

## *HAMILL'S LAST STAND*

*for Gladys McLeod*

1.

Our concern is tree-murder, harvest  
of the forest (she's worried  
they call it "timber") timber sale A04292  
structure wood  
could be a rough political situation,  
could be  
we speak as trees,  
innocent understanding of ourselves  
as things or places too, maybe farming  
but for the mess  
left on the smouldering hillsides  
and silting the creeks  
maybe a new crop another lifetime, no care  
for the names Hemlock, Balsam, Spruce  
undone words from our own mouths,  
no flowers anymore but  
cubic feet seven million two hundred  
and thirty-eight  
thousand Cedar, Larch, White Bark Pine,  
trunk roots and  
limbs scrapped trash-wood fuel  
for the bush-fires dirty  
orange summer skyline, Lodgepole,  
White Pine, Other  
Species, in other words  
strip it, all the growthe  
for structure wood  
core of our eyes to see and say it,  
won't be taken  
care of, hearts lost in the language  
of public auction  
only "profit" in the names, no talk  
left about it, so set now  
there is no argument, choices gone,  
nothing left to say  
Forest Ranger.

2.

house of structure wood all leaky  
roof this morning in the rain  
  
sits in the chimney flashing seeps  
through to the roof joists and drips  
  
still upright tree wood (branches?)  
from the floor sill to cross-beams  
  
what cells left without the bark, root-  
less timbers stand in the doorways

