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We are here to witness a desperate fight. Jimbo the Ultraconservative Logger and Sebastian the Greenpeace member—both Idahoans, and both very concerned with the state of our forests—will be engaged in a battle of wills. Who will gain stewardship of Idaho's forests? We shall see.

The debate begins, and it looks as if it will not be easily won. Sebastian is adamant that logging is an abomination that should be outlawed. He claims that nature is the forest's only competent steward, and that a strict "look, but don't touch" policy should be enacted. Sebastian lets slip that his volatility can make him inconsistent—he has been known to stake trees in the folly of his youth. Jimbo, on the other hand, believes that natural resources are ours for the taking, and that he should be allowed to plunder and pillage as he pleases. After a vigorous and violent outburst, his manner softens and he gives a heart-wrenching argument—if he is not allowed to log, how will he feed his family?

The rivals have fought themselves to a standstill. Both consider this to be a life-and-death situation, and neither is willing to yield. What are we to do? A solution must be reached!

Behold! It seems that a hero has arrived. Marty the Mild-Mannered Moderate appears out of the gloom and gives his opinion in a soft and unassuming stutter.

Marty begins by gently admonishing both extreme parties. He reminds them that environmental and human interests are not mutually exclusive, and that they would do well to try to understand each other.

Marty then moves to his main point. He shyly proclaims that forests are very complex structures, and that no single management solution can possibly be appropriate for all of Idaho's forests. He suggests that forest be divided between the interests of Jimbo and Sebastian. Certain areas should be set aside for logging, where different management techniques will be used to ensure that loggers don't need to spread beyond their allotted space. Such techniques include clearcutting and replanting, thinning, and harvesting trees as soon as they reach maturity. To satisfy Sebastian, Marty claims that large expanses should be set aside as reserves where no human habitation is allowed (aside from the occasional wandering mountain man). But one must not be overprotective of reserves, Marty cautions, because although the natural reflex is to put out any and all forest fires, those caused by nature must be allowed to run their course. Otherwise, certain fire-dependent plants will be unable to grow, and underbrush will become much too thick.

Marty requests that Jimbo and Sebastian shake hands. He asks them to understand that there is no way for either of them to be entirely satisfied—no solution is perfect, because we have already developed some economical and social habits that even Sebastian (though he would deny it) would find it difficult to change. A bit of sacrifice and wise planning, however, and make things as close to perfect as possible.