

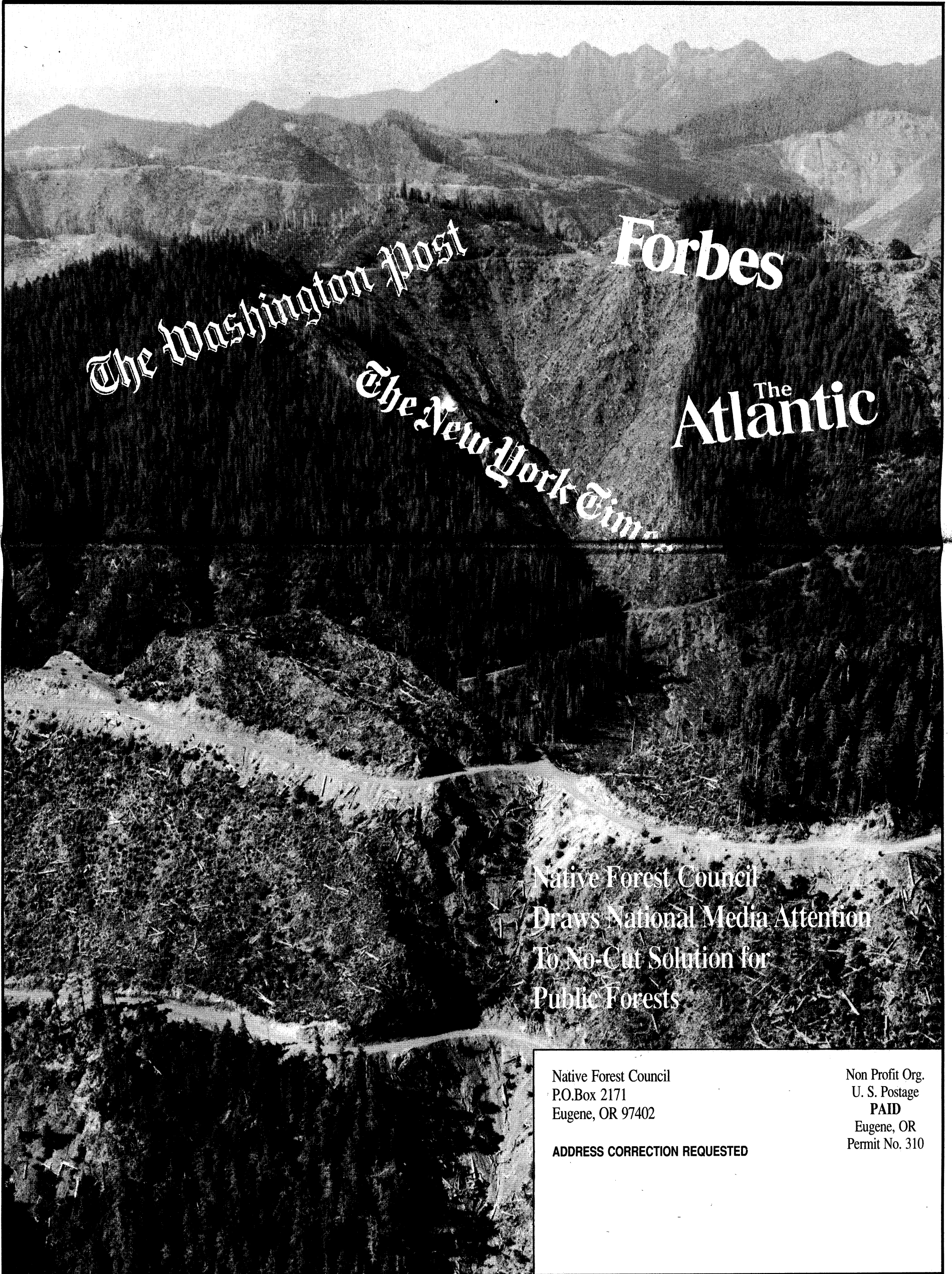
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Protecting Public Forestlands

# Forest Voice

1992  
Volume 5  
Number 1

A Publication of the Native Forest Council



*The Washington Post*

*Forbes*

*The New York Times*

*The Atlantic*

Native Forest Council  
Draws National Media Attention  
To No-Cut Solution for  
Public Forests

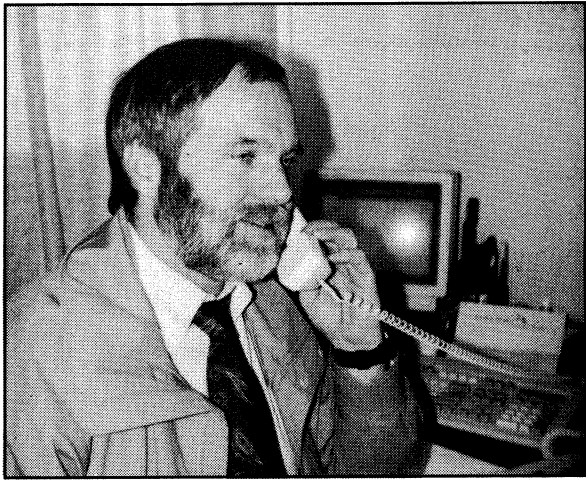
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# From the Executive Director

**"We...have been told that our persistence helped draw national attention to the forest crisis."**



Timothy Hermach

**T** rue to our stated goals, the NFC worked hard last year to propel the forest issue onto the national stage. This edition of the Forest Voice is testimony to that effort.

We have always believed that the only way to save the remaining unprotected 5 percent of our native forests is to pass a law prohibiting their plunder. To accomplish this, the public had to be in-

formed, the injustice exposed and the national will mobilized. Congress, so often willing to serve special interests at the expense of the public's interest, would likewise have to be educated and inspired to honor the public will.

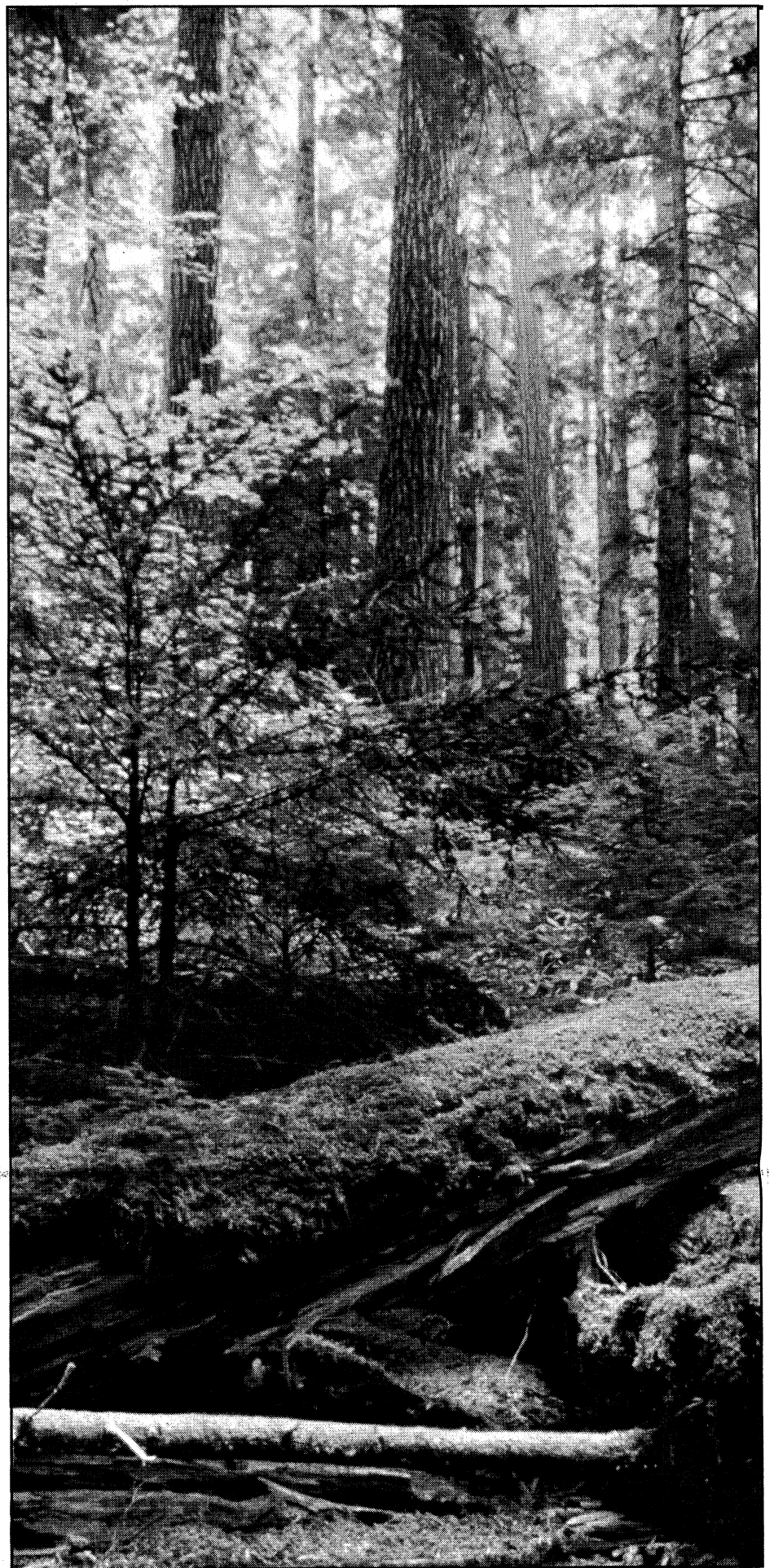
No small undertaking. Like any group pressing an issue of national concern, we understood the need for exposure and support in the national media, particularly the influential--and discouragingly silent--eastern media. Last year I made a half dozen trips to the east coast courting both print and electronic media. I contacted 60 Minutes, Prime Time Live, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Time Magazine, The Atlantic Monthly, and the CBS Evening News among others. Everywhere I went, I spoke as eloquently as I could, for as long as they let me, about the crisis in our national forests. The NFC distributed hundreds of forest-information kits. We called, faxed, pleaded, ranted, and generally made an eloquent nuisance of ourselves. We believe, and have been told, that our persistence helped draw national attention to the forest crisis.

Our break came on September 17, 1991 when the New York Times published an NFC editorial. To my knowledge, it was the first national-media op/ed piece to call for a stop to logging of public lands. The flood-gates opened.

Just two weeks later The New York Times published its own scathing editorial, and a month after that, they published a two page spread in the Sunday edition condemning logging of native forests on economic and ecological grounds. We also provided information to Perri Knize for her definitive Atlantic Monthly article "The Mismanagement of the National Forests."

Some of these articles appear below. Others will be reproduced in future editions of the Forest Voice. They give evidence of a growing national consensus that Forest Service "management" practices are bankrupt, and that we must stop the senseless destruction of our national forests. No longer is compromise seen as a reasonable or a desirable solution to the forest crisis. Increasingly, the vision of the Native Forest Council--no more logging of native forests-- once thought to be unattainable, is gaining mainstream support.

