

Letters

I am a reader of *Park Science* and a tree farmer, intensely interested in the evolving land management scene. I recently attended a conference in Portland, OR, that I think would be of interest to your readers. It was sponsored by the Western Forestry and Conservation Association and titled "Science and Politics in the Practice of Forestry." The keynote address, by Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands Brian Boyle, stressed the current clash of **values**, not of **facts** in the field of natural resource management. He suggested that regulations tie our hands, whereas cooperation has a freeing effect.

Tom Nygren, USFS Regional office in Portland, suggested that science only looks at pieces, whereas managers must use more holistic thinking to do their jobs. George Frampton, president of the Wilderness Society, focused on the need for developing consensus.

Technical sessions on land use, stand management, wildlife, reforestation, fire, forest health, all stressed the need to better educate the public and decision makers about what we **think** we know, and more particularly to educate them about what we **don't** know. Only the session on economics left this observer wondering if most economics isn't really in the realm of guesswork.

Some 65 or more speakers generally stressed the need for more holistic thinking by managers, more cooperation among agencies, and a more informed body politic. Many speakers recognized that good science is necessary in the practice of resource management, but that science alone is not sufficient.

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