

Protecting Public Forestlands



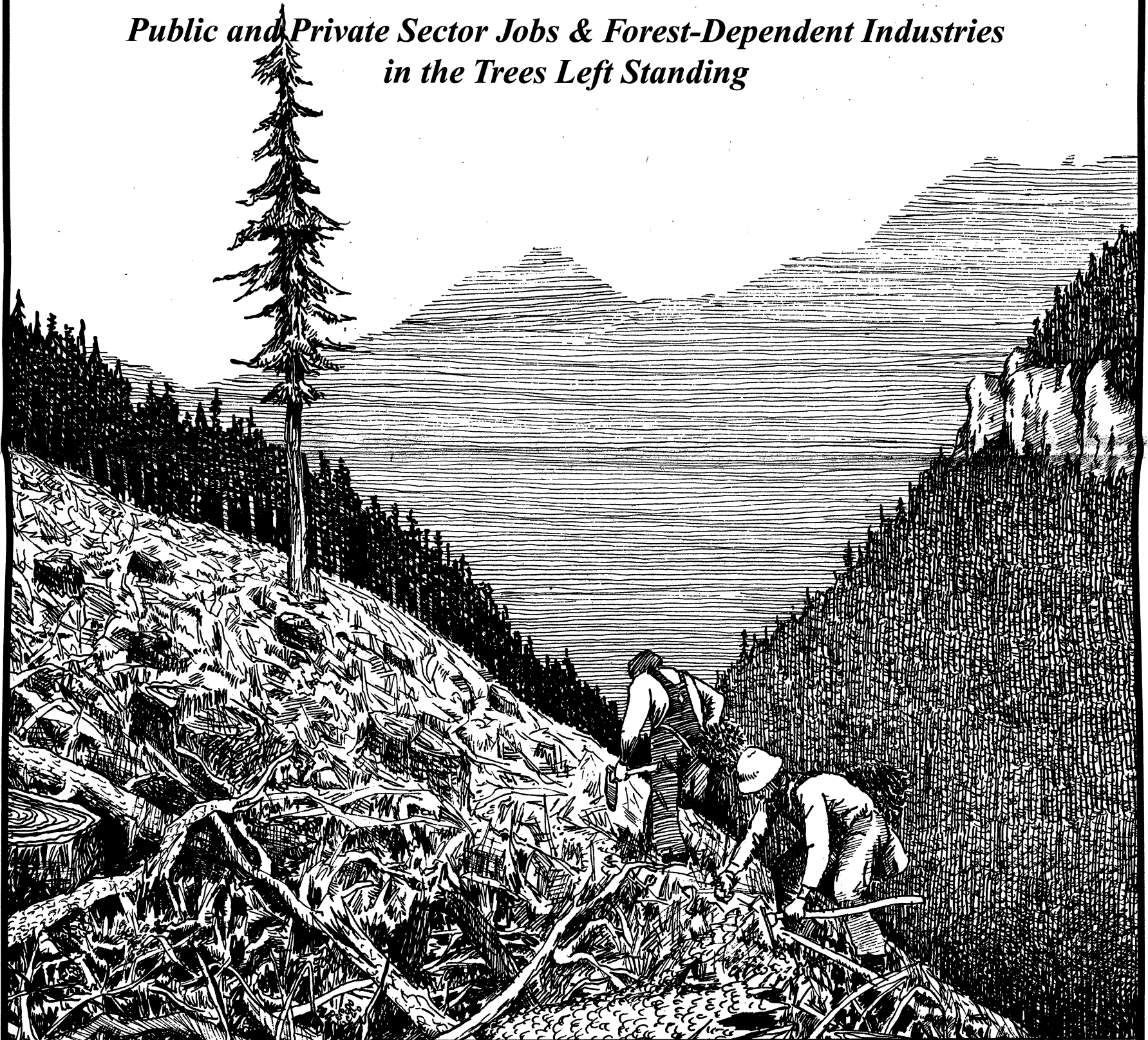
# Forest Voice

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## Life After Logging

*Public and Private Sector Jobs & Forest-Dependent Industries  
in the Trees Left Standing*



Also in this issue:

- *The Economics of the Zero Cut Solution*
- *Howie Wolke and Mark Dowie on the New Conservation Movement*
- *Kenaf: The Annually Renewable, Tree-free Paper*

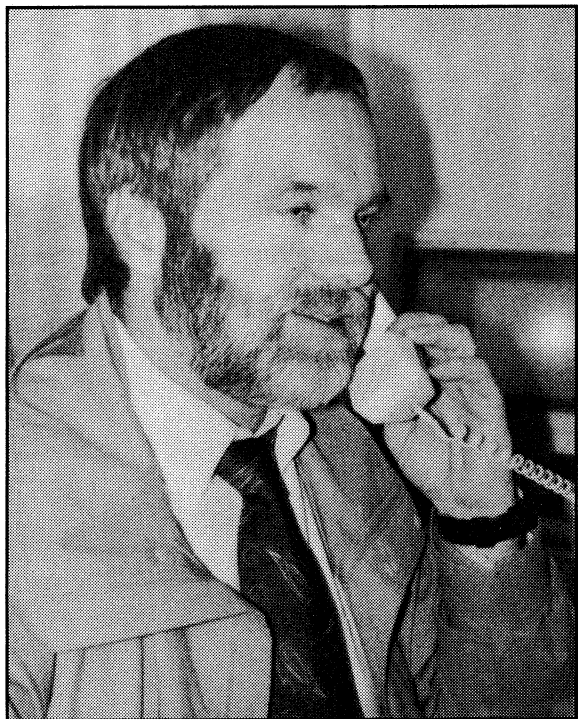
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# From the Executive Director



Timothy Hermach

Packwood, once cynically observed that environmental laws do not enforce themselves. Indeed. That singular fact has permitted Packwood's big-timber buddies to continue their reign over public lands.

The forests do not suffer from a shortage of laws. They suffer from the management practices of federal agencies that hold the law as an inconvenient obstruction in the performance of their duties. The abuses are well documented. The evidence; the forests--sick, dying, tattered, missing--accuse their keepers with the silent eloquence of the mistreated.

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***"The forests do not suffer from a shortage of laws. They suffer from the management practices of federal agencies that hold the law as an inconvenient obstruction in the performance of their duties."***

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## The Virtue of Simplicity

"We are a government of laws, and not of men." John Adams' words, perhaps more than any others, are the stitching in the strained fabric protecting our freedoms. They speak of the supremacy of law over the capricious whims of those who exercise power either by elective mandate or financial might. They imply equal standing and equal responsibility. They define our rules of conduct as ordained by the process of representative government.

Like a dam, those words hold back a flood of institutional abuses. But if the concept of "A Government of Laws" acts as a dam; non-enforcement is the crack. For those of us in the environmental movement, the cracks of lax enforcement are all around, documented in denuded hillsides, endangered species, polluted water, and a host of other ills.

