

To: Mike Clark

From: Tom Throop

Date: August 29, 1995

406 - 586 - 0851

RE: President Clinton's visit

My notes are poor. Apologize for not thinking of assuming a scribe roll.

#### NOTES

1. Properly selected and packaged, environmental issues are winners in the West.
2. Noranda; "wrong place" and "too risky."
3. ESA: - "strongly support the premises" on which the ESA was adopted.  
- "vigorously oppose legislation that weakens the ESA."  
- reference to improving ESA implementation during re-authorization.
4. Vigorously reject efforts to privatize public lands.
5. Must confront wise use proponents and the extremist in Congress who carry their agenda.
6. Work on and tract the "quilt" (Ray's term?) of small environmental successes in the region/West. Establish a system to show a pattern of progress one year from now.



Rally

July 1995

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## August 1995

### Ken

*Foundation Reports & Renewal*

September 1995

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 8A Ford 8:30 Ruth Mott 9 Turner report 9:30 W.A. Jones 10 Cissy Patterson <i>Aug. 15</i>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	<b>15</b> 8A Turner report due Sept. 1 8:30 W.A. Jones renewal due <del>Sept.</del> <i># Aug. 15</i>	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	<b>31</b> 8A Noble Foundation Report due Nov. 1		



Mike--

here are Kathy Hadley's notes from the President's meeting with conservationists on Friday, 8/25. Let me know how you want to adjust this.

It was Kathy's understanding that Hillary agreed to make resources from her office available, and the President said he'd make CEQ staff available to work with conservationists in the future. What exactly they'd work on was "very mushy," but the Clintons supported the idea of having this meeting again, as a continuation.

Topics discussed: ESA, water quality (in very general terms), New World Mine, 1872 Mining Law--which the President said he didn't like at all; he said Sen. Bumpers had been trying for years to get it changed and they would get it done, they were close--also discussed public lands, which MWF (Tony J.) was very interested in. Talked about how the President should make public lands an electoral populist issue. People live here for the quality of life, and the public lands are part of our culture, and many many people use them--all of us do. It could be a winning strategy for him, to support protecting those lands.

The President was well informed on ESA. He didn't make any commitments, but he was still excited about feeding the wolves.

Hillary thought the #1 thing we could do would be to get national environmental groups to work together; Wise Use had succeeded in fracturing us, and we were losing votes because we couldn't work together.

The President talked a little about his experience that one day in the Park, seeing Americans of all walks of life enjoying the wildlife and natural resources. We have to protect these natural resources for people, regular people, who can't afford expensive backpacking trips. He focused on people, protecting public lands and the park.

After this meeting, a bunch of conservationists went back to Mammoth in a van, with Ray Clark of CEQ. (Mike Clark wasn't privy to that conversation.) Ray said that he thought it had been a very good meeting, very successful. And he thought the meeting should have a name. The conservationists suggested "Barn Meeting," and Ray said, "Yellowstone Summit." They said fine. Ray said this was one of the best meetings he'd been to (Kathy suggested to me that he may be paid to say this), and that the President hasn't met with any conservation leaders since he's been president. Ray asked about doing this again in a year, same place, same time. Meeting with the President? Ray said yes, the President or Vice President.

They also talked about Ray being a contact for future work that we could do together, MT WY conservation people. Ray said he had to take it up with his boss, Katie McGinty. Because he doesn't make those decisions.



**TRANSCRIPT OF PRESIDENT CLINTON'S RESPONSE TO THE JUNE 1, 1995  
BILLINGS, MONTANA, TOWN MEETING QUESTION CONCERNING THE  
CONTROVERSIAL NEW WORLD GOLD MINE**

**QUESTION:**

Mr. President, my name is Sue Glidden and I've owned and operated a general store in Cooke City, Montana, for 18 years with my husband. A Canadian mining company is proposing a gold mine just 2.5 miles from the Northeast entrance to Yellowstone National Park, approximately 120 miles south of Billings, which threatens Yellowstone National Park and Wyoming's only Wild and Scenic River, the Clark's Fork of the Yellowstone.

Park Superintendent Mike Finley, Montana Sen. Max Baucus, Editorial boards of local and regional newspapers and citizens of Montana and Wyoming have voiced strong opposition to this project.

The United Nations World Heritage Committee is investigating these threats to Yellowstone, a site it describes as "an outstanding universal value."

Mr. President, what will you do to ensure the protection of our nation's crown jewel, Yellowstone National Park?

**PRESIDENT CLINTON:**

First of all, let me thank you for the question.

I'm very worried about it because of the site. I know it's on private land but it's only a couple of miles from Yellowstone and from (the) Clark's Fork.

I spoke with Sen. Baucus today at some length about this. I asked him to take a car ride with me for about 15 minutes so he could walk me through this and all of his concerns. What I believe we have to do now, as you know there has to be an environmental impact statement filed on this, and Sen. Baucus has set out five very specific extra high standards he thinks ought to have to be met before they get approval under any Environmental Impact Statement, and I guess I would have to tell you that's the way I feel.

I think that the people of Montana are entitled to know that we have gone the extra mile because of the unique place where this site is. And I don't want to pre-judge the Environmental Impact Statement. I believe most of these decisions should be made on the merits.

But it just stands to reason, given the tailings and the other dimensions of the mining project, that it's going to have to meet a very high standard before you can be absolutely certain you're not doing anything to (the) Clark's Fork and to Yellowstone.

And no amount of gain that could come from it could possibly offset any permanent damage to Yellowstone.

So you just need to be sure and you need to watch this, and I will watch it - I assure you I will - and I know that Sen. Baucus and others will.



MEETING WITH CONSERVATION LEADERS  
IN GREAT FALLS  
HERITAGE INN

Michael Clark Director Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Louise Bruce Director Montana Wilderness Association

Mark Goode President Great Falls Chapter MWA

Michael Scott Northern Rockies Director Wilderness Society

Tom France National Wildlife Federation

Tony Jewett Director Montana Wildlife Federation

Joe Lampson Pat Williams office Helena

AGENDA

Mike Clark intro

Pat/Bruce -- opening remarks

short presentations

Mike Clark with regional overview of issues and need for political awareness/ purpose of meeting

Mike Scott on the specific view of northwest/western conservationists about recent issues like salvage, grazing

Tom France will do practical issues and solutions -- view from the Sportsmen caucus

Louise Bruce on how to use key issues as a tool in grassroots organization

*Public lands parks - water quality OSM budget - Budget strategy/enforcement*

ISSUES:

\* Building environmental support in the west; Taking control of the "wise-use" agenda; building on simpler sportsmen themes, appeal to the hook and bullet crowd is where conservationist populism is best presented. There is a need for setting an agenda and not just letting the conservative agenda drive the public debate. the Secretary's fight on behalf of the parks in this past



budget round is example of how issues should be done.

\* there have been mistakes in the conservationists/Administration handling of issues, most notably the salvage timber affair, or grazing and the new regs. How to avoid these types of issues.

\* types of issues that work; access, anti sale of public lands, fish, mining, clean water and endangered species. How do we raise these issues in visibility.

\* How can folks connect with White House on these issues and the next campaign

\* need for western environmental representative on President's advisor staff.

*BS Phouder  
Chief of Staff*

*Budget strategy/implementation  
Other water court  
Park -*

ISSUES:  
\* Building environmental support in the west; Taking control of the "wise-use" agenda; building on alpine sportsmen themes, appeal to the hawk and bullet crowd as where conservationist populism is best presented. There is a need for setting an agenda and not just letting the conservative agenda drive the public debate. The secretary's fight on behalf of the parks in this past