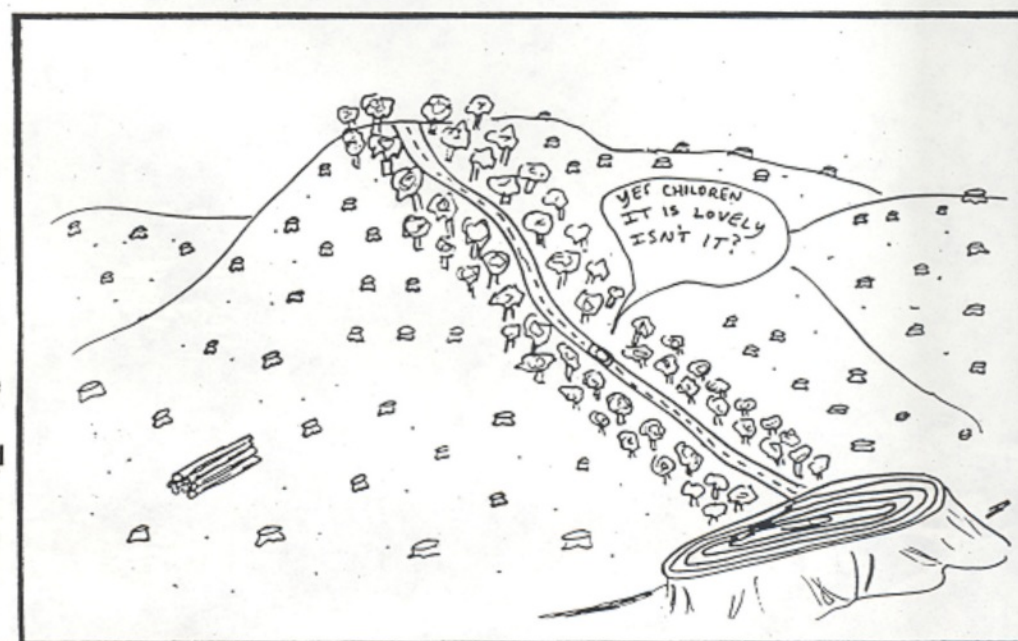
THE BANKHEAD MONITOR

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*Subscription/
Membership - \$10 yr.
Join the non-profit
"Coalition To Save The
Bankhead"
Make checks payable to:
The Bankhead Monitor*

THE MAN WITH THE PLAN

If you have any comments or questions concerning clearcutting the Bankhead you may wish to call or drop by the Bankhead Forest Service Headquarters located at Double Springs. Bankhead District Ranger James Ramey will be glad to discuss "The Official Plan" with you. Phone (205) 489-5111 Bankhead Ranger District P.O. Box 278 South Main Street Double Springs, Al. 35553 Be sure to carry your Forestspeak Dictionary with you.



HABITAT OF THREATENED SPECIES DESTROYED BY FOREST SERVICE PLAN

Ginseng, the king of herbs, is on the "Threatened Species" list in Alabama. It's harvest is regulated by the government. A licence is required to sell it if dug on private property. It can only be dug from Sept. 1 until Dec. 13th.

While it cannot be dug or removed at all - from the Bankhead National Forest, the clearcutting tactics prescribed by the Forest Service "Plan" can and are destroying Ginseng faster than the diggers ever did. The once unlogged hardwood

"THE LAST 20 YEARS OF ABUSE HAS JUST ABOUT RUINED THE BNF. THE FIGHT FOR THE BANKHEAD REPRESENTS THE LAST HOPE OF THIS CENTURY TO PRESERVE THE NATIONAL FORESTS OF ALABAMA IN THEIR NATURAL STATE." Bill Weatherford.

hollows that ginseng calls home are now open season to clearcutting.

If there is one thing ginseng cannot tolerate, it is direct sunlight. As the saying goes "it'll kill it deader than a hammer". Clearcutting is to ginseng, what poison is to roaches. When the naked ground is blasted with full exposure to the ultraviolet, gamma and other rays of the sun, it means death to the natural colonies of soil bacteria and their synergistic brothers - the shadeloving, deepwoods plants like ginseng.