The disgraced junior Senator from Oregon, Bob

As President Clinton moves toward a forest summit, and the likelihood of new legislation designed to patch cracks in the old legislation, there is a giant step he can take to reaffirm the primacy of law: by executive order, compel federal employees to obey and enforce all existing laws--including environmental laws--or face prosecution and/or dismissal.

It is a simple thing. Easy to grasp, not open to the vicissitudes of interpretation. Like the Zero Cut Solution we offer for our national forests. (see *The Zero Cut Solution*, pg. 6) When Greenpeace announced its Save the Whales Campaign, they didn't specify saving only blue whales; or whales within U.S. territorial waters; or left-handed whales born in even-numbered months. No. Greenpeace wanted to save *all* of the whales, and the public responded. In part because the message and the goal were clear.

As forest activists we do our share to confuse the public. Do we want to reform the Forest Service? Stop clearcutting? Save entire

ecosystems rather than isolated patches of ground? Do we want to save the Northwest's forests? Or Montana's? Or the Idaho panhandle's? The answer is that we would like to do all of these things and more. But individually, they are only steps along the contested road to Zero Cut.

Simplicity has its virtues. Adopting a Zero Cut Solution for the national forests eliminates the need for endless scientific studies (the Forest Service ignores them anyway); for extensive mapping (National Forest boundaries are already clearly mapped); and for creating new Forest Service incentives to cure its addiction to logging (Zero Cut removes access to the object of the addiction).

Zero Cut ends the debate over "salvage" and "forest health" logging and "natural stand thinning" (industry's current pretext for getting the cut out); and it saves the forests from so-called "New Forestry" (which produces the same stumps as old forestry). And, Zero Cut loosens the iron grip of special interests whose short-term economic pursuits are incompatible with the long-term health of public forests.

But perhaps Zero Cut's greatest asset is that it requires virtually no enforcement. It needs no interpretation by regulatory agencies. It allows no negotiated exemptions; is not open to discretionary compliance, or to pressure from timber-captive politicians. It is, in short, a law that is not dependent on men.

*I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Howie Wolke to these pages. Howie has agreed to share his words and his wisdom as a featured columnist for the Forest Voice. His qualifications are legendary. Suffice it to say, he put his freedom where his principles were. Welcome.*

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# W o l k e o n t h e W i l d S i d e

*The environmental movement has been successful in protecting high-elevation vistas and mountain peaks.*

*But as our focus shifts to ecosystems and the diversity*

*of life they support, there is still the little matter of...*

## The Carnage Below

by Howie Wolke

Before I add to the debate over Montana wilderness, let's get one thing straight: America's best terrestrial habitats are, for the most part, long gone—plowed under, buried beneath urban concrete, obliterated by sprawl and superhighways. I mean the coastal lowlands, broad river valleys, flood plains, low elevation old growth, and tallgrass prairies, for example. Primarily, even in Montana, we're fighting over scraps of high country.

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***"America's best terrestrial habitats are...long gone..."***

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The focus of the Montana debate, that rages elsewhere in the issues of the *FOREST VOICE*, is an archipelago of unprotected chunks of roadless National Forest lands, mostly in the mountains. Tragically, big river valley wilderness disappeared in the 19th century. In 1906, National Forests were delineated. Bulldozers and chainsaws soon pushed into the high country valleys, beginning in earnest to assault the mountain canyons and mid-elevation slopes by the 1950s. Today's remaining wilds are wild by the grace of time, not by plan: the Forest Service simply hasn't gotten around to logging them. Though scarcity magnifies their value, still, we're fighting over scraps. That perspective must frame the debate, not just in Montana, but most everywhere else, too.

The division in Montana's conservation movement is not a mere split over tactics. It is a microcosm of American conservation facing its most profound dilemma, and it illustrates either conservation's death or its future in a shrinking world of exploding quantities of humanity.

Back in the 60s and 70s wildland conservation focused on scenic lake-studded craggy-peak wilderness. We succeeded in protecting many such places, primarily because there was limited opposition. Even the Forest Service can't log a rock. As we spun through the Reagan-Bush years, though, conservationists realized that the most vital remaining habitats were lower down, beneath the peaks: riparian areas, grassy slopes, old growth, and large blocks of intact forest. Conservation biologists taught us the consequences of habitat fragmentation and the lessons of insular ecology. We learned about

minimum viable populations and of genetic deterioration in small isolated populations. We began to speak less of scenery and recreation and more of ecosystems and biodiversity. While some outfits merely gave lip service to the new buzzwords (and continue to do only that), other groups began to incorporate the new information into their wilderness proposals. Inevitably, they were labeled "radicals" by some. Various groups went further, and began to integrate this information into the body politic, in all of its corrupt complexity. Thus, the New Conservation Movement confronts the failure of Compromise Conservation.

While researching my book *WILDERNESS ON THE ROCKS*, I discovered that the Forest Service has been destroying, mostly by logging and roadbuilding, an average of over a million acres of roadless de-facto wilderness each year since the 1930s! That's despite a growing conservation movement, a growing Wilderness

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***"Thus, the New Conservation Movement confronts the failure of Compromise Conservation."***

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System, and despite the 1964 Wilderness Act. That's because while we protect steep, rocky, unproductive lands, the carnage below continues. Protecting wilderness on the rocks is a victory for industry and the Forest Service, and it's the easy way out for the conservation establishment. They can claim victory, raise funds, feel good, and pretend that losing tactics are successful. They play an acreage game, secure in the illusion of wildness, content with pretty scenery and the illusory myth of the big wide open wild West. They pretend that it is possible to continue to satisfy the logging interests and to have healthy public-land forest ecosystems. In Montana, no surprise, the recent wilderness release bills that have been authored by its Congressional delegation and supported by Compromise Conservationists, have been primarily "rock and ice" bills. That's why both Senator Max Baucus and the Montana Wilderness Association have *boasted* that their bills would leave most of Montana's National Forest commercial timber base, even in roadless areas, available for logging.

Enough of conservation's seamy side. Let's move beyond endless intellectual debate and endless speculation of possible political scenarios. Let's cut right to the heart of the matter and look beyond the specifics on both sides of the debate. For despite my bias, I have to admit that there are good thoughtful arguments on both sides, in Montana and elsewhere.

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***"The Montana wilderness controversy...represents a rift between two approaches and two philosophies that are entirely incompatible."***

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The Montana wilderness controversy goes far beyond debating support versus opposition for any particular bill; it represents a rift between two approaches and two philosophies that are *entirely incompatible*. Here is American conservation facing its most profound choice: will it continue along a path of increasing failure and compromise? Or will it forge into a new arena with parameters determined by biology, not politics? The compromise camp is clinging to the dying throes of failure, content to remain static within the bounds of today's bleak political reality.

