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FLOOR DEBATE

April 20, 2005 LB 673

has actually occurred and what is occurring. I sent you all a rhyme this morning. And about that rhyme and what is in it I'm as serious as a heart attack. These bad bills are brought out here, and I'm going to resist them. The amendment that I have, which is pending, so that the...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...record is clear, is to strike lines 10 and 11 from page 1. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Louden, your light is next.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. One thing this bill is, is a management tool. And some of the senators have talked about going out in the western end of the state and seeing the beauty out there, the forested areas, the trees of Pine Ridge area. That didn't happen because people let that go back to nature. The reason that's like that is because of the management plans that have been in place over the years. I don't know if any of you are familiar, but we had the Chadron State Park fire probably 25 years ago and so, and devastated a whole area. And yet, when you drive through there now, those buttes are still bare of trees. So there was a lesson to be learned then, that we had to have some type of fire control in the area. That went on. And then we had the fire that...south of Crawford, whatever that one was called. And that was a huge fire. Went to the west, jumped to Highway 20 with...by leaps and bounds, covering probably quarter of a mile at a time when it was burning at its greatest. Devastated huge areas out there. So there was other ideas. Now the management plan, then, that the Forest Service has, is, they thin those trees in areas, and do away with what's called laddering, with the dead trees that lean against other trees, to cut down on the fire hazard. The National Forest Service is working at that. Some of the state forestry people are working on that, and they're trying to get the Game and Parks Commission forest areas to follow suit. And this is all a management plan, so that we do have some natural resources out there that are worthwhile. That whole country at one time was devastated of trees. There