

Wilderness lands are hurt by overuse

(AP) — Americans looking for a pristine wilderness experience on remote U.S. Forest Service lands increasingly are finding trashy campsites, unsafe trails, unhealthy water and pollution.

And forest service officials are warning that because of tight money and growing land use, conditions are likely to worsen among the 32 million acres of official wilderness under their control.

"We're falling behind," George Loo, associate USFS chief told the House Interior public lands subcommittee. Chairman Bruce Vento, D-Minn., said it was the first-ever congressional review of the condition of wilderness areas protected from development under a landmark 1964 law.

"WILDERNESS areas are now literally being loved to death" by burgeoning numbers of backpackers, some of them ignorant of backcountry etiquette and hygiene, said Greg Hansen, a ranger from the Superstition Wilderness in Arizona's Tonto National Forest.

Richard LaBorde, supervisor for two areas in California's Inyo National Forest, said overuse has been avoided by setting trailhead quotas and requiring campers to obtain permits.

But he said the areas' two rangers

are able to contact only 7 percent of the visitors to brief them on backcountry manners. Trail reconstruction, eight years behind schedule, causing waste and erosion problems, he said.

LaBorde said all visitors are told to purify water before drinking it. And to combat improper sanitation practices by campers, there are now two solar toilets on the popular Mt. Whitney trail, he said.

ANNE FEGE of the Forest Service explained that solar toilets are portable units that have solar collectors to generate heat to dry out and compost human waste.

LaBorde said grazing by pack animals owned by commercial outfitters is nearing the land's grazing capacity and that concentrated use of some campsites "has left many barren scars on the landscape."

"Our efforts to regain some sort of natural condition to these areas have been weak," said LaBorde, adding that he'd "had very little success" in getting forest service support for vegetation efforts.

Leonard and the six rangers at the hearing said more money is needed to manage the wilderness areas.

Vento agreed, saying that only 32 cents a year is being spent on each wilderness acre, compared to \$6.39 per acre for general forest service lands.

Since 1984, Congress has doubled the number of wilderness areas to 352. It also has doubled the wilderness budget to about \$15 million. Leonard said, however, that this "doesn't give us the resources to get ahead."

THE RANGERS

from the field continually emphasized one point: Beyond one headquarters job in Washington, there are no full-time jobs as wilderness rangers and no

forest service career track in wilderness management.

As a result, there is little overall management planning, considerable turnover among skilled field people and little time for rangers to do much more than keep a cursory watch on the remote acreage under their domain.

"The reality of a person only working five months is that there is no planning time available," said Linda Meriglano, the ranger responsible for the 116,500-acre Jedediah Smith Wilderness in Wyoming.

She said that because of tight money, 63 percent of her trail system is substandard and deteriorating. She estimated it would cost \$16,000 for labor and materials to repair the trails.

"Most of the impacts occurring in the Jedediah Smith Wilderness result from visitor ignorance of appropriate camping and traveling behavior," said Meriglano, adding that she couldn't get \$50 to put together a slide show about proper camping techniques.

She said that despite the requirements of the Targhee National Forest Plan, her area lacks an assessment of its camping.

Loc Kline, the ranger for three areas in Colorado's San Isabel National Forest, said such assessments in her areas found 85 percent of the campsites violating wilderness regulations.

OU profs teaching eye surgeons

Two Oakland University professors have become video stars in a training tape for ocular surgeons.

BARRY WINKLER and Michael Riley were among basic researchers and clinicians who participated in a Los Angeles conference on ophthalmic surgeries. The program was sponsored by Alcon Laboratories of Fort Worth, Texas.

The OU professors participated in a panel discussion that was taped and that will be distributed worldwide.

The goal is to help surgeons evaluate irrigating fluids that may be used during surgery. Both Winkler and Riley are faculty in the OU Eye Research Institute.

Winkler explained: "When you open the eye, because the eye is under pressure, what can happen is that the fluid will leak out of the eye."

"So essentially, what surgeons do is to pump in a fluid to maintain the intraocular pressure, and it also helps maintain the moisture of the cornea, during cataract surgery, for example."

If a WRONG solution is used, or an incorrect solution, there can be post-surgical problems like clouding of the cornea or problems in the retina, he said.

The scientist warned that "body tissues tolerate only small changes both in the pH (acidity) and pressure,

so quality control of the solution is critical."