By contrast, supporters of the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act are determined to create a new political reality for wildland conservation. They represent the New Conservation Movement and they recognize the value of long-term vision and of grassroots organizing. New conservation activists also recognize the ultimate credibility gained by having the guts to refuse to compromise away wildland ecosystems. "Ecosystems" and "biodiversity" aren't just buzzwords, but represent the principles upon which their actions are based. And they understand the vital function in this society for advocacy groups *to advocate*.

For if conservationists won't defend all remaining wildland ecosystems; if conservationists won't work to restore wildland habitats; and if conservationists won't promote America's public wildlands *as they could be*, who, then, will?

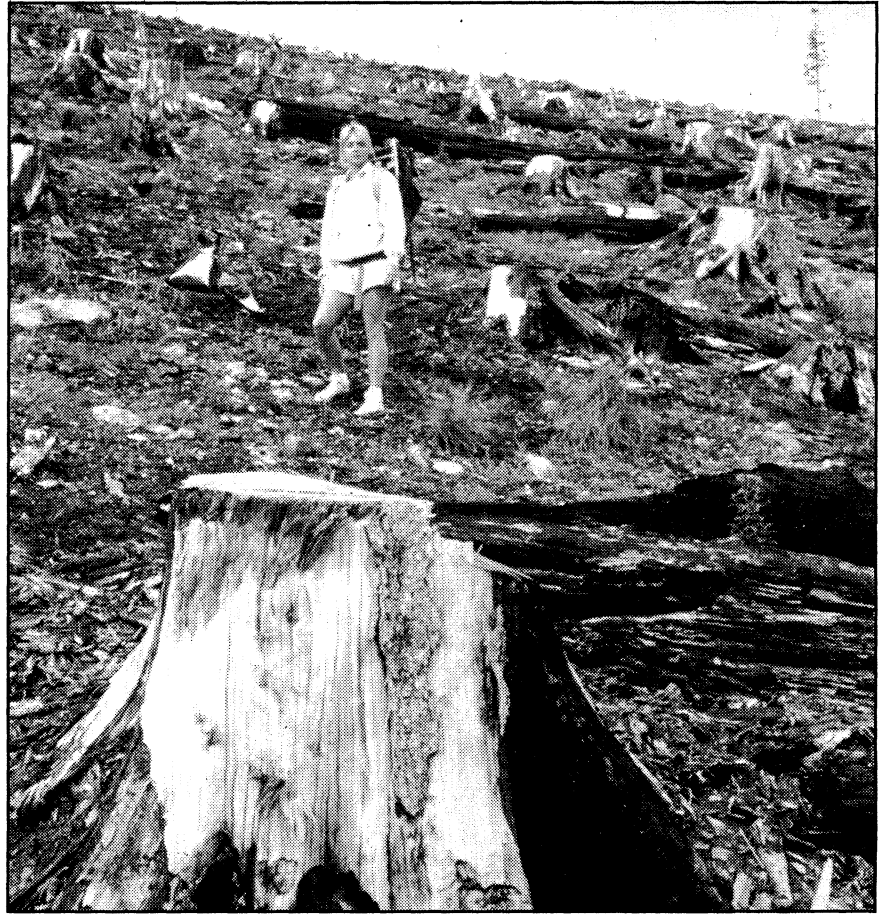
*Can yesterday's tactics solve today's environmental crises?*

# American Environmentalism: A Movement Courting Irrelevance



What was once a flowing stream

photo by Joel Davis



Gifford Pinchot National Forest

photo by Elizabeth Feryl

by Mark Dowie

All is not well in the biosphere. The maladies are well documented and appear to be spreading. The atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide has increased 25 percent over the past century and is now growing at double that rate. The ozone has become depleted over populated areas. Flotillas of garbage ride the currents of every ocean. Acid rain is killing lakes on

***"All is not well in the biosphere. The maladies are well documented and appear to be spreading."***

every continent and melting the granite artifacts of ancient cultures. Dozens of species become extinct every month as deserts in one hemisphere expand and forests shrink in another...Every year 2.7 billion pounds of toxics are legally released into the U.S. atmosphere...

Prognoses for the future range from critical to terminal, depending on the ecologist consulted. Yet Americans seem to maintain faith that their government, enlightened industrialists, and environmental nongovernmental organizations working together will eventually clean up the mess and find ways to

protect the globe from the yet-to-be-invented toxins of technological culture. Indeed, some U.S. historians predict that environmentalism will one day be regarded as the greatest social movement in the 20th century, surpassing in significance the peace, labor, women's, civil, and human rights movements of earlier decades. In light of these predictions, one would expect the American environmental movement to have made far more significant progress than it has after two decades of intensive, extremely well-funded activity...

While "the nationals," [large national environmental organizations] as they are known, can fairly take credit for many of this century's environmental accomplishments, they must also share the blame for the troubling setbacks the environment has suffered, particularly during the past 10 years when so many of the movement's earlier triumphs were undone by the Reagan and Bush administrations. During those years, when environmental conditions and political circumstances required tougher tactics, most of the mainstream organizations lost the momentum they had developed over the previous decade. In a desperate drive to win respectability and access in Washington, these groups pursued a course of accommodation and capitulation with elected officials, regulators and polluters. After having produced some limited gains in the 1970s, compromise became in the 1980s the entrenched and habitual

practice of mainstream environmental leaders, an approach applied reflexively even in the face of irreversible degradations.

***"The mainstream needs to abandon its faith in the ability to contain pollution..."***

If the role of mainstream organizations remains central and the environmental movement hopes to achieve its predicted significance before the end of the century, some rapid and radical changes must be made in the priorities, structure, and tactics of the nationals. Otherwise, as the space for compromise narrows, the nationals will continue their evolution toward a weak and superfluous interest group, absorbing almost 90 percent of the contributed environmental dollar and doing less and less with it to protect the environment.

The tactics needed to reverse this process--less reliance on regulatory legislation and more direct confrontation with polluters--are today found only at the grass roots of the movement. The mainstream needs to abandon its faith in the ability to contain pollution and adopt, instead, an approach that favors pollution prevention. Mainstream leaders must question the compatibility of effective environmentalism with the world's prevailing

economic orthodoxies. Time is running out for a movement courting irrelevance.

Compromise is, of course, the lifeblood of democratic government, a necessary part of any legislative strategy. And for a while compromise worked for the environmental movement, since it had little to lose and everything to gain, and the government was willing to regulate polluters. During the Nixon, Ford, and Carter years, when the White House and its agencies maintained a modicum of environmental sincerity, national legislation did indeed register some important policy gains, protecting endangered species, inhibiting polluters, and controlling toxic transport. With an occasional legislative prod, the regulatory agencies that were

***"The main problem with persistent regulatory legislation is that it stimulates a potent antibody--the industrial lobby."***

formed to enforce the new laws could usually be persuaded to fulfill their mandates.