Ginseng does not like pine forests. In fact, in 25 years of growing and studying ginseng, I

have only found a couple of plants living near a pine. It does thrive on the well-drained slopes of hardwood trees. It mingles with plants such as the maidenhair fern, trilliums, jack-in-the-pulpit and soloman seal. So not only is the king of herbs diminishing rapidly with our oldest oaks and beeches, but many of our other native wildflowers. History will prove this to be an era of abuse and overexploitation of our forests. May the names of those who carry out the Prescriptions Of The Plan be remembered in the annals of infamy.



We of the Bankhead Monitor protest the Land and Resource Management Plan implemented by the U.S. Forest Service. We interpret the intent and goal of that Plan is to turn all unprotected lands in the Bankhead National Forest into a vast timber plantation which is more in the interest of the timber industry than in the interest of the American public and it's children.

The plantation of the "Plan" will be predominately pine, even-age, even-size stands created for the convenient harvesting and milling by the timber industry. Every ridge-top will have an existing or proposed road in order to easily cut the timber.

Old-Growth Hardwood Stands are disappearing rapidly. We want the remaining stands identified and protected. We want our historic sites, cultural sites, and our endangered and threatened species protected.



The Appeal For Coalition

We of the Bankhead Monitor have met with or contacted the following groups in appeal for power through numbers. Together we will be a voice and vote to be reckoned with.

Concerned Citizens Everywhere
 The Sierra Club
 The National Audubon Society
 Alabama Trails Association
 The Alabama Conservancy

The Bankhead Trail Riders Association
 The Appalachian Trail Club
 The Vulcan Trail Club
 The Birmingham Canoe Club
 Echota Cherokee Tribe

BANKHEAD



MONITOR



PRICE :
\$1.00

DEC./JAN. 91

TAKING THE PULSE OF THE BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

BANKHEAD GETS DEATH SENTENCE

EXECUTION BY CLEARCUT

THE FOREST KILLERS

The Bankhead National Forest is dying a slow but sure death. The natural, native forest is being replaced by a tree farm.

With the conversion of the former Bankhead National Forest into the Bankhead National Tree Farm through the practices of clearcutting, herbicides and clone management, the former beauty of this natural forest is vanishing. The only true forest by biological definition will be the Sipsey Wilderness and the Scenic River areas which compose only 15% of the Bankhead National Forest (BNF).

Of the 180,000 total acres in the BNF, 150,000 acres are classified as management area 16 which are being managed as an agricultural crop. This once all-age natural forest has already been converted to 75,000 acres of pine plantation with the remaining 75,000 acres still in hardwood. According to the regional headquarters for the central planning committee the bulk of pine plantation is located in the southern half of the forest



and the hardwoods in the north.

While professing that hardwood sites are put back into hardwoods upon regeneration (clearcutting), and pine sites into pines, we now have 50% of what was once a nearly a 100% hardwood forest in a giant pine plantation. How can that happen? Very easily if you happen to be the final authority on classifying a piece of land as a pine site.

Anyone who knows anything about the natural forests of our area knows that pines are nature's intermediate stage to a

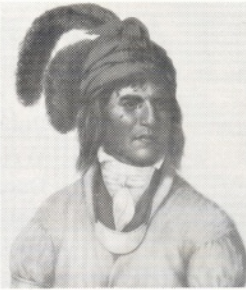
climax hardwood forest. But our talented tree farm managers kill off the competition of hardwood trees with herbicides. They also kill off understory shrubs and ground cover at the same time. Kind of like plant genocide on behalf of a superior race of trees.

Did I say tree farm managers? You bet I did. That is what the manager of the BNF is: A tree farm manager.