Winkler and Riley were invited because they have been doing related research under support from Alcon and the National Eye Institute.

Some years earlier, Winkler published some work on the role of the bicarbonate ion which is part of the buffering system which controls pH in the eye. He said the actual function is best preserved when you have the bicarbonate ion in the medium bathing the tissue as opposed to having a substitute.

SURGEONS BEGAN using intracocular irrigating solutions in the early years of the 20th Century, he said.

These irrigants affect the corneal endothelium, which in turn impacts on corneal swelling and clarity, so surgeons experimented with a variety of solutions that would cause the fewest surgical problems.

Winkler said he and Riley have no vested interest in Alcon or any firm. "Our interest is strictly from the basic science side," Winkler said.

K.I.T. KITTS INDUSTRIAL TOOLS

22906 Mooney Farmington

27600 West Eight Mile Farmington Hills 476-2121

Summer Specials

NOW \$114.99

NOW \$99.00

NOW \$139.99

NOW \$129.99

NOW \$139.99

NOW \$109.00

NOW \$119.99

NOW \$109.00

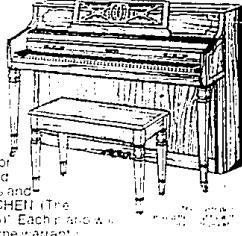
"Please, my little girl needs blood."

Imagining if you had to ask for blood to save the life of someone you love. Next time the American Red Cross asks, give blood, please.

GIVE BLOOD, PLEASE

ANNUAL WURLITZER INTERLOCHEN CONSOLE PIANO SALE*

SAVE \$1000



*Each year Wurlitzer Pianos are selected for their superior tone and touch by the teachers and soloists of INTERLOCHEN (The National Music Camp). Each piano will carry a Wurlitzer lifetime warranty.

Smiley Brothers

"A TRUSTED NAME IN MUSIC" Birmingham 1010 Woodward 647-1177 Detroit 5510 Woodward 875-7100 Both stores are open on Sunday BY APPOINTMENT ONLY for your convenience



Catch our acts - for only \$7!

Michigan's Largest Festival
700 Performers on Ten Outdoor Stages

The Michigan Festival — including our state's only showcase of Michigan folklife, and nationally known performers each evening. Bring your friends — celebrate summertime in Michigan for ten days of great concerts, events, traditional folk arts and children's activities. There's something for everyone at The Michigan Festival!

For only \$7, your Michigan Festival Admission Button is your 'ticket' to all performances including the Oldsmobile Stage concerts (\$7 in advance, \$10 at the Festival. Children six years and under admitted free.) This is a great event for families.

Judy Collins with the Greater Lansing Symphony Orchestra Sunday, Aug. 21

The Kingston Trio Tuesday, Aug. 23

The Four Tops Wednesday, Aug. 24

Waylon Jennings Thursday, Aug. 25

The Nylons Friday, Aug. 26

The Festival of Michigan Folklife, Children's Stage and Activities and more!

August 19-28
MSU Campus and Downtown East Lansing

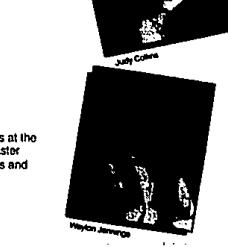
Purchase your admission buttons at the Festival or at statewide Tickermaster ticket centers, including Hudson's and select AAA Michigan locations.

TICKETMASTER

TICKET CENTERS OR CHAINSTORES

DETROIT 423-4444

For further information please call: (817) 351-9420



WARNING: Not reading this ad can be hazardous to your company's health.

You wouldn't take a pill without knowing exactly what's inside. Why would you sign on to any Health Maintenance Organization without reading the label, too? Here's what ours has to say.

M-CARE contains no hidden costs. We offer highly competitive rates in a cost-effective delivery system that can be tailor made to suit your company's individual needs—whatever those needs may be.

The M-CARE plan contains no red tape. In fact, for employers, every M-CARE plan is not only simple, but comes with its own team of health care

consultants to make certain you understand it.

M-CARE combines the unique resources of the University of Michigan Medical Center, one of the world's finest medical facilities, with the strong primary care services provided by physicians and hospitals throughout the region.

So every member of the M-CARE plan is assured the highest quality medical care available.

Now, aren't you glad you took the time to read this label? To find out more about our flexible benefit package, call the M-CARE Administrative Office today. Our number is (313) 747-8700.

M-CARE
The *Smart* Choice