But when conservative leaders replaced the moderates, the limits of compromise became apparent. Revolutionaries in both policies

***"They are particularly incensed by the assumption that industry has a preordained right to pollute their neighborhoods."***

***"The first lesson is that politicians cannot be trusted to solve environmental crises."***

***"...Controlling pollution, as opposed to eliminating pollutants, is a waste of time..."***

***"...A clean environment should really be regarded as a basic human right."***

***"Understanding environmental issues as fundamental human rights ultimately renders compromise nearly impossible."***

and tactics, Ronald Reagan and his advisers made it clear from the outset that they were ideologically intolerant of appeasement. "Environmental elitists" were among the declared enemies of the conservative revolution...

Although environmental leaders became disillusioned with government (exactly as Reagan had hoped), most chose to continue on a comfortable, reformist path. Thus, the very system designed to reverse the degradation of the environment began to break down. Under the Reagan assault, accommodation only hastened this process. Indeed, in presenting such a clear threat, Reagan offered the mainstream its last opportunity to become a powerful and effective force. The mainstream blinked.

The main problem with persistent regulatory legislation is that it stimulates a potent antibody--the industrial lobby. No matter how big and clever environmental groups become, when it comes to lobbying Congress, they will always be a mosquito on the hind quarters of the industrial elephant. Chemical manufacturers, oil companies, big agriculture, timber interests, and their respective political action committees will always have greater access than environmentalists to the legislature--a fact that Washington mainstreamers have had great difficulty accepting...

[Lately, mainstream environmental proponents have begun to embrace] "market based incentives"...in lieu of regulation to induce industry to pollute less...One such [market based] innovation...is the use of "pollution credits," which allow firms to trade pollution rights among themselves. If a firm wishes to pollute in excess of tolerated allowances, it must purchase credits from another firm that does not need them. Pollution is thus made more costly, the argument goes, driving the inefficient producers from the market. This approach makes some sense in theory but in practice it is flawed. Let's say a "clean" utility is allowed to sell pollution rights to a "dirty" utility...as is now the case under the recently amended Clean Air Act. As long as the utility can afford to buy these rights, tons of sulfur dioxide are still being belched into the atmosphere, only from a different location. And all too often that new location is a poorer and less politically empowered area of the country...

If you really want to eliminate hazardous substances, you have to eliminate them at the source, which is the pollution technology itself...The state, not the marketplace, forced auto manufacturers to install catalytic converters that brought us unleaded gasoline and lowered carbon monoxide and

nitrogen oxide more than 90 percent...Industry approaches environmentalists only when worried that regulatory agencies or the legislature will not protect its interests.

Blue-collar environmentalists who struggle against polluters close to home...complain that [market-based incentives] represent nothing less than a massive capitulation to polluting industries...[They] are particularly incensed by the assumption that industry has a preordained right to pollute their neighborhoods. By taking pollution permits seriously, the mainstream organizations are in fact moving closer to accepting this right...When nationals do get involved in local campaigns, decisions are often made in Washington, where deals are struck in private without local consultation and without concern for local consequences...

But environmental complicity, and its own public-relations driven tendency to turn compromise into false triumph, illustrates the impending moral bankruptcy of many mainstream organizations... U.S. environmentalism must develop into a broad-based, multiethnic movement that takes a long-term global view, challenges prevailing economic assumptions, promotes environmental protection as an extension of human rights, and engages in direct action when necessary...

The first lesson [from the last decade] is that politicians cannot be trusted to solve environmental crises. As the cultural critic Marshall McLuhan once pointed out, "politicians apply yesterday's solutions to today's problems..." The second lesson to be learned from the grass roots is that controlling pollution, as opposed to eliminating pollutants, is a waste of time and will not protect the environment...Another lesson that can be learned from the American grass roots movement, and transplanted worldwide, is that a clean environment should really be regarded as a basic human right...

Understanding environmental issues as fundamental human rights ultimately renders compromise nearly impossible. Human rights advocates do not generally negotiate half measures ("You may torture five percent of your population, a 50 percent reduction from the 10 percent you tortured last year"). A human rights-oriented environmentalist would likewise not allow gradual reductions of toxaphene in a community's well in return for complete removal of dioxins. And just as a human rights charter would not permit one nation to sell its "right-to-torture" to another, a human rights environmentalist would not permit one polluting nation [or company] to

sell some alleged or implied right-to-pollute to another...

Much more rides on the ability of the mainstream environmental movement to reform itself than the simple success or failure of a legislative strategy, or the ability to prod scofflaw regulators with litigation. The life-sustaining capability of the biosphere is at stake. What is needed within the U.S. environmental movement is some fire in the belly, an ideology that puts humanity back into nature, and a mechanism to continuously assess the environmental impact of misguided environmentalism.

*--Excerpted from a much longer paper published in the World Policy Journal, Winter 1991-92 edition. Mark Dowie is a freelance journalist who makes his home in Point Reyes Station, California.*

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***"What is needed within the U.S. environmental movement is some fire in the belly..."***

# Standing Forests & a Green New Deal. All Part of...

THE

# Zero Cut

SOLUTION

by Paul Roberts

When Bill Clinton promised to fix the Northwest timber crisis with a forest summit early in his administration, even staunch Northwest Democrats had to wince. Congressional players have already tried the summit thing. They've tried consensus-building. They've tried compromise timber bills--more than a dozen of them over the past five years--and they're no closer to a timber fix than they were when they started.

*"The real crisis is a federal timber program all but indistinguishable from Soviet-style collectivism."*

Suppose the solution isn't more compromise, more rationing of the federal forest pie among loggers and tree-huggers. Suppose the timber blues need much stronger medicine. That, at least, is the thesis pushed by some forestry freethinkers *outside* the D.C. Beltway. In their view, owls vs. loggers is just the symptom: The real crisis is a federal timber program all but indistinguishable from Soviet-style collectivism. Outdated, centralized, and appallingly uneconomical, it is our national forest policy, these radical critics argue, that not only created the current forest fiasco but, unless totally overhauled, perhaps abandoned, guarantees to spawn new disasters well into the next century.



The Zero Cut Solution saves remaining National Forests

photo by Elizabeth Feryl

Among the most intriguing of these clean-sweep reforms comes from a brash, 47-year-old economist named Timothy Hermach. Since 1988 Hermach and his Eugene-based Native Forest Council have argued that the one sure way to end the crisis, save the environment and preserve the economy, is to ban the harvest of all federal trees. Not a reduced harvest, as some in Congress advocate. And not a kinder, gentler harvest, of the type promoted by the U.S. Forest Service and certain image-conscious timber companies. Hermach is talking

Zero Cut, starting tomorrow. "A lot of folks go ballistic when they hear that," conceded Hermach... "But then, a lot of folks labor under the misconception that the current system is in their best interest."

Hermach's plan is shock therapy. He wants to stop logging on more than 191 million acres of federal real estate, a vast parcel of property larger than Texas. In Washington and Oregon alone, the 19 national forests comprise a fifth of the land area. Revenues from these and other federal lands, in the form of timber receipts, taxes and wages,

play a massive role in local economies.