If you are already a member of the NFC, we thank you for your on-going patronage. If you are not yet a member, we invite you to join us.



Old Growth, Willamette National Forest, Oregon

photo by Trygve Steen

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# The Great Tree Robbery

*The New York Times*

September 17, 1991

by **Tim Hermach**  
Executive Director  
Native Forest Council

Eugene, Ore.

Next week, the House Subcommittee on Civil Service is expected to meet with top Forest Service officials to determine whether the Bush Administration has put pressure on Government employees to permit increased logging on Federal lands.

The answer is "yes." In his decision May 23 to temporarily halt logging in parts of the Northwest, William L. Dwyer, a Federal judge in Seattle, suggested that excessive logging was "not the doing of scientists, foresters, rangers and others at the working levels of these agencies. It reflects decisions made by higher authorities in the executive branch of Government." The forced resignation last month of John W. Mumma, a regional forester widely regarded as an opponent of increased logging, seems to support Judge Dwyer's argument.

The Forest Service and big timber companies have tried to justify the logging of public lands by focusing on the effects reduced logging would have on local economies. They have pitted humans against endangered species. But the preservation vs. jobs debate is an attempt to distract us from the economic realities that both the Forest Service and the lumber firms would rather keep hidden.

First is the Forest Service's program of subsidized timber sales to the logging industry. Our tax dollars pay for mapping, logging roads and other services that make it more profitable for companies to log public lands than their own. Without this, the timber companies would be forced to make their profits by cutting privately owned lands, which account for 85 percent of the U.S. timber supply.

Further, the Forest Service subsidies violate free enterprise principles and harm the economy: the sales from national forests have devalued timber on private lands, putting small tree growers out of business.

As for employment, the numbers are plain enough. Oregon's Department of Employment reports that from 1977 to 1987, the state lost more than 12,000 jobs in logging and wood processing. This 15 percent drop accompanied a 16 percent increase in wood taken from national forests.

Why? Because at least 60 percent of all Northwest timber is exported unfinished. Like a third world colony, we

have turned what's left of our national forests into a source of raw materials for others.

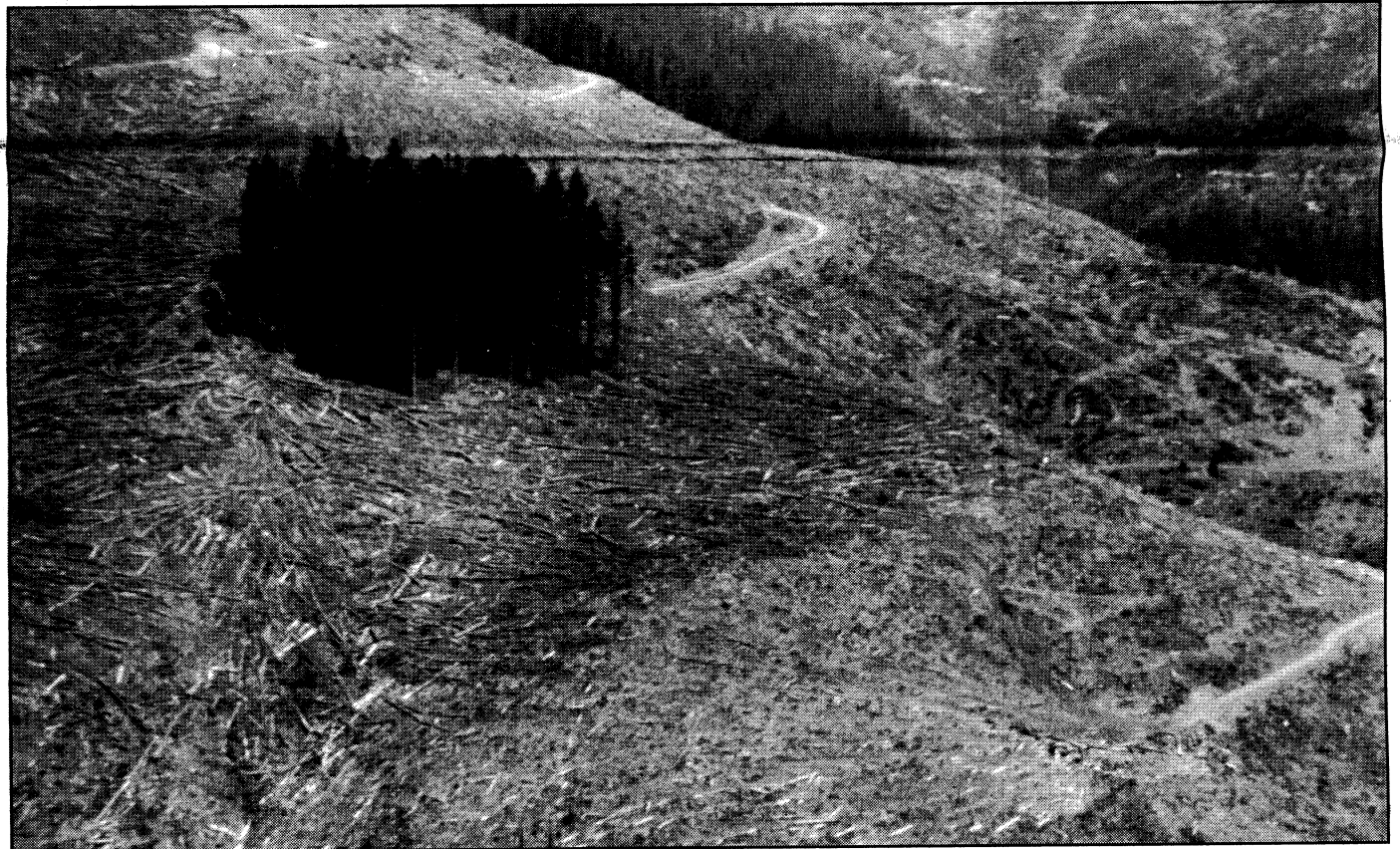
The Forest Service follies have other economic liabilities. According to Forest Service figures for 1990, total revenues from forest-related tourism, hunting and other forms of recreation were \$122 billion, while logging receipts from the nation's public forests and industries were \$13 billion. Few if any tourists will want to visit the ruined forests, clearcuts and tree farms that take the place of old-growth forest land.

Finally, there are the effects of unbridled cutting. Forests are the world's lungs, drawing in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. They

while the rest, primarily our national forests, is falling at the rate of nearly a million acres each year—twice as fast as Brazil's rain forest. And while 80 percent of Brazil's rain forest still stands, at current rates, the unprotected remnants of America's forests could be totally fragmented and gone by the year 2000.

In 1989, George Bush said: "The forests are the sanctuaries not only of wildlife, but also of the human spirit. And every tree is a compact between generations."

Let's stop logging on public lands and put our forest policies in line with our rhetoric.



photographer unknown

collect and store rainfall for slow release during dry spells. Losing them means losing their salutary effects on the world's climate and atmosphere.

An end to logging on public lands would make small tree growers viable again by ridding the market of unfair, taxpayer-subsidized competition. The money now spent to prop up Forest Service timber sales could go directly to the employment of loggers and others involved in the planting and restoration of native forests and fisheries. It takes more jobs to rehabilitate a forest than to destroy it.

Most important, all this comes at a time when less than 5% of the forest that once covered North America remains. Just 1 percent is protected,

*"The forests are the sanctuaries not only of wildlife, but also of the human spirit. And every tree is a compact between generations."*

**-George Bush**



Willamette National Forest

photo by Trygve Steen

# Owls, Trees and Loggers

# Can't See the Forest for the Sleaze

**The Washington Post**  
June 25, 1991

**The New York Times**  
January 29, 1992

by John McCormick

The Endangered Species Act lends itself to caricature; in the case of the northern spotted owl, we print today an explanation of why the caricature is false. The excerpts are not from the works of a biologist or economist but from an opinion by a federal judge; sadly, the courts have become the referees to which one must too often look for environmental truth these days.

The opinion is the best summary we have seen of this dispute. The owl, Judge William Dwyer observes, is not so much the subject of the controversy as it is a convenient metaphor and what the biologists call an "indicator species." What its extinction would indicate is that the entire complex forest system of which it is part is at risk. The real dispute is over that old-growth forest that is the owl's habitat. "A great conifer forest originally covered the western parts of Washington, Oregon and northern California" from the coastal mountains to the sea, Judge Dwyer wrote. As little as 10 percent of it remains, [5 percent outside of Alaska] and the question is whether to log the remainder or save it. The judge's opinion has helped toss the question back to Congress. But the history of the dispute--the reason it was before the Judge--is that neither elected branch of government has wanted to be the one to decide.

Most of the logging of the old-growth forests which Judge Dwyer described was done in the last 50 years...The judge observes that the smaller companies logging in the federal domain are in decline for economic rather than environmental reasons that have nothing to do with the spotted owl--but has made the owl doubly a symbol.

Congress moved to control the logging on federal lands with the National Forest Management Act in 1976. But this call for multiple use of the forests was a straddle that regularized logging as much as it restricted it. The Endangered Species Act was less equivocal, and as the size of the old-growth forest was reduced, a multiple use compromise became more difficult to achieve.

The Reagan and Bush administrations for the most part dealt with the issue by looking the other way; the law-and-order administration balked at enforcing the law. The judge says the record shows them to have engaged in "a remarkable series of violations of the environmental laws" and a "deliberate and systematic refusal...to comply with the laws protecting wildlife," not at the working levels of the relevant agencies but higher up, for political reasons.

The owl--and through it, by proxy, the irreplaceable forest--is to be preserved; the executive branch, for the sake of seeming to protect jobs that are disappearing anyway, has refused. Judge Dwyer has enjoined further logging contracts until a plan to enforce the law is put in place. "The loss of old-growth is permanent," he notes, while "to bypass the environmental laws, either briefly or permanently, would not fend off the changes transforming the timber industry. The argument that the mightiest economy on earth cannot afford to preserve old-growth forests for a short time, while it reaches an overdue decision on how to manage them, is not convincing today. It would be even less so a year or a century from now."

The Forest Service simply does not tolerate freedom of dissent; "whistle-blower" is a four-letter word. The agency has become comfortable with lying to the public, ignoring long-festering problems and serving the timber industry as Government agents of environmental destruction rather than environmental protection.

I do not come to these conclusions lightly. I have dedicated my entire professional life to public service and am an outdoorsman in my personal time who deeply loves our environment, including the national forests. After 30 years of hard work and sometimes risking my life to defend the law, I know when public service has been replaced by a sellout. That is the case at the Forest Service.

I joined the agency in 1976, and led investigations for successful prosecutions of negligence fires by logging companies, the Government's first timber theft case and its then-largest successful timber theft prosecution.

In 1984, however, my career began to sour while I was the regional special agent in Alaska. After uncovering instances of timber theft, improper road construction in the national forests, conflict of interest and personal corruption, I was ordered off key investigations and pressured into taking an assignment in Georgia...The quantity of whistle blower allegations has increased sevenfold since 1987. What follows are examples of standards

that continue to go unheeded: The Forest Service has done little to prevent timber theft. Loggers harvest trees that can not legally be cut under environmental laws and then avoid paying the government for the trees because there is no record of the harvests having occurred...