When the U.S. Forest Service looks at a forest they see board feet. Visions of sawtimber and poletrees

con'td on page 3

BANKHEAD



MONITOR



PRICE:
\$1.00

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TAKING THE PULSE OF THE BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST



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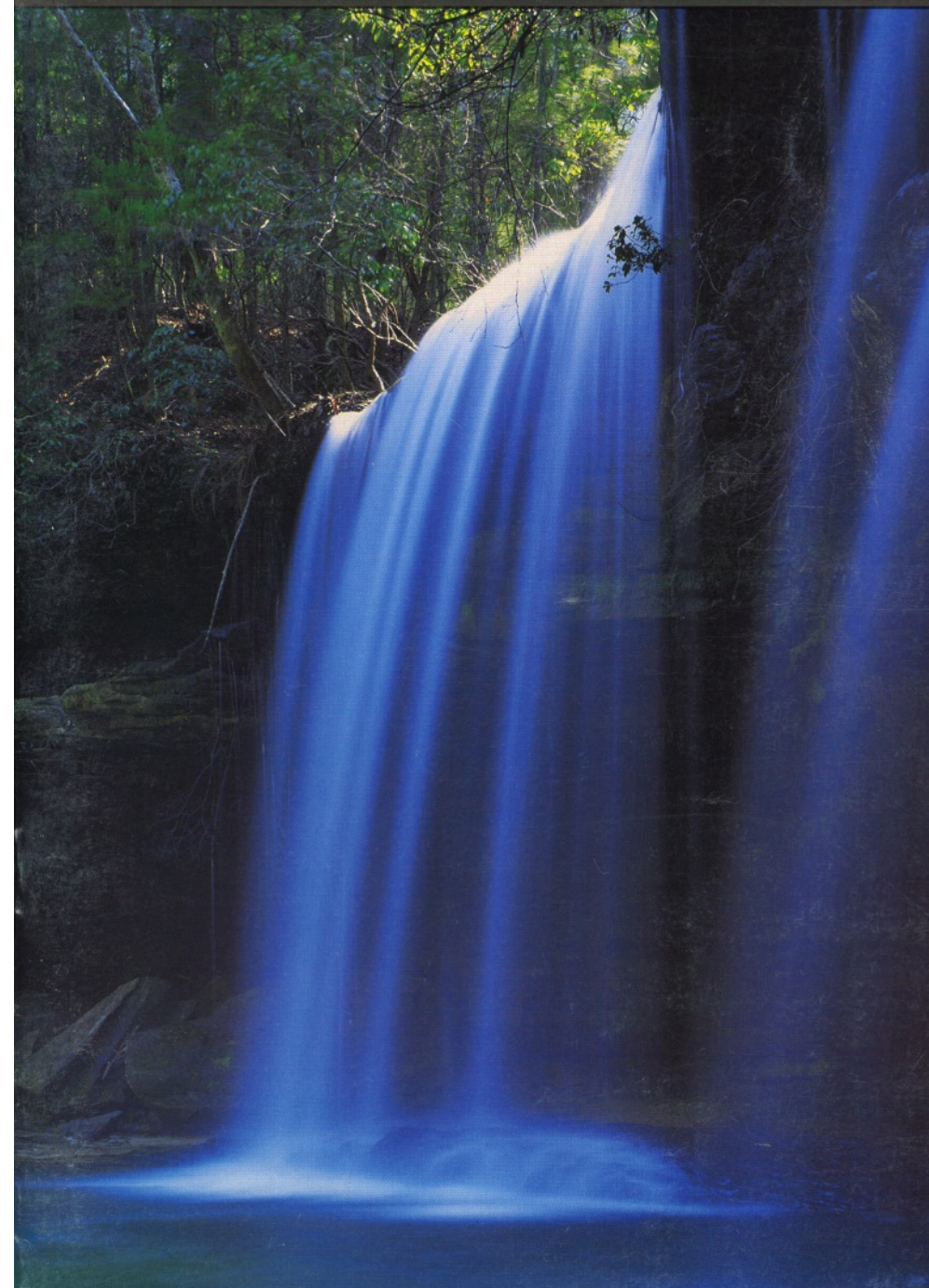
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