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International Nuclear Law

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Resistance to the reduction of social demand to commodities, and the liquidation that it rationalized, was also established soon after WW II (pp. 62-63). The large-scaled 'clearcutting', previously referred to as 'even-aged management' (p. 264) that became the dominant mode of tree harvesting in this period was as much the product of intensifying ideological conflicts and the perceived need to take as much timber as swiftly as possible while these corporate interests remained in command. The construction of the spectre of the leftist 'environmentalist', birkenstocks and all, was, in no small part, associated with a corporate strategy, in the anticommunist hysteria, to isolate resistance to rapid increases in cutting levels (pp. 72-73). And it was in this period that the pattern of government subsidized liquidation of ancient forests, dangerous levels of grazing, and reduction of 'recreational' and other landscape values to short-term market indicators, were all engrained. Legislation defining 'multiple use' was first enacted in 1955 but there was never any consensus for increased levels of conservation. This contradiction paved the way for an oppositional break and an independent environmental movement in the following decade. At the inception of this debate, corporate interests were able to dominate through their emphasis on short-term jobs created but the expanded cutting did not generate sufficient revenues to go back to the agency and reforestation was always neglected (pp. 203-207).

For me, Hirt's understated illumination of today's land management by the USDA FS as largely a creature of the Cold War was perhaps the most upsetting revelation in this well-crafted history. For example, Hirt described how the administrative structure of the offices of the Tongass National Forest of southeastern Alaska, long notorious for subsidizing the liquidation of slow-growing temperature rainforest - in recent years for Japanese corporate interests, became established with post-WW II logging and 'scientific' management. Hirt's accounts are direct and understated, his notion of 'conspiracy' is supple but the wealth of his facts could easily be interpreted with a paranoia akin to that of Grade B television series such as the *X-files*. The Democratic Congress and Presidencies of 1960-68 created a crack in the wall of the corporatization and clearcutting but the few gains in conservation were soon eroded in the Nixon years. The Carter administration was not able to reverse the trends. By the Reagan years, the agency was out of control prompting a flood of reform initiatives by a Democratic-controlled Congress in the Bush years. Hirt's chronicle is especially important in portraying the yet-to-be resolved 'internal revolt' within the agency against the emphasis on short-term cutting and overgrazing, that has emerged over the past decade. The book ends with Clinton's 'timber summit'

where he intimidated environmentalists into supporting compromises that have allowed the USDA FS to continue to facilitate over-cutting and largely cosmetic forest rehabilitation. The current rhetoric to manage and conserve entire 'ecosystems' functions to mask the opposite types of policies. Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of *A Conspiracy of Optimism* is not the inevitability of the loss of diverse, multi-aged forest ecosystems but rather how spurious science and vested interests came to be so deeply entrenched even when large portions of staff never really believed the rhetoric.

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Ecosystem Classification for Environmental Management, Frans Klijn (ed.) published by Kluwer Academic Publishers, Dordrecht, The Netherlands, 1994; 293pp; \$76, hardcover.

Science, and ecology in particular, is taking an increasingly central role in legal concepts such as 'environmentally sensitive areas' and 'critical habitat'. How areas are defined and lines are drawn can become subjects of legal actions. This landscape ecology anthology highlights growing importance of ecological classification in environmental planning. *Ecosystem Classification for Environmental Management* makes contemporary interpretations of the ecosystem concept. However, the anthology is rooted in a somewhat dated ecological determinism that in these times of deconstruction an unmasking of the biases in sciences is perhaps over-confident. The book's central argument is that 'to sustain biodiversity, we must preserve **ecodiversity**: a varied pattern of ecosystems at the earth's surface composed by the interaction of abiotic, biotic, and anthropic forces' (v). Problematically, the compilation suffers from modernist obsessions for over-generalization and emphases on predictable and homogeneous spaces that can stymie efforts to identify unique and vulnerable sites.

The essays in *Ecosystem Classification for Environmental Management* focus on north-western Europe. Wolfgang Haber links landscape ecology to environmental planning with its intrinsic policy dimensions. Michel Godron, the current patriarch of landscape ecology, explores the various natural and social factors that determine the basis for delineating different ecological zones and management areas. Frans Klijn proposes hierarchies to more clearly delineate ecosystems. Han Runhaar and Helias Udo de Haes explore more site-specific

approaches that allow for recognition of greater uniqueness and finer precision in decision-making. Robert Bunce reviews the implications of ecological survey methods to protection of sensitive areas in Britain. There is an outline of the use of the Biological Valuation Map for nature conservation in Flanders and another on identification and monitoring of sensitive sites in Denmark, called 'small biotopes', as part of its Nature Protection Act.

Ecosystem Classification for Environmental Management illustrates the problems of translating a variety of scientific interpretations into equally fluid legal concepts. While by no means comprehensive, the anthology can be used as something of a guide, at least for a few years, for north-western Europe. But many of these still vague scientific categories will soon be antiquated in large part because of public pressure for better conservation and lower impact development. In this sense, much of the book is 'good science' in that it uncovers many more questions, in this increasingly prominent aspect of environmental planning, than it answers.

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Environmental Law, Simon Ball and Stuart Bell, published by Blackstone Press Ltd., London, UK, 1995, 546pp; £21.95, softcover. **Statutes on Environmental Law, 2nd Edition**, R. Duxbury and S. Morton, published by Blackstone Press Ltd., London, UK, 1995, 463pp; £13.95, softcover.

Ball and Bell on Environmental Law examine, within stated boundaries, the UK Law relating to the Environment with an additional chapter on EC Law.

The appearance of the third edition of this student text is certainly a welcome event. The book's structure, like its predecessors, is divided into two parts. Part I covers 'General Principles of Environmental Law' including Sources, Agencies, The EC, Regulation and Enforcement, Environmental Information and The Role of the Common Law. Part II entitled 'Sectoral Coverage of Environmental Law' deals with specific areas such as Integrated Pollution Control and Waste Management. This tried and tested structure works well. It is not always obvious, however, why the section on common law should be discussed in Part I as it contains some highly specific case law. That being said, in a field as diverse and protean as environmental law it is of the utmost importance to the newcomer to establish the basic principles and struc-