Illegal timber harvesting techniques, particularly the use of heavy machinery that leaves diesel oil spills and contaminates watersheds, are often overlooked. These areas are so sensitive that horses that used to haul timber [had to] wear diapers to avoid fouling the streams.

Reports and data have been tampered with to permit illegal harvesting in habitats necessary for endangered species such as the spotted owl and bald eagle.

There is a tradition of pork barrel projects, such as a \$160 million contract for a road to nowhere in Alaska while I was stationed there.

Regional foresters have complete authority over whistle-blowing investigations, including those involving their own conduct. Employees who do not cooperate with attempted cover-ups are often punished.

Sexual corruption is illustrated by practices such as bringing prostitutes into a Forest District office and out into the forest in a "Love Van," financed by taxpayer dollars.

**John McCormick headed the Forest Service's whistle-blower program from 1989 until his retirement this month. This article is based on his testimony before the House Civil Service Subcommittee.**



Quinault Ridge, Olympic National Forest, Washington

photo by Trygve Steen /LightHawk

# Why Let Chainsaws Pare the Old Forests at All?

*The New York Times*

November 3, 1991

by Donald G. McNeil Jr.

*Virtually all the national forests that make money are the Northwest's stands of thick-waisted giants. But they are also a national treasure that cannot be replaced by just planting seedlings for future harvests.*

Not counting Alaska, only about 5 percent of the virgin American forest that existed when the first axes arrived on Leif Ericson's ships still stand. Many of the last ancient trees have been spared only by a celebrated diversion, the Fish and Wildlife Service's decision in 1990 to protect a little bird called the northern spotted owl.

That ruling infuriates Washington and Oregon loggers whose jobs are threatened—the bodies of spotted owls have been found nailed to road signs. But like the snail darter in Tennessee and the delta smelt in California, the last 3000 pairs of owls were fading bit players in world ecology until they became the symbol of their habitat and the legal tripwire for rescuing it. They can only survive in the mix of 300 to 1,000-year-old trees, fallen logs, dead snags, new seedlings and rich forest floor that characterizes old-growth forests.

Some feel that relying on cute or exotic animals to save the day obscures the huge environmental and economic stakes involved in old-growth battles. The real issue, environmentalists say, is that an irreplaceable treasure is being sawn down for the short-term gain of timber companies and the politicians who support them in the name of saving jobs, and that thinly disguised Government subsidies to the timber industry are encouraging this.

"We're trying to avoid this 'endangered species of the month' parade—we can't expect the Endangered Species Act to carry all the weight," said Representative Jim Jontz, an Indiana Democrat who has introduced bills to ban selling Federal timber below cost and to protect old forests. "We need an 'endangered ecosystems' approach."

Ancient forests were cut in the 1980's at the rate of 70,000 acres a year. They cannot be recreated simply by replanting and waiting.

Harvesting now commonly means clearcutting patches of 40 to 640 acres, burning the cut limbs and debris and reseeding. This practice eliminates decaying trees, a fertilizer source. Unshaded soil heats up, killing microbes that help new trees take root. Replanting with rows of prime lumber conifers then produces not a replacement forest but a mere tree farm, which supports few species. One hard storm can wash off generations of topsoil, wiping out seedlings, smothering fish eggs in spawning streams and making the water too shallow and warm for the 20-pound trout of the Northwest.

Almost all the old-growth forests that remain are in the hands of the Forest Service, the Federal Bureau of Land Management, the states of Washington and Oregon or small timber lot owners.

It is these forests that produce the highest profits for timber companies. Lodgepole pine in the dry eastern Rockies may sell for \$25 per 1,000 board feet, but Japanese buyers are paying nearly \$750 for the same amount of Douglas fir from the rainy Cascades if it's fine enough for the exposed-beam construction of traditional houses. Largely for that reason, a quarter of the logs cut in the Pacific Northwest are exported.

## The Beauty of the Wood

The price difference is in the wood's strength and beauty. The grain of thick old trees is knot-free and as compelling to stare at as fire is. The beams made from spruces, ponderosa and sugar pines, and silver and Douglas firs will dry without warping and carry heavy loads. But exporting raw logs from Federal land is illegal, and there are many domestic buyers. Sitka spruces become guitars. Rot-resistant redwoods become decks and picnic tables. Incense cedars, whose smell repels moths, become closet lining, fenceposts and pencils. Seven-foot-thick red cedars are split into shingles.

For decades, timber companies fought to keep the public trees from being cut because it depressed the price of their own timberland. But by the late 1980's, the companies had cut virtually all their old growth, and regional Forest Service administrators now say that timber state Congressmen are pressing them to sell trees faster than the public lands can sustain.

The companies argue that people want high-quality lumber, and remind environmentalists that the national forests were set aside, like Europe's to be harvested regularly. Some timbermen refer to old forests as overmature thickets where fine trees are allowed to rot and jobs could be created instead.

Another push to cut has come from Wall Street. Corporate raiders spotted undervalued forests acquired in railroad-building days. The Maxxam Group of Houston, for example, bought the Pacific Lumber Company of California and logged its redwoods to pay off all the debt.

But the most economically irrational attack on ancient forests is not in the Northwest, but in Alaska. There, environmentalists say, despite the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990, two mills owned by the Louisiana-Pacific Corporation and a Japanese consortium are paying as little as \$3 for 500-year-old sitka spruces—a wood so light and strong that Howard Hughes used it in his gigantic Spruce Goose airplane—and grinding them into pulp, something that can be made from any ten-inch tree farm specimen. The Forest Service is losing 75 to 95 cents on every dollar it spends for forest upkeep.

Meanwhile, Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan Jr. is planning to convene the "God Squad," a panel of Federal officials empowered to grant exemptions to the Endangered Species Act, and to ask it to allow 44 sales of old-growth Oregon timber halted by the spotted owl ruling.

But companies, fearing that the future will get bleaker, are aggressively developing wood substitutes. Oriented-strand board, a new plywood, can be made by fusing glue-covered strips of sawmill waste or trees like aspen. More walls are being built of thin steel 2-by-4's, not pine ones. And companies are even importing the Japanese technology that helps foreign sawmills pay so much more for exported American old-growth—thin, laser-guided saw blades that get more planks from a log.

# Forbes

December 9, 1991

*Under the U.S. Forest Service, Washington is managing the national forests in ways that are both economically and environmentally unsound.*

## Spare that tree!

by John Baden

This year is the centennial of the National Forest System. Its custodian, the U.S. Forest Service, manages 191 million acres of national forest and rangeland. That's equal to Texas and Louisiana combined.

When founded, the Forest Service was intended to be a model of good government in the old progressive model of benevolent despotism—rule by the enlightened according to scientific principles. It would be pleasant to report that the experiment has been a success. It hasn't been. It has turned out just about like any other organization where decisions are made by bureaucratic entrepreneurs. Socialism by any other name is still socialism and it still doesn't work.

Yet this is big business. Under the Forest Service's control are marketable assets estimated to be worth over \$50 billion, and its revenues from timber sales last year were some \$1.4 billion. Profits? According to Oak Grove, Ore.'s well-known forest economist Randall O'Toole, money-losing timber sales cost U.S. taxpayers nearly \$400 million last year alone.

What's wrong? Why can't the taxpayer at least break even on a resource of this quality? The problem is that, outside of the Pacific Northwest and the Deep South, most of the national forests are poorly suited for timber harvesting. Forest Service timber sales in Alaska, the Rocky Mountains, the Appalachian and Ozark Mountains, the Midwest and New England often amount to far less than the cost of simply arranging the sales. Essentially, forests that are warm, wet and low subsidize those in the Rockies that are cold, dry and high.

So why log the inefficient forests? The answer makes sense only in a bureaucracy: The inefficient logging continues because the local supervisors need the money. The Forest Service's budget, \$3.6 billion last year, gets most of its money from selling timber on land it manages (over \$1.4 billion; the taxpayer kicks in \$1.7 billion). The numbers would be far different in businesslike accounting methods were used, but they are not.

Timber sales are clearly the chief source of revenues, but the way the forests are managed, there is no true cost accounting. Under a series of laws passed between 1916 and 1976, forest managers are allowed to spend a share of timber receipts on forest

management; the more timber they cut, the more money they get to keep.

The most important of these laws is the Knutson-Vandenberg Act, passed in 1930 to provide funding for reforestation. In 1976 Congress expanded the law to let managers use timber receipts on wildlife, recreation, watershed and other forest improvements.

The incentive, clearly, is to cut. A key flaw in the Knutson-Vandenberg Act is that it allows the USFS to keep a nearly unlimited percentage of gross revenues from timber sales, and does not require forest managers to return the full economic costs of timber sales to the Treasury. When the act was passed, the cost to taxpayers of arranging these sales averaged 50 cents per thousand board feet. At that time the Forest Service wrote rules requiring managers to return at least that amount to the U.S. Treasury.

Since then, inflation has driven the cost of timber sales up to \$50 per thousand board feet. But Forest Service managers are still required to return only 50 cents per thousand to the Treasury. It's almost as if General Motors' Chevrolet division were allowed to buy cars from General Motors at 1930's prices, sell them at

billion in today's dollars. The total mileage would go to the moon and back and then circle the earth four times.

Remember: The cost of this road construction is not factored into the cost of the timber the Forest Service auctions off. In other words, the Forest Service subsidizes logging operations by providing logging companies free access, with increasingly expensive roads built on more remote and steep mountain slopes, to reach increasingly poor-quality timber. Nor are the indirect costs of ravaging the environment included.

I have worked in the woods as both a logger and professor of forestry, and I've cut timber on road right-of-ways. It is necessary to strip a road of its trees and then remove vast quantities of earth in order to make the cuts, fills and switchbacks, and to install drainage pipes and culverts. Disturbing soil, sand and rock destroys the network of vegetation that holds the soil in place, making the area prone to erosion. Massive erosion and siltation from USFS roads adversely affect trout and salmon fisheries, farmers' and ranchers' irrigation systems and the general quality of water. Efforts to reduce

This increased road access effectively displaces many wildlife species. Although the Forest Service claims to close roads except when they're used for management or logging, they usually do so by placing a green steel gate across the road. Often this is a symbolic action offering a challenge to four-wheel drive enthusiasts and providing no significant impediment to motorcycles, snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles.

The roads and logging activities have also displaced trails. For example, in the 1940s the U.S. National Forest had 144,000 miles of trails. Today there are only 114,000 miles. This has occurred despite the fact that the number of backpackers and other recreationists using the forests has increased from some 6 million per year to more than 200 million. Backpackers, however, contribute little to Forest Service budgets.

Little wonder it costs the Forest Service much more to harvest timber than it costs private forestry owners.