But not a beneficial role, Hermach argued. The heart of the problem, he said, is this: The federal government sells its trees too cheaply. By Hermach's reckoning, revenues from the sale of most federal timber come nowhere near the true costs of managing those trees, replacing them, or fixing the damage caused by their harvest. Rather, these so-called "external" costs get passed along to the taxpayers, to the tune of several hundred million dollars annually.

It gets worse. By selling below-cost timber, Hermach said, the federal government encourages the harvest of federal forests, which contain most of the last intact forest ecosystems. Further, by

*"No other enterprise wastes habitat, resources, or money so effectively."*

flooding the market with cheap federal trees, the government depresses all timber prices. Lower prices mean lower profit margins for private timber firms, which discourages them from managing their own forests--that, in



Unprotected National Forests

photo by Joel Davis

**“...the one sure way to end the crisis,  
save the environment,  
and preserve the economy  
is to ban the harvest of all federal trees.”**

Hermach's view, are far better suited for intensive forestry.

For Hermach, federal timber policy is subsidized socialism at its least efficient. No other enterprise wastes habitat, resources, or money so effectively. The more we cut, the more we lose. “If you believe in capitalism, and if you are a fiscal conservative,” Hermach said, “then you don't believe in the liquidation of capital assets at below their replacement costs or their benefit value to the public. We do both.”

...Only 15 of 156 national forests actually operate in the black. As it happens, 14 of those profitable forests are in the Pacific Northwest... “But,” Hermach claims, “the forests in the Pacific Northwest actually lose the most money because the trees here have the most value.” Trees, in his accountant's view, are assets that must be valued as such. A 40-year-old tree-farm tree, for example, is an asset into which a company has poured a considerable investment. To profit, the company must sell the trees for enough to recover production costs; as important, the price must also make it worthwhile to replace that tree with a new one.

In short, Hermach argues that harvest of federal trees in the Pacific Northwest constitutes the ultimate below-cost sale. “We may disagree as to just how much a 1,000-year-old tree is worth,” Hermach said, “but it sure as hell isn't zero. A 1,000-year-old tree is not replaced by five or six seedlings. That's like saying your grandmother is ‘replaced’ by six sperm cells. It's bullshit. If my CPA undervalued assets like that

**“If you believe in capitalism...then you don't believe in the liquidation of capital assets at below their replacement cost...”**

in order to show a profit to shareholders, he'd not only lose his license, he'd go to jail.”

[Hermach contends,]...it's better to stop the federal harvest and shift the workers to private production, which is bound to increase as soon as federal timber leaves the market. Those who can't find work on the private side will have plenty of

public work repairing the federal forests...Hermach adds an interesting green twist to this new economic environmentalism: He wants to reverse deforestation. Beyond banning federal logging, his proposed National Forest Protection Acts also mandate the total restoration of federal woodlands to their “native” state. This is the soothing side of Hermach's economics: People who now log federal lands would go to work repairing them, a sort of green New Deal. “I submit,” he said, “that there are thousands of times more profits to be made, wages to be earned, taxes to be paid--not to mention jobs that actually create something, enhance and establish capital wealth and infrastructure--by rebuilding our forests and restoring them to their natural native condition.”

Hermach envisions the reforestation task as rivaling the public-works projects of the Great Depression. There are hundreds of thousands of trees to be planted; there are federal tree farms to be restored--via thinning, burning, or selective logging--back to a more natural composition. There are also thousands of miles of streams to fix and some 360,000 miles of logging roads to unbuild. The money for all this, in case you're wondering, would come from those megamillions now spent subsidizing below-cost federal timber sales. “It's going to take a lot of heavy equipment an awful long time to get rid of these roads,” Hermach said. “However you look at it,

there are a lot more jobs in restoring forests than there ever were in tearing them down.”

...In the political marketplace, however, Hermach's ideas will likely be outbid...Even if Zero Cut makes economic and ecological sense--and many top green officials concede that it does--they also say the concept won't fly in D.C.

Hermach replies that it won't fly only because the national groups won't give it wings...Still, even among mainstream environmentalists, there is a growing weariness over the current crisis-compromise approach. Some fear that the big environmental groups, through efforts to win political allies for future battles, are giving up too much. Even officials at the big groups recognize the danger, as Rick Brown of the National Wildlife Federation puts it, of working amid “the day-to-day machinations of Congress.” The tendency, he said, “is to accept the current political reality as the limiting force, rather than figuring out how to change the political reality.”

Pete Emerson, a former Wilderness Society vice president now with the Environmental Defense Fund, is more blunt. “When you hear people say that Tim Hermach isn't as politically astute as they are, you have to remember that you're hearing it from people in the

‘system,’ people who like to talk to each other, who like to go to each other's meetings, who don't like to irritate each other. Hermach irritates. They should be thankful to Hermach for offering a solution, because, basically, you're never going to hear solutions when you're inside the Beltway.”

**“However you look at it, there are a lot more jobs in restoring forests than there ever were in tearing them down.”**

*A longer version of this article was originally published in the Seattle Weekly, and was reprinted in abridged form in Willamette Week. For a copy of the full article, write or call the Native Forest Council, P.O. Box 2171, Eugene, OR 97402 (503) 688-2600*

**“A 1,000-year-old tree is not ‘replaced’ by five or six seedlings. That's like saying your grandmother is ‘replaced’ by six sperm cells.”**



“Compromised” Public Forest

photo by Trygve Steen

*There are sustainable jobs, cottage industries,  
even a flourishing export market in...*

# The Trees Left Standing

by David Clarke Burks



In the grey morning light of the coastal range in western Oregon a caravan of pickup trucks angles slowly up a steep grade through fog-tipped Douglas fir. The occupants are not loggers or uniformed foresters, but foragers and pickers setting out to harvest grasses, greens and cones from national forest lands. They are local folks and recent immigrants who make their living from the trees left standing.

They are the gleaners, the gatherers, who practice an enterprise that dates back to the Paleolithic era. They are also participants at the leading edge of a new industry which has come to be known as Special Forest Products.

**With less than 5% of the native forests still remaining in the United States, it is crucial to discover appropriate means to preserve these repositories of genetic diversity and biological integrity while at the same time develop sustainable economic enterprises for human communities that share these landscapes.**

We have learned that large-scale logging operations dependent on clearcut extraction methods are not compatible with flourishing, healthy ecosystems. The handwriting is on the wall for everyone but the most ardent diehards to see: the traditional timber industry is in decline. In the last decade the number of workers employed in the lumber and wood products industry in Oregon has fallen by better than 20%. The state of Oregon estimates that by 1997 projected timber employment will fall below 50,000 jobs.

Many of those laid off from the mills have emigrated to larger cities finding work in other manufacturing or service jobs.

However, there is a cadre of folks, some call themselves *wildcrafters*, who have chosen to continue to work in the forests, but approach their vocation with an entirely different ethic.

