

YOUTH CRIME WATCH OF DADE
COUNTY, FL

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the staff, students, and faculty advisors who comprise Youth Crime Watch of Dade County, a program of Citizens' Crime Watch of Dade County, for their continuing meritorious service and assistance in improving the quality of life within Dade County.

In an era when violence in our Nation's schools is mounting, and the public has come to perceive many young people as apathetic, Youth Crime Watch of Dade County provides a shining example of the best in America's youth. In my community alone, students at schools such as Hialeah Senior, American Senior, Hialeah Middle, Henry H. Filer Middle, and Palm Springs Middle have worked through their Youth Crime Watch of Dade County programs to set up student patrols which have significantly reduced crime in their schools; educated their student bodies on how to anonymously report crimes; collected canned goods, toys, and clothing for needy families; visited orphanages and nursing homes; hosted students from other countries such as Japan and the Bahamas; and worked to alleviate the physical and emotional suffering of the Cuban children who had to endure the camps in Guantanamo. These young leaders undertake these activities not for class credit or special recognition, but simply to satisfy their desire to help others.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take a moment to recognize the School Board of Dade County, FL, for their unwavering support of the Youth Crime Watch of Dade County program. They have shown great wisdom and foresight in ensuring that this much-needed program continues to reach tens of thousands of students every year.

All of these people—staff, students, and advisors—truly exemplify the ideal of community service. As a Nation, we must be proud to have such individuals in our society. I for one am privileged that so many of them reside in my community.

THE COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST
ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT OF
TIMBER RESOURCES ACT

HON. GEORGE B. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Colville National Forest Adaptive Management of Timber Resources Act. The intermountain west and, in particular, a portion of my district in eastern Washington State, are plagued by unhealthy, overstocked forests.

These unhealthy forests are susceptible to catastrophic fires of such intensity that they cook the forest soil and leave the forest floor lifeless. The threat of such disasters lies in the broad expanses of forest stands that are densely overstocked with small-diameter trees

of low vigor. They are highly susceptible to insects and disease, as well as fire. These stands have become that way in part because they have not been managed and because the lower-intensity fires that are nature's way of forest management have been suppressed.

The recently completed 5-year CROP—CREating OPPortunities—study commissioned by the U.S. Forest Service on the Colville National Forest starkly portrays the dimensions of the problem and also points the way toward solutions. This study, conducted during 1989 through 1994, found that more than 525,000 acres of the Colville, or just under half its total land base, had been burned between 1910 and 1934. Of the forest stands generated from these burned acres, 96 percent now have a poor to fair vigor rating, and 42 percent have a moderate to high hazard rating for mountain pine beetle infestation. The productivity of these stands is declining. Insects and disease contribute to the heavy fuel load on these acres, increasing the probability of catastrophic fire requiring a major reforestation effort. Of these fire-generated stands, 86 percent are allocated for emphasis on timber management.

The CROP study determined that thinning these stands would improve vigor, reduce risk, and ultimately create greater stand diversity. There is a 10- to 20-year window of opportunity before the insect hazard becomes significantly worse and the chances for a positive response to thinning diminish. Market opportunities presently exist for the small-diameter trees that would be removed in thinning.

In drafting the Colville National Forest Adaptive Management of Timber Resources Act, I have taken the results of the CROP study, emphasized the need and demand for scientifically based and environmentally acceptable results, and recognized the ongoing substantial reduction in Forest Service funds and trained personnel.

The Colville is a logical place to begin this research because the CROP study has already laid the groundwork, especially in terms of resource inventory and assessment. It would take more preparation time to begin the same project elsewhere.

Upon enactment, a 10-year research and experimentation effort will begin on the Colville that is intended to conserve natural resources without locking them up; provide answers applicable throughout the intermountain west; reduce waste of resources; shift activities from the declining public employees sector to the private sector for savings in cost and efficiency; and help balance the budget by generating revenues from federal assets without increasing expenditures.

The act requires the Secretary of Agriculture to prepare a research plan and supporting environmental documents that provide for implementing and evaluating controlled silvicultural treatment in the affected areas. The purpose of the research is to test the effect of adaptive management techniques in the treatment of such forest stands.

The research area is approximately 110,000 acres of the Colville National Forest. These acres are overstocked, small-diameter, stagnated forest stands in areas generated from fire up to 80 years ago. Research is to begin by the second full field season after enactment, but a demonstration project covering perhaps 10,000 acres can begin as soon as a preliminary draft of the research plan is com-

plete. The research is to continue over a 10-year period, with roughly equal amounts of acreage to be treated each year. Monitoring of the research is to continue for 15 years, with detailed reports of findings and implications to be submitted to Congress at 5-year intervals.

The research will be paid for from a combination of the proportionate funds available for the research area through the normal Forest Service budget and 50 percent of the revenues generated from sales of forest products removed pursuant to the scientific research. Counties will receive their normal 25 percent share of revenue generated by research sales.

The Secretary of Agriculture will be able to use private contractors for the preparation, implementation, and monitoring of the research. He might choose to involve the Center for Sustainable Eastern Washington Ecosystems which was substantially involved in the CROP study that underlies this research. To the greatest extent practicable, the Secretary is to use private contractors from communities adversely affected by reductions in Forest Service timber sales.

Mr. Speaker, 10 to 15 years may sound like a long time for research, monitoring, and broad application of the research finds. But the amount of time is very short before we must begin to deal with the problem of overstocked and underconserved forests. I urge all of my colleagues who despair of the soil-sterilizing large fires that have plagued our forests too often in recent years to join me in support of this bill and help get this vital scientific research underway.

RONALD G. PETTENGILL, PRESIDENT, ROCHESTER LABOR COUNCIL, RETIRES

HON. LOUIS McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure that I call your attention to the retirement of the president of the Rochester Labor Council, AFL-CIO Ronald G. Pettengill. Ron is not only an esteemed labor leader and team player, he is also a wonderful friend, whose hard work and dedication will be greatly missed.

Ron joined the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners in 1955, first as an apprentice, then as a journeyman carpenter, and later as a leader in Local 85. During his tenure the brotherhood's membership significantly grew and the joint apprenticeship program and journeyman training program greatly expanded.

Ron has also served with distinction as the president of the Rochester Labor Council since 1985. He has worked tirelessly to increase the council's influence. Since he assumed the presidency, the council's membership has grown dramatically and now even has a full-time staff person to coordinate the council's activities.

Ron's accomplishments take on even greater significance when viewed in the context of the current work environment. The labor movement must look to quality leaders, like Ron, to fight for worker protection and fair compensation. He has always stood by my side as we fought to promote the interests of our community's working men and women.