For an idea of the high cost and destructive potential of the Forest Service system, consider the decision a few years ago by California's Sequoia National Forest managers to clear-cut in its giant sequoia groves, where many trees are over 20 feet in diameter, over 200 feet tall and over 2,000 years old. To provide funds for prescribed burning, Forest Service officials decided to sell all of the timber in the heart of their sequoia groves except for the sequoia trees that were over 8 feet in diameter. Other species of trees that mingled with the sequoia—ponderosa pine, sugar pine, incense-cedar and white fir, many of them giants in their own right—were all cut down and removed.

The USFS called this practice "sequoia grove enhancement." But according to forest ecologists, a more accurate term would be "sequoia grove destruction." A lawsuit filed by local environmentalists stopped the destruction, but not before the agency had logged several groves.

In essence, then, taxpayers are subsidizing environmentally destructive behavior that no private timber company or landowner could afford.

It is important to note that the bureaucrats who act in this manner are neither evil or stupid. They are simply responding to the incentives put in place for them. The political logic of below-cost timber sales is straightforward. National forests are situated in 43 states and in many congressional districts. In these districts, logging and road building directly provide jobs and income to the local communities.

To enhance its budget and its goodwill with congressmen, the Forest Service provides a timber-cutting program in virtually every national forest, regardless of efficiency considerations. Many senators and representatives find it in their interest to vote for expanding Forest Service road building, logging and timber management. Scores of communities have become dependent upon the Forest Service's subsidized logging...

Environmentalists recognize the present system is unsatisfactory. Now they should make a leap of the imagination and see that management by the state is the real problem.

**"The careful appearance of management..."**




**...is only the careful management of appearances"**

**U.S. Forest Service**

1991 prices, and keep the difference.

Here's an example. In 1990 the Caribou National Forest in southeast Idaho spent over \$300,000 arranging timber sales and over \$100,000 building roads to the timber sites—all of the money came out of taxpayers' pockets. The Caribou forest's managers collected \$814,000 from timber purchasers. But of this amount, only \$757 made it back to the U.S. Treasury; the rest was kept within the Forest Service's budget.

To open its often remote forests to logging, the Forest Service has become the world's largest socialized road-building company. Of the 47,000 full-time workers on the Forest Service payroll, fewer than half are foresters. The second-largest professional group consists of engineers who oversee almost 342,000 miles of logging roads that the Service has pushed into some of the world's most beautiful wilderness areas. The U.S. Interstate Highway System, by contrast, is some 50,000 miles. By the year 2040 the Forest Service plans to build another 262,000 miles of new roads, and rebuild 319,000 miles of existing roads—at an estimated cost of \$15

erosion are often expensive.

Private firms build roads to lower standards—especially if they have to pay the full cost. To log publicly owned forests, the USFS classifies land as "commercial forest" if it produces 20 or more cubic feet of wood fiber per acre per year. The standard for private firms is typically three to five times that. As a consequence of the incentives this low standard provides, the Forest Service consistently underinvests in its most productive sites, and overinvests in money-losing, environmentally fragile areas.

In the northern Rockies some of America's finest trout and salmon rivers have been severely damaged by more than 10 feet of siltation from Forest Service road building and logging in the mid-1960's. As the timber at lower elevations and in easily accessible valleys is harvested, the Forest Service builds its roads farther into the backcountry and on higher and steeper slopes. Generally, the steeper the slope, the greater the danger of landslides, slumps, sloughs and earth flows from logging and road-building activities—all in the name of increasing revenues from timber sales.

# The Mismanagement of the National Forests

## The Atlantic Monthly

October, 1991



Willamette National Forest, Oregon

photo by Trygve Steen/LightHawk

by Perri Knize

There once was a time when if a tree was felled in the forest, nobody saw, and business went on as usual. But now a tree can't be felled anywhere in the national forests without causing violent tremors all the way to Washington, D.C. There the bureaucrats at the once-proud and formerly revered U.S. Forest Service, the administrators of national forests, are losing credibility as forty years of forest devastation come to light.

While our government supports schemes to trade Third World debt for intact Third World rain forests, the Forest Service is deforesting our national timberlands at a rate that rivals Brazil's. What remains of America's original virgin forests is being clipped away daily on our public lands, lands that contain the most biomass per acre of any forests on the planet. We are losing intact ecosystems, watersheds, fish habitat, wildlife habitat, recreation lands, and native-species diversity to a degree that may be irreparable.

Once, the land could accommodate this "management" without attracting notice. But population growth, shifting demographics, and reduced resources mean that foresters are increasingly hard-pressed to find forest areas where nobody will see the clear-cuts.

When I joined the U.S. Forest Service as a volunteer wilderness guide, in the summer of 1983, I, like most Americans, thought the Forest Service was a conservation organization dedicated to preserving the nation's wild lands. I was vaguely aware that the Forest

Service sold trees, but was unprepared for the extensive logging roads [360,000 miles nationally, or about eight times the length of the U.S. interstate highway system] and cutting I saw on the Beaverhead and Bitterroot national forests, in southwest Montana. Entire mountain-sides were shorn of cover, and rough roads crisscrossed their faces, creating terraces that bled topsoil into the rivers when the snows melted in spring. Since that summer I've traveled to national forests all over the United States, from the Carolinas to Alaska, and seen the same and worse: Entire mountain ranges have their faces shaved in swaths of forty to a hundred acres which from the air resemble mange. From the ground these forests, charred and smoking from slash burning, look like battlefields.

I was shocked: the Forest Service seemed more concerned about selling trees than about the vitality of the public's forests.

After all, the national forests supply only about 15 percent of the nation's wood, and Forest Service research shows that if that timber were removed from the market, half the loss would be replaced by wood from private industrial tree farms and half by wood substitutes that are already on the market. Seventy-two percent of all the timberland in the United States is privately owned. This land is far better suited to tree farming than federal land. Our national forests, although they are richer in biological diversity, have comparatively little value as tree

farms. They are for the most part thin-soiled, steep, high elevation, less accessible lands that produce low-quality timber. They are the lands nobody would take, even for nothing, when the government was divvying up the West.

Despite the abundance of merchantable private timber and the relatively low value of public timber, no one has seriously considered ending national-forest logging. With the exception of a tiny minority of passionate nature lovers, who are considered extremist, virtually everyone I've interviewed over the past eight years says that ending national-forest logging is impractical if not impossible.

A thoughtful look at the condition of our forests, the needs of our communities, and the national demand for wood products reveals that ending national-forest logging is not only possible but also highly pragmatic.

In fact, we can end logging on the national forests and at the same time improve the future economic stability of small communities now dependent on timber dollars, stabilize our wood supply, save and spend more wisely the billions now pouring out of the federal Treasury, and preserve the health of our virgin forests—if we decide to. We can do it because, contrary to conventional wisdom, we don't need national-forest timber—not for jobs, certainly not for income, and not for the nation's wood supply. Most commercial-timber owners would actually benefit if the government were no longer competing with them: as prices rose, long-term

forest planning would become more feasible and profitable. The Forest Service would itself benefit...they could begin repairing the damage of the past forty years, instead of trying to produce board feet that can no longer be cut in an environmentally responsible fashion.

### Timber Mythology

In view of these benefits, why isn't the Forest Service eager to end national-forest logging? Why is it adamant that that cannot or should not be done? The Forest Service rebuffs all such suggestions with three arguments that I call collectively the Great Federal Timber Mythology.

Myth No. 1: Federal timber is needed to meet an ever-escalating demand for wood fibre.

Myth No. 2: Timber sales overall make a profit for the federal Treasury.

Myth No. 3: Federal timber, even if sold at a loss, aids timber-dependent communities.

Last year the Forest Service once again predicted, as it has since its founding in 1905, that demand for national-forest timber would continue to rise and that timber would remain in short supply. In fact the demand for timber has declined since the invention of the internal-combustion engine and since we began using electricity and fuel oil instead of wood for our energy needs.

continued on page 10

# What the Good Guys are Doing

*The government is guilty of "a remarkable series of violations of the environmental laws" and a "deliberate and systematic refusal...to comply with laws protecting wildlife."*

- Judge William L. Dwyer

## Judge William L. Dwyer

Last May U.S. District Judge William L. Dwyer ordered timber sales in national forests of the Northwest suspended until federal agencies produce an effective protection plan for the endangered northern spotted owl. In seeking a stay of proceedings in 1989, the Forest Service announced its intent to adopt temporary guidelines within thirty days. Judge Dwyer noted: "It did not do that within thirty days, or ever...The Fish and Wildlife Service, in the meantime, acted contrary to law in refusing to list the spotted owl as endangered or threatened. After it finally listed the species as "threatened" following [a judge's] order, the FWS again violated the [Endangered Species Act] by failing to designate critical habitat as required."

The following are additional excerpts from Judge Dwyer's decision.

"More is involved here than a simple failure by an agency to comply with its governing statute. The most recent violation of the National Forest Management Act exemplifies a deliberate and systematic refusal by the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service to comply with the laws protecting wildlife."

"The loss of old growth is permanent. To bypass the environmental laws, either briefly or permanently, would not fend off the changes transforming the timber industry."

"The argument that the mightiest economy on earth cannot afford to preserve old-growth forests for a short time, while it reaches an overdue decision on how to manage them, is not convincing today. It would be even less so a year or a century from now."

## ASCMEE

In response to a growing number of Sierra Club members concerned that the Club has lost sight of its original vision and intent, activists from chapters around the country have formed ASCMEE - Association of Sierra Club Members for Environmental Ethics.

The Association seeks to "recapture the spirit of John Muir," according to one of its co-founders Margaret Hays-Young, a long-time activist and Conservation Chair of the New York City chapter of the Sierra Club. "There is too much inconsistency between the stated purpose of the Sierra Club--its public image--and its practice. We must set policy according to biological realities, not political realities," says Young.