They are the collectors of wild edibles, harvesters of native landscape stocks, pruners of floral greenery, and foragers for native botanicals and medicinals.

**They collect mushrooms, bottle pure water, gather salal and beargrass, cascara and yew, and a host of other native plants and herbs. And they are making a living at it; and the demand for their products is growing at a phenomenal rate.**

It is their ethic as well as their craft that sets them apart from large-scale logging operations. Their extraction methods are not dependent on the destruction of forest structure. Indeed their businesses rely upon preserving the complex character of forest ecosystems. They share with Aldo Leopold a belief that "the real end [of conservation] is a universal symbiosis with the land; economic and esthetic, public and private."



Their enterprises are for the most part small-scale, low-tech, low impact, independent ventures that rely on sources of traditional knowledge for their expertise. According to Jim Freed, Washington State University Extension Agent for Special Forest Products, **40% of the floral greens harvest is shipped outside the United States; the majority of mushrooms are exported to Japan, Korea, Germany and France; and 95% of the medicinals are transformed into products**

**outside of the Pacific Northwest. To date, the supply of product has not been sufficient to meet worldwide demand.**

What are we talking about in terms of economic impact? Hard numbers are difficult to come by. Excluding the bottled water industry, estimates of annual wholesale sales range up to 300 million dollars. These figures are small by traditional standards of forestry accounting, but are significant because they are sustainable and they are compatible with protecting native forestlands.

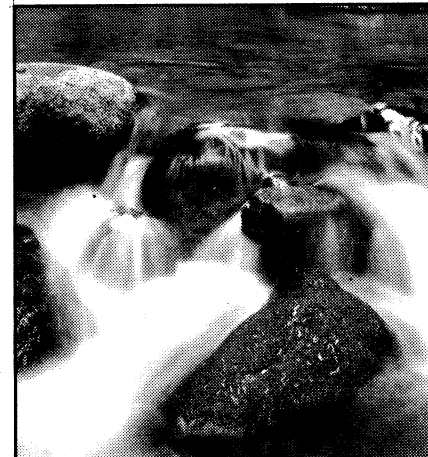


There are others who depend for their livelihood on the trees left standing. To mention a sample: naturalist and river guides, mountain resorts and retreats, native handcrafters, recreational equipment manufacturers, backcountry outfitters, restoration foresters, poets, adventurers and artists of all stripes, and many more. Placing a dollar value on many of these efforts is pure conjecture.

**But forests do not exist and have significance only in terms of human use. Forests are the lungs of the planet, and home to wildlife and wild plants which have value quite apart from human appropriation. Again it is Aldo Leopold who frames the matter:**

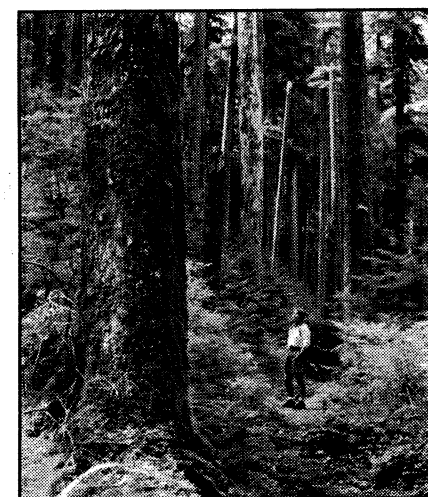
"The citizen who aspires to something more than milk-and-water conservation must first of all be aware of land and all its parts. He must feel for soil, water, plants, and animals the same affectionate solicitude he feels for family and friends. Family and friends are often useful, but affection based on utility alone leads to the same pitfalls and contradictions in land as in people."

The emerging Special Forest Products industries provide us with



an opportunity for sustainable employment which preserves the rich biological legacy inherent in our native forests. It is obvious that new forms of economic organization are necessary to accomplish this goal. Adaptation, invention and innovation are necessary for the long-range viability of all communities. **The Special Forest Products people are demonstrating that "the old ways" can be among the new ways to shape a sustainable future.**

*David Clarke Burks is a natural history writer and poet who makes his home in Eugene, OR*

