



The Pileated Post

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 3, APRIL, 1983

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

---APRIL-----

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Board meeting (Officers, Chairpersons, Directors, and anyone interested) will be held at 6:30 P.M. at Flathead Bank of Big Fork. This will precede the regular meeting.

Regular meeting of Flathead Audubon Society will be held in the downstairs meeting room of the Flathead Bank of Big Fork. The business meeting is at 7:30 P.M., while the program begins at 8:00 P.M.. Mike Conner, Information Officer for Flathead National Forest, will present a program on the recently released draft of the Flathead Forest Plan.

Spring Montana Audubon Council meeting at Missoula, Montana.

NON-GAME FUNDING

The Non-Game Funding Bill was recently passed by the Montana Senate. It was amended by the Senate, and as of this writing the nature of the amendments is unknown. The bill had previously passed the Montana House of Representatives, and would provide a non-game funding check-off on the state income tax form.

FIELD TRIP LEADERS

Leaders are needed to conduct or help conduct field trips for this upcoming season. Anyone interested in conducting a field trip or anyone having ideas for field trips should contact Jack Whitney--Big Fork--837-4459.



STUDY SPECIMENS

Flathead Audubon Society has a permit that allows it to collect and preserve bird specimens. Jean Robocker has recently received information on an injection preservation method that is much more simple than skinning. Anyone having bird bodies or interested in this simple technique should contact Jean Robocker--Kalispell--755-2751.

SOME U.S. FOREST LANDS FACING "PRIVATIZATION"

The latest development in the "privatization program is a tentative proposal by the Department of Agriculture to sell up to six million acres of National Forest lands to private interests. Privatization is the Reagan Administration's plan to reduce the federal deficit by speeding up sale of what it deems to be "surplus" federally owned land. The Forest Service proposal is subject to further study and, in any event, cannot be carried out without congressional approval.

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Land Management began hearings in Idaho last week on its proposals for privatization sales there. Judging by the response at the BLM hearing, the privatization idea is far less popular in 1983 than it was in the heyday of the Sagebrush Rebellion a few years ago. Governor John V. Evans explained it this way: "I think most people fear that once this publicly owned land goes on the block, it is not going to go to Idahoans. It's going to go to speculators and suitcase farmers who will just drive up prices and fence the lands off." These lands are currently open to multiple use, such as sheep and cattle grazing, and hunting, fishing and other recreation.

Senators John H. Chafee of Rhode Island and Dale L. Bumpers of Arkansas plan to introduce a bill to assure that the public's interest in any parcel of federally owned land is fully evaluated before the parcel is put up for sale, and that the short-run advantage of raising some money in the current fiscal year is not allowed to overbalance the land's long-run value to the public. The bill is as yet unnumbered, but Audubon members who wish to support it could write to their senators (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) and refer to the Chafee/Bumpers bill to provide safeguards to guide what the administration now refers to as the "asset management program."

AUDUBON LEADER, MARCH 25, 1983



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