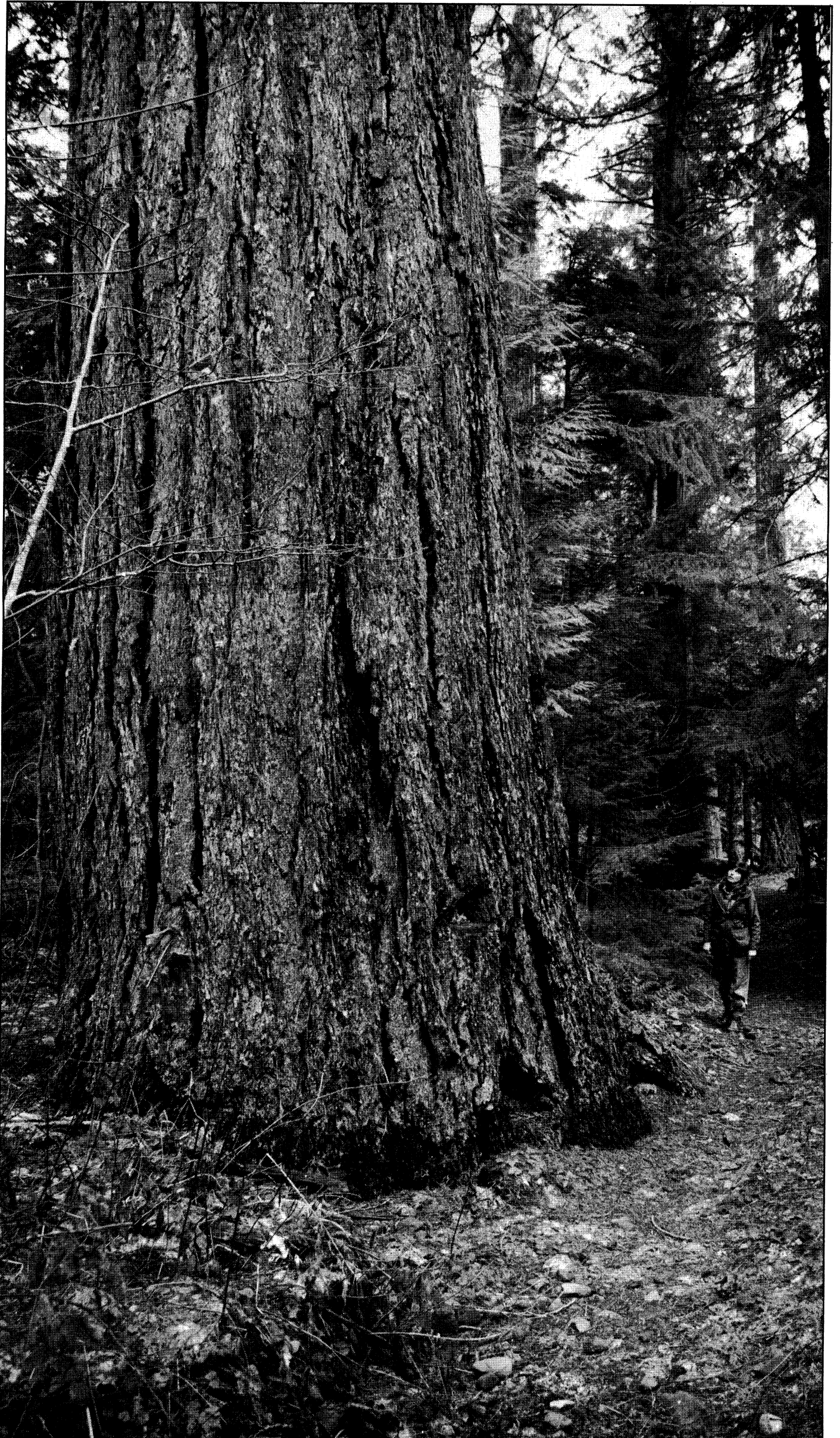
"For the forests, that means taking a strong stand for uncompromising legislation which would stop all logging of public lands." Presently, the Sierra Club does not support such legislation or an end to clearcutting of our national forests.

For more information call:

In New York  
Margaret Hays-Young - 718 789-0038

In California  
David Orr - 916 756-9540

Or call the Native Forest Council  
503 688-2600



Old Growth Douglas Fir

photo by Trygve Steen



# What the Bad Guys are Doing

"Nobody can come up with the timber quotas they've been saddled with without absolutely slaughtering the land."

-- Arnold Bolle, retired Dean, University of Montana School of Forestry



photo by Joel Davis, Oregonian

## Midnight Sneak Attack on America's Forests

Last November, in an extraordinarily telling bit of legislative abra-kadabra, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, by a midnight-vote of 20-0, passed the Montana National Forest Management Act, *even though the bill's text had not yet been written!* This bill, which will now be considered by the full Senate, was passed without public input or testimony. Its sponsors, Senators Max Baucus (D-MT), and Conrad Burns (R-MT), claim the bill seeks "accommodation" and "responsible balance." Environmentalists claim it accommodates only extractive industries. This bill would:

- Open more than 4 million acres of roadless lands for clearcutting, road building, mining, oil and gas exploration, and motorized use

- Release nearly 99 percent of the remaining uncut timber to multinational logging corporations

- Eliminate the requirement that the Forest Service prepare Environmental Impact Statements for timber sales

- Prohibit citizen appeal rights and judicial review

By eliminating Environmental Impact Statements, the door would be open for rezoning the entire national forest as suitable for logging, without the possibility of challenge.

Not surprisingly, portions of the bill were written by timber industry attorney Steve Quarles. The bill sets aside 1.2 million acres of "rocks and ice" as protected wilderness; land that

is rich in vistas but poor in ecological value. The bill, designated S1696, contains no water rights for the wilderness area, and its provisions threaten a world-class population of grizzly bears, gray wolves, woodland caribou, bull trout, and a host of mammal species found nowhere else in the lower 48 states. 700,000 acres would be set aside for study.

When asked to comment on an alternate plan, backed by wildlife scientists, that would protect 13 million acres in five states and nearly 1000 miles of streams, Phil Roeder, Senator Baucus' press secretary, said that scientists are "very skewed in their perspective because they are pretty much all rabid environmentalists."

### What you can do

Promptly write your elected representatives and ask them to oppose this bill. Ask them to sponsor positive alternatives including the Native Forest Protection Act and the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act.

Also write Senator Bennett Johnston, chairman Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee; Senator Patrick Leahy, chairman Senate Agricultural Committee; Representative George Miller, chairman House Interior Committee; and Representative Bruce Vento, chairman House Committee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests.

U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

## Political Intimidation

Timber industry lobbyists and their pet politicians pressure the Forest Service to remove conscientious foresters who care more about the health of the forests under their trust, than about meeting inflated timber targets. Foresters, scientists, resource specialists, and others whose professionalism interferes with getting the cut out, are routinely transferred or forced out of their jobs.

### John Mumma

National Forest Service Regional Forester in charge of 15 national forests in Montana, Idaho, Washington and the Dakotas--25 million acres of public land--testified before Congress that he was ousted as regional forester for not meeting his timber quotas. Mumma testified that existing environmental and forest management laws prevented him from meeting those quotas. "My supervisors and District Rangers in the Northern Region recognize that we cannot meet my timber targets...I have failed to reach quotas only because to do so would have required me to violate federal law."

Mumma, concerned with the land under his care, told the Congressional committee; "I'm here today with a heavy heart...a heart that is in shock at what's happening in the National Forests of this country."

After hearing Mumma's testimony, Minnesota Congressman Gerry Sikorsik observed: "It appears to me that you were faced with a choice. You could either get the cut out and violate environmental laws, or you could follow the laws and pay with your career."

### Ernie Nunn

During Ernie Nunn's tenure at the Bridger-Teton Forest, the "allowable sales quantity" (ASQ) of timber was cut in half. That appears to have made him a target of industry pressure. Unable to stop his transfer to the Helena National Forest in Montana, he was subsequently forced out as Supervisor by a deal made between the timber industry, Representative Ron Marlenee, R-Montana, and Forest Service officials in Washington. After 29 years as a forester, Supervisor Nunn's crime was trying to protect the long-term health of the forest. Nunn apparently isn't alone. "There's a movement to clean house at every level," he observed.

### Orville L. Daniels

In spite of the Mumma and Nunn political muggings, Orville Daniels, Supervisor of the Lolo National Forest in Montana, dared to suggest that the Lolo could only supply 50 percent of its ASQ. After a two year review of the Lolo's condition by biologists, ecologists, hydrologists, and other scientists, Daniels concluded that "the forest resources need a rest."

Daniels provoked an immediate response from his supervisors in Washington. Within two days of his announcement, Dale Robertson, chief of the Forest Service, wrote a memo forbidding any more unilateral decisions by individual forest supervisors, without going through the formal process of amending forest plans. Daniels is sticking to his amended target. Stay tuned.

**Mismanagement,**  
continued from page 7

Many privately held forests logged in the nineteenth century are now regrown. Horse pasture and farmland have returned to forest...[Still], most of our ancient trees...are ground into pulp to make disposable diapers and cellophane for cigarette packs. Obviously, small-diameter trees from tree farms would serve that purpose just as well. As for building materials, we can also create them from small-diameter trees. Oriented-strand board, chipboard, finger-joint board, and particle board—made from chips or small pieces of wood—are already available; they are stronger than regular wood and can be made from very young trees grown in rows like a corn crop.

"Crop forests are where our timber supply really comes from," says a former logging manager at Weyerhaeuser Corporation, who asked not to be named. He explains that the industry wants the old growth timber on national forests only because with minimal processing these logs bring a premium price overseas. "As to old growth, everyone has gored that fatted calf long enough. Weyerhaeuser made a fortune from old growth, but you can't cut the last one and say, 'Gee, that was nice. What do we do now?'"...

**"If we simply gave the loggers fourteen thousand dollars a year not to cut the trees, we'd be a lot better off."**

Echoing the sentiments of many of the [Forest Service's] critics, K.J. Metcalf, a retired Forest Service planner in Alaska, says; "If we simply gave the loggers fourteen thousand dollars a year not to cut the trees, we'd be a lot better off." The Forest Service has long claimed that the government makes money on timber sales, but an analysis performed at the request of the House Government Operations Subcommittee on the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources shows that the Forest Service timber program has lost \$5.6 billion over the past decade...Most of the 122 national forests have never earned a dime on timber, and only fifteen showed a profit last year. The Forest Service claims that it made \$630 million on its timber program last year; that claim stems from inflated revenues and discounted costs.

The "net" revenue figure doesn't make allowances for the 25 percent of gross receipts (\$327 million last year) that must be paid to counties from which timber has been removed, as a compensation for property taxes lost because those lands aren't privately owned. Nor does it take into consideration road-maintenance expenses—another \$80 million. Land-line location (surveying to confirm national-forest boundaries) cost another \$24 million. The Forest Service also overlooked some \$60 million spent on protection against insects and disease, maintenance of staff buildings, map-making, and fire protection.

Another \$575 million—funds earmarked for reforestation, brush disposal,

timber salvage sales, roads built to accommodate timber buyers, and other programs—was depreciated over more years than appropriate for accounting purposes. The Forest Service has used a number of creative accounting gimmicks, including amortizing roads over 240 years. (One year roads on the Chugach National Forest, in Alaska, were amortized over 1,800 years.) The typical life of a logging road, however, is twenty-five years...After a realistic amortization of costs, the timber program actually generated a net loss to the federal Treasury of \$186 million last year...

Since the Forest Service was founded on the promise that the timber program would make money, to admit losses after so many years of false claims would threaten not only the agency's timber program, and therefore about a third of its 45,000 jobs, but quite probably the existence of the Forest Service itself.

Even in the face of evidence that the timber market is glutted, and that its operations run at a net loss, the Forest Service will justify selling trees as a way to provide small communities with jobs. But national-forest timber isn't keeping people employed; although timber production and logging on federal lands have increased, industry employment has declined. Automation, exports of raw lumber, and competition for foreign labor are the causes. As for small community sawmills wholly dependent on old-growth national-forest timber, their timber supply is limited. The small family mill is destined to go the way of the small family farm, and leveling the national forests won't save it.