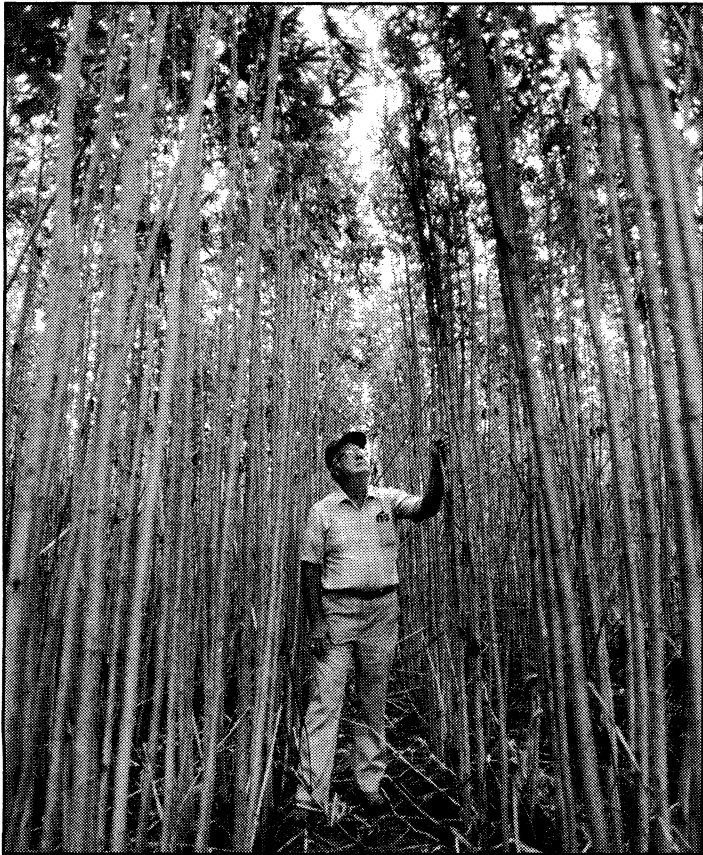


*Photos by Elizabeth Feryl*

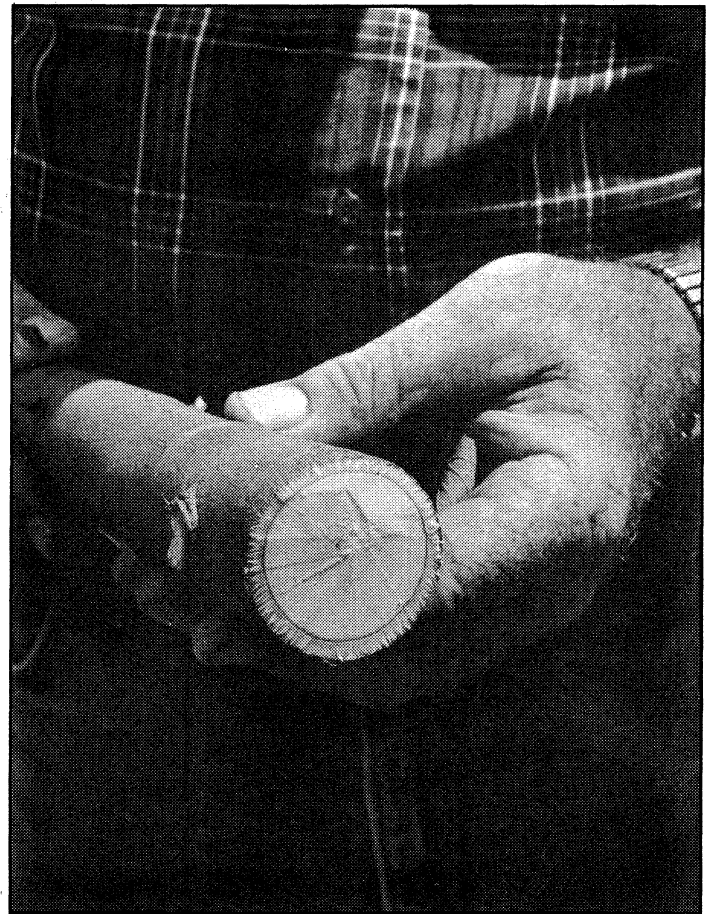


**What if there was a paper alternative that:**

- **Saved Trees**
- **Conserved Energy**
- **Reduced Pollution**
- **Promoted Sustainable Agriculture**
- **Was Annually Renewable**
- **Was Recyclable**
- **Benefited Rural Economies**



Kenaf photo courtesy of USDA



Kenaf, bark and core photo courtesy of USDA

**K**

**E**

**Fiber Properties**

The kenaf plant contains two fiber types: bast (or bark) and core. The outer bast fiber comprises about 40 percent of the dry weight. The refined fibers measure 2.6 mm in length and are similar to the best softwood fibers in strength and burst tests.

The white inner core comprises about 60 percent of the dry weight. The refined inner core fibers measure .6 mm and are comparable to hardwood fibers. The plant's 60/40 composition is well suited for making newsprint. To produce higher grade papers, the bast and the core fibers are separated, processed independently, and blended to produce nearly any grade and quality of paper.

**N**

**Potentials**

Kenaf can be grown and processed to create the following products and by-products:

- **Any grade of paper product**
- **High protein animal food**
- **Absorbent chicken litter**
- **Particle/fiber board**
- **Sewage sludge collection filters**
- **Molded packaging**
- **Plastics additive**
- **Potting soil**
- **Seed bedding**
- **Versatile seed oil**

**A**

**The Plant**

Kenaf is a 4,000 year old "new" concept with roots in ancient Africa. A member of the hibiscus family, it is related to cotton and okra. From seed it grows to be 12 feet tall in just four to five months.

Kenaf can be profitably grown even on marginal lands. It is a very hardy plant that requires few fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides, and has low water requirements.

Kenaf annually produces six to ten tons of raw fiber per acre. United States Department of Agriculture field trials show that kenaf can yield three to five times more fiber per acre per year than southern pine.

**40 Years of Research**

The United States Department of Agriculture has conducted research and development work on kenaf over the last 40 years. They studied over 500 different plants for their fiber qualities and commercial potential and chose kenaf as the most viable fiber plant for United States paper production.

Because of the low lignin content of kenaf, fewer chemicals are required to convert it to pulp. Using fewer chemicals reduces waste water contamination. Because kenaf has a naturally whiter color than wood, it requires less bleaching. Less bleaching results in less dioxin and other chemical by-products produced by the paper making process.

**F**

For more information on Kenaf, write or call KP Products Inc. P.O. Box 4795 Albuquerque, NM 87196-4795 (505) 294-0293

*For every problem the Forest Service has a solution,  
and it is always the same: CUT.*

Ancient forests are considered "decadent" and must be chopped down and replaced by "thrifty" tree farms. Tree farms, of course, are only planted to be cut. Trees visited by insects must be cut to protect the forest from potential infestation. Trees that are sick or dying must be cut for "forest health". Once dead, they must be cut to prevent fire. Cut, cut, cut; forever on the same note. As John Osborn, publisher of the Inland Empire Public Land Council's TRANSITIONS, observes: With monotonous predictability, the Forest Service treats the symptoms with more disease.

# SALVAGE:

*Solution or Scam?*

*by John Osborn*



photographer unknown

**O**ur [national] forests are in critical condition. Watersheds are falling apart; trees are dying; damaged forests release floods in the winter and burn in the summer; salmon, grizzly bears, woodland caribou, and bull trout (among other species) face extinction. The list of symptoms is growing.

Slowed by court injunction and public outcry, the U.S. Forest Service has invoked "salvage" as their device to get the cut out. They use the poor health of the forests to justify salvage logging, thereby circumventing citizen oversight of federal decisions. In doing so, the federal agency makes the wrong diagnosis and prescribes the wrong treatment for a real problem.

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**"Our forests are  
in critical condition...  
The list of symptoms is growing."**

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Salvage logging--cutting trees that are (or might be) burned, bug-killed, or blown down--is not new. Damage from prior salvage is out there. We can learn from the mistakes of the past. We don't need to repeat them.

In Idaho, salvage logging on fragile soils contributed to catastrophic erosion in 1965, smothering a \$100 million salmon fishery on the South Fork Salmon River. Clearcutting of the Targhee National Forest on the border of Yellowstone National Park pushed a boom timber economy now going bust--and pushed the grizzly bear even closer to extinction. Like the Targhee, clearcutting in the upper Yaak in Montana's Kootenai Forest threatens the survival of grizzly bears.

Past management practices have so debilitated the forests that today, extensive salvage logging confronts nearly every national forest in the inland Northwest, including the Boise National Forest, four forests in the Blue Mountains (the Umatilla, Wallowa Whitman, Malheur), the Idaho Panhandle, and the Colville and Okanogan National Forests.

So, what is "Forest Health?" Boyd Wickman, part of the team of scientists studying the collapse of the Blue Mountain forest ecosystem in eastern

Oregon and Washington, defines forest health as "a condition where... influences on the forest (i.e. insects, disease, atmospheric deposition,

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**"...forest health is being used  
as a front for carrying out  
extensive salvage logging."**

---

silvicultural treatments, harvesting practices) do not threaten ecosystem stability for a given forest unit now or in the future." But Wickman also warns that forest health "is an ambiguous buzz-word and as such is an over-used and misused anthropomorphic catchword."

As so-called "Forest Health" legislation is introduced in Congress, its urgency should not obscure the fact that forest health is being used as a front for carrying out extensive salvage logging. Congress and the White House should not prescribe overcutting to treat problems created by overcutting. Forest health legislation should (1) undertake salvage logging only when consistent with the recovery of forests, especially damaged watersheds and fisheries; (2) state explicitly that nothing in the forest health law supersedes any existing public environmental protection laws; (3) restore fire to fire-dependent forests; ... (4) place a moratorium on logging old growth and native forests; and (5) ensure citizen oversight.

