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I put a call to Von Sorenson early on the 29th of June (1994). Von called back at 7:00 a.m. or so.

I ask about a rumored land exchange involving Independence Mine, the BLM and Ken Jones.

Von confirmed that there was such an exchange in progress, then went on to explain that he too was involved in a land trade with the Forest Service and Independence.

— where by the Forest People were to acquire the upper portion of a block of land that they had in upper Pole Canyon.

"We can't use it anymore because the Forest Service wouldn't allow us to conduct predator control - and forced us out of the sheep business.

"Most of it is rough and rocky. there is some grass but it is mostly snow berry and other browse that is good sheep feed but cattle can't get much use up there".

"And Independence can't go forward with their operation. the Forest Service won't let them develop that country on the Independence mountains."

"this way Independence can go forward with their operation and we can put funds into a trust account" "and get other land we can use".

Cliff: But isn't this blackmail?

Von: Sure it's blackmail, but the government is asking

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the shots, and this way both Independence and ourselves can continue to operate".

"We can't run sheep anymore since the Forest Service stopped any predator control, and that upper country is not of much use to us anymore." So this way we can get ground that we can run cattle on!"

Cliff: who approached you about the trade? Did the Forest Service approach you?"

Yon: "No, IMC approached us two years ago, they said they were looking for land to trade to the Forest Service for land there on the Independence Mountains - they wanted it kept confidential."