The loggers and mill workers who depend on national-forest timber are, like the forests, victims of federal policy. Since the end of the Second World War the Forest Service has fostered in their communities an expectation that federal timber would be available indefinitely, and a way of life has evolved around that expectation. If the Forest Service and the loggers' elected representatives had been honest with their constituents even ten years ago, and warned them that the supply of trees could not support their industry forever, mill owners and loggers might not have invested further in lumber operations that are doomed, national-forest timber or no. These communities were misled, and they deserve aid in adjusting to what is for them a catastrophe.

But aiding those affected by an end to national-forest logging is less problematic than it seems...A study funded by the timber industry predicted that 100,000 jobs would be lost in the Pacific Northwest as a consequence of restrictions to protect the spotted owl. But according to a Forest Service assessment written for other purposes, the true number is closer to 6,000.

Inevitably, the small communities dependent on national-forest logging must diversify their economies or die. But if we do not end logging before their timber supply is exhausted, the clear-cuts that surround these communities will bankrupt their future. Once the forests are gone, they will have

neither the timber industry nor property values nor the recreation potential that could help them build a stable economic future. Logging the national forests results in the loss, rather than the strengthening of community stability.

So if jobs are being lost despite increased logging, and the U.S. government loses millions a year on that logging, and we don't even need the lumber, why does the Forest Service persist in logging the national forests? When environmentalists, economists, forest planners, and policy-makers say it is not practical to end national-forest logging, they mean it is not practical politically.

**Political Realities**

The National Forest Management Act of 1976 stipulates that those who are most intimate with the national forests—the public and the local Forest Service team—should work together to decide how they are to be managed. But in practice, the forests are ruled by competing and complementary agendas in Washington, D.C. Forest Service administrators are concerned with maximizing their budgets, holding on to their jobs, and preserving the status quo. Congressmen want jobs in their districts and continued timber-industry support for their re-election campaigns. And the White House wants to take care of its friends. All use national forest timber as a means to achieve their aims.

More than a quarter of the money the Forest Service spends comes from selling timber—whether the sales make money or not—through a little known law called the Knutson-Vandenberg Act of 1930. The K-V Act allows the Forest Service to retain virtually all its gross timber receipts in order to fund projects like tree-planting, wildlife habitat improvement, and trail building, and to buy equipment like computers, refrigerators, and so on. Erosion control, campground improvements, and plant and animal inventory, for example, are all funded by timber sales.

**"The loggers and mill workers who depend on national-forest timber are, like the forests, victims of federal policy."**

For this reason the K-V Act has led to absolutely perverse management. According to Randal O'Toole, a natural-resource economist and the author of a tendentious book titled *Reforming the Forest Service*, mismanagement in the pursuit of K-V money is rampant. O'Toole has analyzed the management of more than half the national forests. He found, for example, that when Gallatin National Forest, in Montana, needed funds to close roads to protect grizzly-bear habitat, its managers held timber sales

and built roads in other prime grizzly habitat. When the Medicine Bow National Forest, in Wyoming, needed funds to inventory ancient Indian

**"Logging and road-building in forbidden areas was a familiar occurrence in the national-forest system..."**

archaeological sites, it sold timber on those very sites, destroying them in the process. And in the Sequoia National Forest, in California, when foresters needed funds for a prescribed burn to protect giant-sequoia groves from wildfire, a la Yellowstone National Park, they sold timber in the groves to get the money they needed to pay for the prescribed burn. But the clear-cuts left only a few giant trees, surrounded by devastation. Instead of burning, the foresters had to replant the area, at a cost of \$1,000 an acre. The point of these seemingly pointless exercises was to get and spend money...

"Anybody—on the back of an envelope—could have figured out that the rate of [timber] harvest cannot be sustained," said Max Peterson, a former Forest Service chief in 1989. He said the cut should go down at least 25 percent; some forest planners, knowing the Forest Service to be extremely conservative on such matters, understood that to mean the cut should go down at least 75 percent.

Heavy cutting in much of the Pacific Northwest over the past decade was caused in part by congressional orders to the Forest Service which resulted in a cut far larger than the agency itself recommended. Last year Oregon's congressional delegation attached a rider to the federal appropriations bill allowing the Forest Service to sell more timber than existing laws allowed, and greatly reducing the possibilities of judicial review. A federal appeals court recently declared the rider unconstitutional.

But the impact of Congress on national-forest management is mild compared with the negative influence of the White House. My season with the Forest Service coincided with the era of John Crowell, Jr., a former timber-industry attorney and lobbyist appointed by President Reagan, as assistant secretary of commerce for natural resources and the environment—the official who oversees the Forest Service. Crowell, who had worked for Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, one of the largest buyers of federal timber, dedicated his term in office to doubling the amount of timber cut on the national forests, and he ordered the Forest Service to ignore federal court orders and national environmental laws to meet that goal.

Logging and road-building in forbidden areas was a familiar occurrence in the national-forest system during the Crowell era, and it continues to this day. Logging in a designated wilderness has been discovered several times on the Willamette National Forest. Crowell's successor, George

Dunlop, another Reagan appointee, refused to approve any national-forest plan in the Pacific Northwest that didn't increase logging. As a result, Forest Service Region Six is now under such pressure to meet its targets that some districts have wandered into areas off limits to timber sales. The President's influence on timber management can be far more direct. In June of last year the Forest Service was about to endorse the Jack Ward Thomas report, a study prepared by a team of scientists from the Forest Service and other natural-resource agencies. The Thomas report spelled out which lands should be spared from logging in the Pacific Northwest in order to save the northern spotted owl from extinction. The week before Dale Robertson, the chief of the Forest Service, was to announce the agency's endorsement of the report, timber-industry representatives paid a visit to the White House. Shortly thereafter the Bush Administration announced that it was ordering its own special task force, chaired by Clayton Yuetter, the Secretary of Agriculture, to study the spotted-owl situation further and to come up with more options. Months later Bush's task force announced its conclusions: the Thomas report's recommendations should be accepted in principle, and the cut should be reduced, but less old-growth forest should be protected than the Thomas report implied. The delay meant that timber sales in spotted-owl habitat continued unrestricted by either report all summer; by the time Bush's task force made its announcement, the logging season was just about over.

The stalling continues. The Forest Service says it may need another two or three years to come up with a management plan for the spotted owl. And last May a court ordered the agency to withdraw sales planned for 66,000 acres of prime spotted-owl habitat. Those acres would have been in addition to the 400,000 acres of owl habitat already logged since 1984, when the agency began preparing guidelines for the spotted owl. William L. Dwyer, the U.S. district judge presiding over the case in Seattle (also, ironically, a Reagan appointee), wrote a stunning denunciation of the White House in his decision:

"More is involved here than a simple failure by an agency to comply with its governing statute. The most recent violation of the National Forest Management Act exemplifies a deliberate and systematic refusal by the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service to comply with the laws protecting wildlife. This is not the doing of the scientists, foresters, rangers, and others at the working levels of these agencies. It reflects decisions made by higher authorities in the executive branch of government."

### Biological Costs

Judge Dwyer's decision underscores the fundamental reason why we should not be harvesting the national forests. Aside from the facts that we don't need the lumber, that the timber program loses money, that the program is used to prop up faltering local

economies artificially, and that the real reasons for timber cutting continue to be unacknowledged, we have a biological stake in an end to logging on our national forests. The greatest threat represented by our current national-forest policy is that it will destroy biological diversity on public lands.

**"We need to reconsider the purpose of the national forests."**

Forest scientists say that the national forests are most valuable to us as founts of life. Our native and old-growth forests are intricate, fragile webs encompassing everything from bacteria, fungi, and insects to grizzly bears, wolves, and ancient sequoias. They constitute a complex, interdependent plant and animal community that is the foundation upon which we human beings eat and breathe. Scientists say they understand little about forest biological systems, but they do know that the fresh air and clean water our forests produce are essential to our survival, because they are basic components of the food chains that keep all species alive. As species die off, the ecosystem is simplified, and the more simplified it becomes, the less life it is capable of supporting. The Forest Service's predominant logging method, clear-cutting, destroys the visual beauty of the national forests. But the threat to biological diversity is more subtle. By law, clear-cuts must be reforested, and they are usually replanted with one favored tree species. These plantings then grow into even-aged monocultures—they are tree farms, not forests. Diversity is reduced, and wildlife is stressed as nesting sites, dens, and cover from predators are lost. Although the young grasses growing in clear-cuts do provide food for deer and elk, the loss of cover drives away bear, turkey, squirrels, and other species. Clear-cutting is also dangerous where rains are heavy and terrain is steep, as in southeast Alaska, on the western

slope of the Cascade Mountains, and in the northwest corner of the Rockies. Flooding, soil erosion, water contamination, the loss of fisheries as sediment flushes into spawning streams are often the result. In some areas washouts and mud slides occur, and soil is removed down to bedrock. Clear-cutting changes the flow of streams, causing flooding during rains and drought during dry periods. It also interferes with recreation: no one wants to go hiking or camping in a clear-cut, and clear-cutting often obliterates recreation trails.

We know that clear-cutting destroys the complexity of forest ecology because we have the example of Europe, which was essentially deforested more than 300 years ago. Foresters there are still trying to figure out how to bring the forests back. Modern forestry techniques have evolved from the attempts, beginning in eighteenth-century Germany, to regenerate old-growth forests like the ones that we are logging here. The forests that European foresters so painstakingly tend are sterile: birds don't sing in them; sticks, not logs, are harvested from them; and now Europeans are worried about the long-term fertility of their soil. "Look to Europe for what the future holds," says Paul Alaback, a research biologist for the Forest Service in Juneau, Alaska. "Is it really necessary to cut all the forests down before we learn from others' mistakes?"...

All of this points toward the conclusion that the Forest Service shouldn't be in the timber business. Managing land to sustain its ecology is inherently incompatible with managing it to turn a profit...

### A Proposal

We need to reconsider the purpose of the national forests. Most people agree that public lands should exist to benefit the public, with private use permitted only when it does not reduce that public benefit. Yet the Forest Service's timber program is beneficial chiefly to politicians in Washington, to a small segment of the timber industry, and to the Forest Service's administrators. Taxpayers, small communities, recreationists, the owners of private

timberland—and the land itself—all lose...[But] a shift in management cannot be achieved without confronting the political realities. That is why any legislation to reform national-forest management must change the incentives that motivates the Forest Service and private users of the forest. If the Forest Service gets funds for its programs by selling timber, and timber management is destroying the national forests for other uses, then we must find a means other than timber to fund the national forests. The most logical approach would be to charge recreation fees.