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**"Congress and the White House  
should not prescribe overcutting  
to treat problems from overcutting."**

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Large timber companies, mostly based on railroad land grant forests, see forest health as yet another way to get at the National Forests. By investing heavily in media, political campaigns, and lobbying, these corporations have twisted salvage logging into forest health. But as a scam for salvage logging, "Forest Health" is a prescription for disaster.

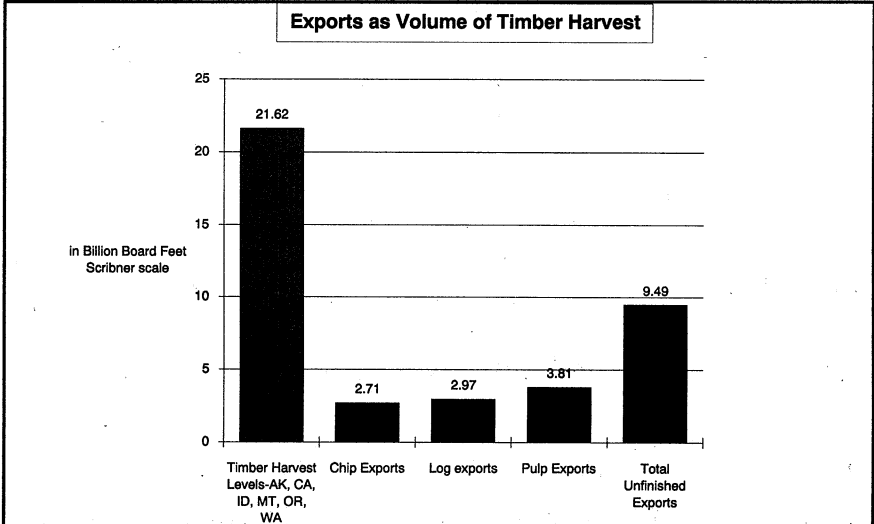
Worried about jobs and owls; mills closing and forests falling; the economy and the environment? Want to keep the jobs and the forests at home? Remember...

# It's the Exports, Stupid

Over the last decade, 45 percent of all the trees cut in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and California have been exported unfinished or minimally processed.

*"It is a paradox to have... a dwindling supply of logs for mills in the Northwest, and at the same time you can go out to Port Angeles and see logs stacked to the sky, as far as the eye can see, destined for mills and jobs in Japan."*

- Bruce Babbitt  
Secretary of the Interior  
March 22, 1993

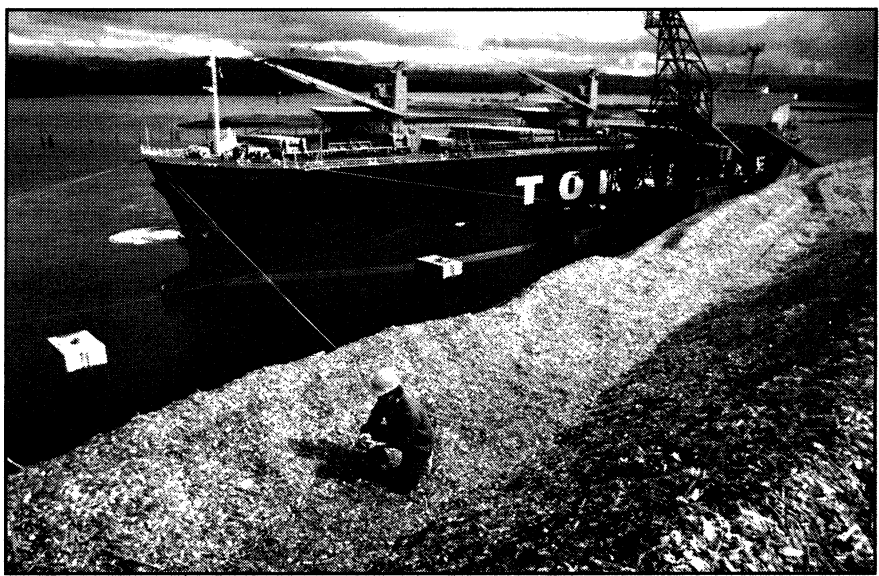


That's the equivalent of exporting 10 billion board feet of timber each year. Using the standard multiplier of six direct timber jobs per million board feet, we have also exported 60,000 jobs.



Northwest logs stacked for export

photo by Joel Davis, The Oregonian



Wood chips bound for Japan

photo by Bill Ballenberg

If a Texas wildcatter were to export oil derived from domestic wells, wouldn't most of the public consider that an act of economic folly? Apparently so, because it is illegal to export domestic oil. It is judged to be too precious. Ironically, during the years that domestic mills closed and industry complained bitterly about "log shortages" and job losses, the export of raw and unfinished logs has continued unchecked.

Where are the timber jobs? In Osaka and other Far Eastern mill towns. Can we save all of our remaining native forests and still ensure an ample supply of timber for domestic mills? Of course. A ready replacement supply can be found on the docks of every Northwest port.

To stop the economic hemorrhage and the ecological damage inflicted on our national forests, Congress must seriously

consider banning or restricting the export of raw and minimally processed logs. As long as industry can benefit from high prices on the export market for their own logs AND a subsidized, low cost, guaranteed supply of federal logs, America's forests and America's timber jobs will continue to decline.

*Data compiled by Michael Donnelly. Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce; Source: Production, Prices, Employment, and Trade in Northwest Forest Industries, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Author - Debra Warren Research Bulletin PNW-RB-194*

# Buy Back The Dacks

**Wild Earth** magazine announces the creation of a people's fund for the Adirondacks. Only 42% of the six million acre Adirondack State Park is protected by public ownership--and of this amount, less than half is designated Wilderness. Recent legislative initiatives have failed and much of the privately owned land for sale within the park is threatened by development. Here's your opportunity to help keep the Northeast's crown jewel Forever Wild.

**Buy Back The Dacks**, a cooperative effort of *Wild Earth* and the Adirondack Conservancy will identify and purchase imperiled lands with a particular focus on sensitive habitats and private lands contiguous to existing Wilderness. Your contributions to **Buy Back The Dacks** go directly toward land acquisition/preservation--not to support the other important work of either organization. **Buy Back The Dacks**...working to protect wild habitat for all Adirondack natives.

*Send Contributions to:*

**Buy Back The Dacks Fund**  
**Wild Earth**  
**P.O. Box 492**  
**Canton, NY 13617**

## About the Native Forest Council

The Native Forest Council is a non-profit, tax-deductible organization founded by a group of business and professional people alarmed by the willful 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 percent of our native forests remaining, and much of that badly fragmented, 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 previously logged forestlands.

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## Forest Voice

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**Yes!** *I'll join the Native Forest Council and be part of the solution!*

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