In its 1990 planning paper the Forest Service estimated that if it were allowed to charge fees for recreation, the income to the agency could be more than \$5 billion a year, or three times what it earns in gross timber receipts. The estimate is based on fees that national-forest users have said they would be willing to pay, ranging from a few dollars for picnicking to nearly thirty dollars a day for big-game hunting. As Randal O'Toole has pointed out, this income, combined with the money saved by ending logging on the national forests, would fund the agency entirely from its own receipts; tax dollars would no longer be needed to support the Forest Service. Instead, only those who use the national forests would pay, and their fees would ensure that the forests were managed in the best interests of recreationists. When the agency's funding no longer came from Congress, pork-barrel politics would no longer dictate how the forests were managed. County commissioners would stop putting pressure on their congressmen to appropriate funds for timber sales, because counties that depend on timber receipts for their roads and schools would get even more money from recreation than they did from timber. Private industry and landowners would benefit, because the value of their land and their timber would increase, and they too, could charge recreation fees. With part of the billions of taxpayer dollars we were no longer investing in the Forest Service, we could easily create programs to help communities dependent on national-forest timber make the transition to a more diverse local economy, one that would serve them for the long term...

To accomplish this revolution in national-forest management, Congress must be persuaded that recreation fees and an end to national-forest logging are a sensible and practical way to ensure a healthy future for our national forests. Environmental groups should endorse these recommendations as a means to preservation. County governments should support this plan because it would more than double their revenues from national-forest use. Large industrial timber farmers like Weyerhaeuser and International Paper should favor it because it would increase the value of their lands and their timber. Fiscal conservatives and those worried about the national debt should support this plan because it would save taxpayers the yearly cost of managing the national forests. An unprecedented coalition of these interests would stop national-forest logging in its tracks. Congress and the White House would have to comply.

Eugene, Oregon, Wednesday, January 22, 1992



# Letters...

## Oregon Governor Seeks Presidential Disaster Declaration for Four National Forests

Years of empty timber-industry "guarantees," were dramatically debunked when Oregon Governor Barbara Roberts was forced to request federal emergency disaster relief for four national forests in northeastern Oregon. Decades of over-cutting, mismanagement and abuse have resulted in 50-70 percent forest mortality, insect infestation, disease, and the potential for cataclysmic fires. No one knows how or whether the forests can be saved. Congressman Les AuCoin, responsible for many of the policies and pressures that created this disaster, says he now intends to seek \$40 million per year for the next ten years to try and remedy it.

Below is the letter Governor Roberts wrote to President George Bush.

### Timber Industry Ad

## Oregon's Green Guarantee

Oregon's Green Guarantee is a commitment from forest landowners that every area harvested in Oregon's working commercial forests will be reforested — successfully. This pledge is backed by the Bureau of Land Management, the U.S. Forest Service, the Oregon Department of Forestry, the Society of American Foresters, and private landowners through the Oregon Forest Industries Council.

Like any real warranty, the Green Guarantee offers proof of performance. Across the state, foresters from private companies and government agencies have made a standing offer to personally prove a new forest grows on every harvest site by scheduling tours for anyone wishing to test the Green Guarantee.

For more information about the Green Guarantee, or to schedule a "prove it" tour, contact the American Forest Council, P.O. Box 2897, Portland, OR 97207.



Office of the Governor  
State Capitol  
Salem 97310-0370  
(503) 378-3111

January 14, 1992

The Honorable George Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing to request that you issue an emergency disaster declaration for the national forests of northeastern Oregon.

Past forest practices and six years of drought have combined to trigger catastrophic insect and disease infestations on the Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman, Malheur, and Ochoco National Forests, as well as surrounding private and state forest lands. The result has been forest mortality on an unprecedented scale. Forest biologists have stated that this situation has caused the unraveling of the region's entire ecosystem. The vast amount of dead and dying timber has created the potential for overwhelming catastrophic forest fires. The entire forest environment and the communities which depend on it are at risk.

There is a clear and present need to devote substantial federal resources toward the stabilization and rehabilitation of these national forests. The potential for catastrophic fire and further degradation of this resource allows no further delay. Because of the urgent nature of the situation, I am hereby requesting that as President of the United States you declare the Umatilla, the Wallowa-Whitman, the Malheur, and the Ochoco National Forests to be emergency disaster areas. Only by making such a designation can we ensure adequate funding is made available without the restrictions imposed under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990.

The State of Oregon and private landowners are working on measures to address these issues, but the crisis crosses property lines, and the lion's share of the forest lands in question are owned and managed by the federal government. Mr. President, your assistance through an emergency disaster declaration will provide us with the resources we need to reverse this catastrophe. I and members of Oregon's Congressional delegation stand ready to assist in any way we can.

Sincerely,

Barbara Roberts  
Governor of Oregon

*"The truth is that the timber industry will tell you anything to convince you to let them keep cutting your national forests."*

- Tom Giesen

# Letters

## Brazil's Secretary of the Environment Asks U.S. to Save its Own

Jose A. Lutzenberger  
Presidencia da Republica  
Secretario do Meio Ambiente  
Brasillia

Brasillia, 15.10.91

The Honorable George Bush  
The President  
United States of America

Dear Mr. President:

I consider it a great privilege to have had, on several occasions recently, the opportunity to meet you in person. I was also very impressed by your speech to the United Nations inaugurating a new era for Mankind.

If it is true that the threat of annihilation by nuclear holocaust is now very far removed, we all still face very serious calamities as a consequence of our ill advised ways in handling this living planet of ours.

As agreed upon, allow me to write you on a subject I consider of utmost urgency. Irreversible damage can still be prevented.

As you well know, here in Brazil, we have succeeded in considerably reducing the devastation of tropical forests in Amazonia. From an all time high in 1987 of about ninety thousand square kilometers (35,000 sq. miles) an area the size of Portugal, satellite surveys now show only about fourteen thousand square kilometers (5,500 sq. miles) for 1990 and we expect final figures for 1991 to be around eight or nine thousand (3-3.5 thousand sq. miles). In purely numerical terms this is within the rate of regeneration for a forest that totals some four million square kilometers. The reduction was accomplished by eliminating the subsidies and tax incentives that in the past promoted large scale clearing for cattle ranches.

As an ecologist with a holistic view of the world, my concerns and the concerns of our Government go beyond Amazonia. So, we are also very much concerned with the fate of the last remaining old stands of temperate and boreal forests of North America in Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and a few remains in California. Subsidized clearcutting there, followed by monocultures of exotics may be sustainable on a very long term for the production of timber only but it is devastating for the unique natural ecosystems with their biological diversity. I was also privileged too see these forests with my own eyes—they are among the most majestic and awe inspiring forests in the World. What is left after clearcutting is one of the saddest spectacles I have ever seen, never mind the narrow strip that is left along the roads to prevent travellers from seeing the ravage behind.

At the present rate of clearcutting practices for pulp and export logs, it will all be finished in about fifteen years. An irreparable loss for your country, a shame for Mankind and a very bad example for the Third World. He can we argue against the criminal devastation to tropical forests in Indochina, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, New Guinea and Africa, as well as here in South America? The powerful and rich U.S. can certainly afford to subsidize a few thousand jobs in a less destructive way.

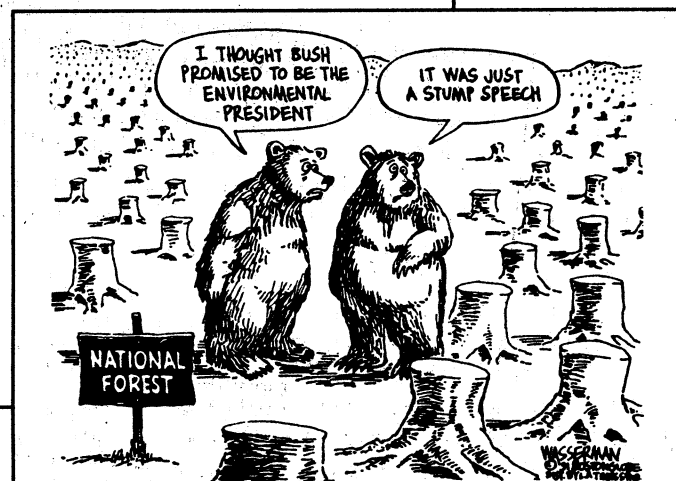
The same applies to North American wetlands.

I deposit great hope in your leadership.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Cordially,

Jose A. Lutzenberger



# Bills, Bills, Bills

## Native Forest Protection Act Offers Best Safeguard for National Forests

**The Native Forest Protection Act (NFPA)**, was drafted by the Native Forest Council with input from dozens of other grassroots organizations. It is the only legislation that would halt all further logging of native forests on public lands. National in scope, it also addresses related issues of reforestation, exports, and aid to timber-dependent communities. NFPA has the endorsement of over 1 million people, and organizations representing 3.5 million more. The Native Forest Council is seeking sponsorship for NFPA in Congress. Please write your representatives and urge them to sponsor the Native Forest Protection Act. No other bill protects all 106 of our national forests.

## Seven Sierra Club Chapters Endorse Native Forest Protection Act

In addition to the 4.5 million individuals and organization members who endorse the Native Forest Protection Act, the Native Forest Council is pleased to welcome 7 Sierra Club Chapters to that growing list. Illinois, Kentucky, Virginia, San Francisco Bay, Tennessee, Georgia and the Atlantic chapter have all endorsed NFPA. If your chapter or organization would also like to endorse NFPA, or requires more information, please call or write: The Native Forest Council, P.O. Box 2171, Eugene, OR 97402. Tel. 503 688-2600.

## Other Legislation Worthy of Your Support

**The Ancient Forest Protection Act:** introduced by Representative Jim Jontz (IN), would create an Ancient Forest Reserve System that would protect "significant" ancient forests. It is limited, however, to forests in Washington, Oregon, and Northern California.

**Forest Biodiversity and Clearcutting Prohibition Act:** introduced by Representative John Bryant (TX), would ban "even-age management" or clearcutting on federal lands nation-wide. It is the only bill currently before Congress to take such a courageous stand. Its passage would have far reaching implications for the protection of wildlife, watersheds, fisheries and biodiversity. If it is to pass, it will need co-sponsorship. Call or write your representatives and urge them to co-sponsor HR1969.

**The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act:** (The Wild Rockies Bill) not yet introduced, this bill seeks wilderness protection for lands in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Oregon and Washington. That protection is urgent because the Northern Rockies region has been devastated by excessive logging and the Forest Service is daily cutting roads into remaining roadless areas. Once an area is roaded, it can not be designated as Wilderness and is legally open to logging.

**Endangered Ecosystems Act:** drafted by the Portland, OR. Audubon Society, and not yet introduced in Congress, this is the first bill to take an ecosystem-approach to preservation. This bill would classify and inventory ecosystems nation-wide and implement protection and recovery processes where needed. It is ambitious in scope and could have a powerful impact on safeguarding remaining species and diversity as well as protecting ecosystem functions.

*"The only way to stop the logging of national forests is to pass a law prohibiting their plunder."*

- George Hermach



Mt. Hood National Forest, Oregon

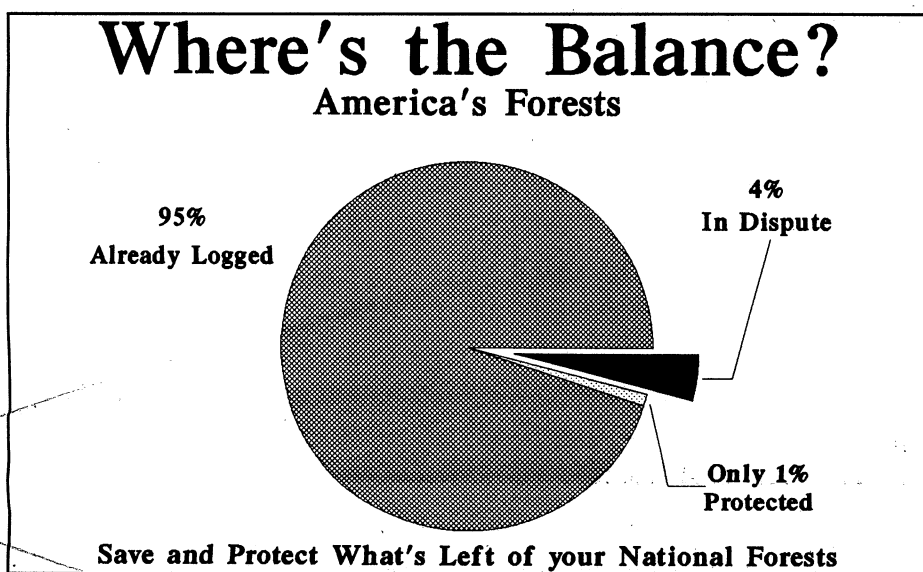
photo by Trygve Steen/LightHawk

# What You Can Do!

## It's Now or Never, All or Nothing

The science, the ecology, the economics of the forest issue all point to one inescapable conclusion: **No more logging of national forests!**

In part because of the Native Forest Council's persistence, the national media has embraced the issue. Join us today and help reclaim what is rightfully ours.



### Join

Join the Native Forest Council (NFC). Your membership will support the only national grassroots organization committed to the single purpose of protecting our nation's remaining native forests. Your support will advance the national educational campaign to generate grassroots pressure on Congress to protect your forests.

### Contribute

Funding is necessary to bring this issue before the American public and to combat the \$50 million timber industry media blitz. Invest in America's forests now. Don't allow the last 5% of our native forests to be reduced to stumps. The Native Forest Council is a non-profit, tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization.

### Endorse

Have your local organization endorse the Native Forest Protection Act: environmental organizations, professional associations, churches, university groups or civic clubs. We own these public forests - not the timber industry. Send a simple letter on your organization's stationary stating your support of the aims of the Native Forest Protection Act, P.O. Box 2171, Eugene, Oregon 97402.

### Canvass

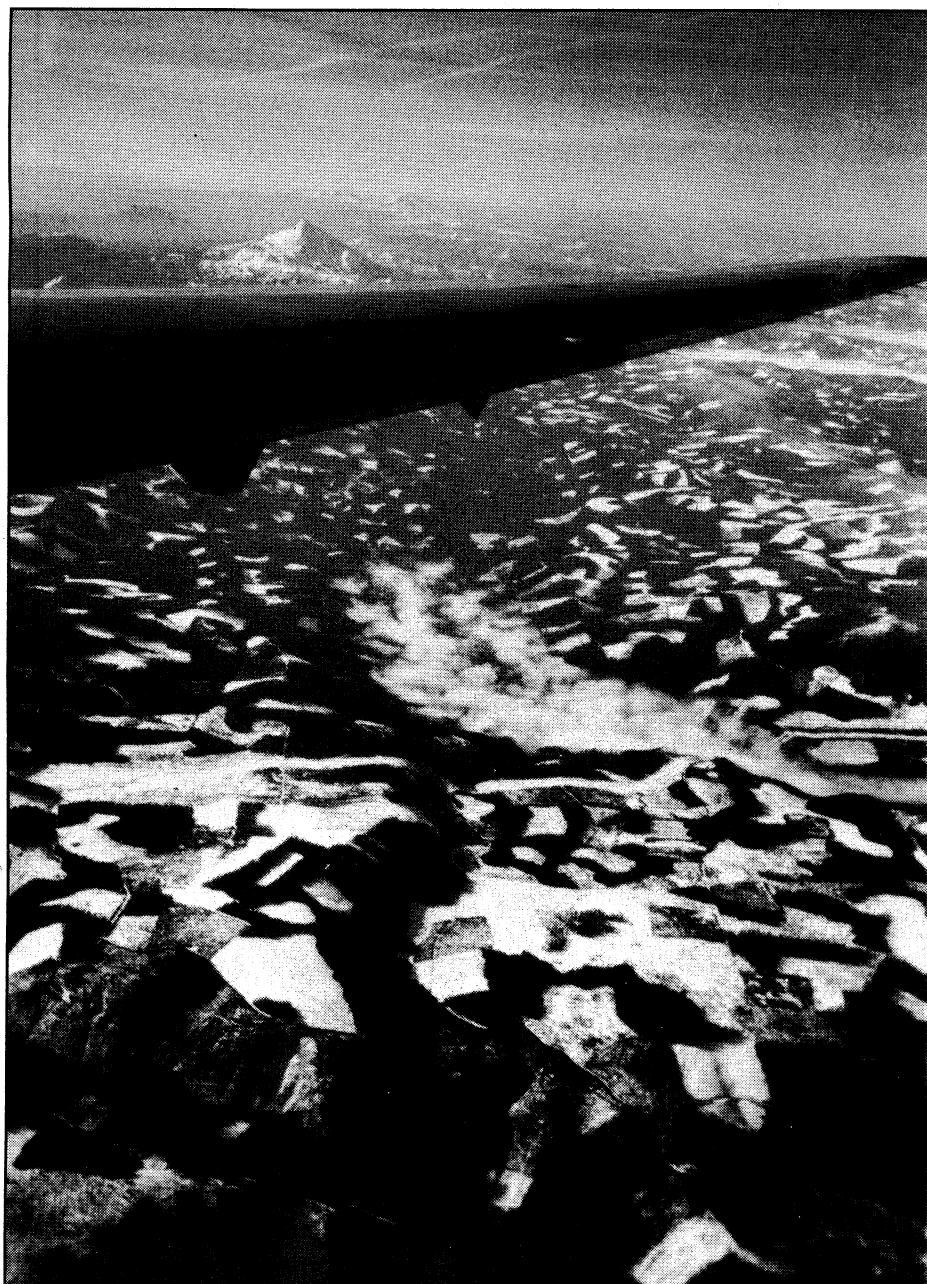
The Native Forest Action Council (NFAC), our political affiliate, will send you its "Petition to Ban the Logging of Native Forests on U.S. Public Lands." Make copies and distribute them for signature. Then collect and return them to NFAC. We'll hand deliver this powerful message to the U.S. Congress and other government agencies that are encouraging the destruction of precious native forests.

### Write

Write your Congressional delegation today. Ask each of them to support the introduction and passage of the Native Forest Protection Act (NFPA), the only measure that will save all the remaining native forests and addresses the related issues of exports, worker and community assistance, and proper forest management. Demand legislative protection for our forest heritage. Ask ten friends to write as well.

### Call

Call the U.S. Congress at (202)224-3121, and ask for the offices of your senators and representative. Calls before 8:00 a.m. cost 13¢ per minute.



Mt. Hood National Forest, Oregon

photo by Tim Hermach

FOREST ACTION

## About the Native Forest Council

The Native Forest Council is a non-profit, tax-deductible organization founded by a group of business, academic and professional people alarmed by the mindless destruction of our national forests. We believe that a sound economy and a sound environment are not incompatible and that current forestry practices are devastating to both.

With only 5% of our native forests remaining, and much of that badly fragmented, we feel we can no longer compromise or merely slow the rate of destruction. All remaining native forests must be preserved, and environmentally sound forestry must be practiced on lands already part of the timber base.

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Deborah Ortuno  
W. Victor Rozek

**Forester** Roy Keene

## Forest Voice

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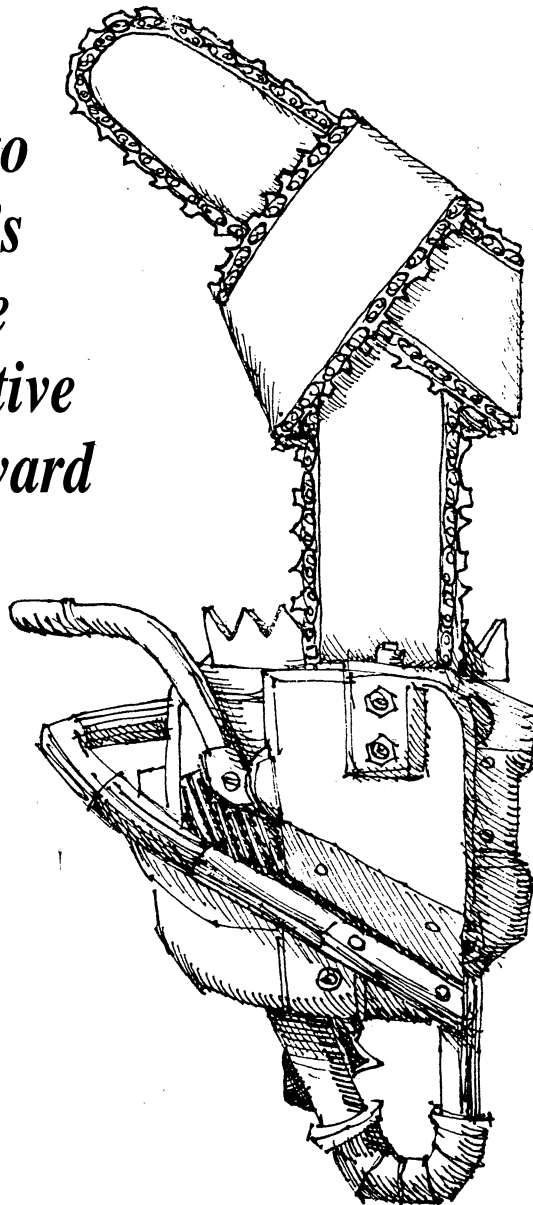
**Editor** W. Victor Rozek

**Graphics** Beverly Soasey  
Funk & Associates

# Stop the Destruction

*Your voice is needed to silence the saws*

*“The Native Forest Council has done more to alert the nation’s public and move the primeval native forest issue forward than any other environmental organization I know of,*



*unexcelled even by the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society.”*

**David Brower,  
Former Executive  
Director, Sierra Club**

## Forest Action Form

**YES!**  
**YES!**  
**YES!**  
**YES!**  
**YES!**

***I'll join the NFC and be part of the solution!***

- I am joining NFC and making the largest contribution I can.
  - I am already a NFC member. Please accept this contribution in addition to my annual dues
  - Please count me as a contributor. I do not wish to become a NFC member at this time.
- \$10,000     \$1,000     \$500     \$250  
 \$100     \$50     \$25     \$\_\_\_\_\_ other

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my  Mastercard  Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with check or money order payable to Native Forest Council at:  
Native Forest Council, P.O. Box 2171, Eugene, Oregon 97402.

**Please send the Forest Voice to the attached names and addresses.**