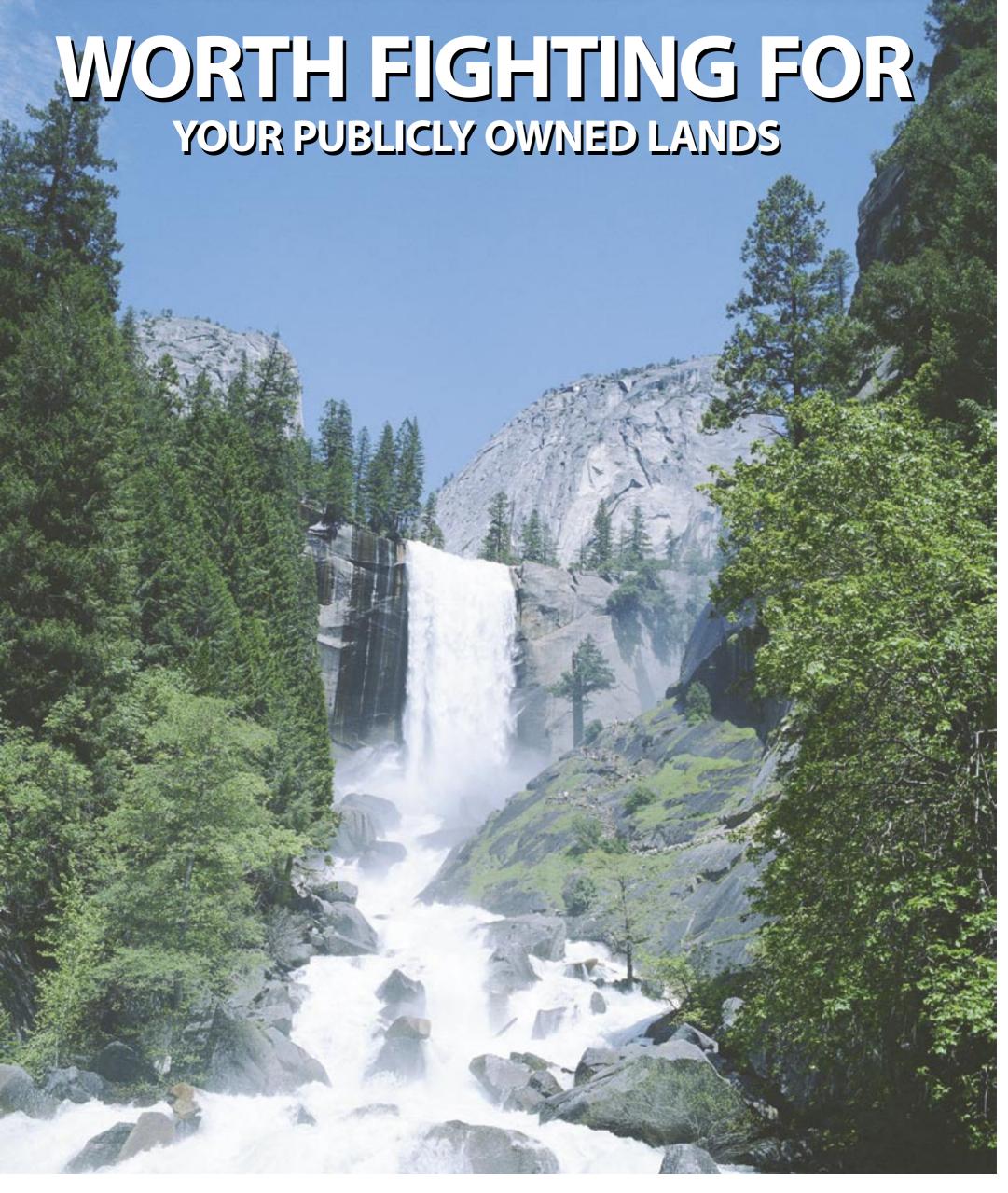
Forest Voice

Fall 2004

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Forest Voices

An open forum for Forest Council members and others



Win or Not, It's Time to Fight the Right Fight

There is a clock ticking. Anyone attentive to the environment knows this. But no one knows how fast the clock is ticking, how much time we have before our greed pushes us past the point of no return. It could be a 1,000 years. Or 100. Or less. And that uncertainty, which leads our species to mill about and argue, could be our undoing.

Writers more eloquent than I have marshaled the facts of industrial civilization and its damage to the world that supports us all. There is no room left for argument, so I won't reheat a dish already oft served and bland with age.

Fact is, we are using up limited resources faster than we replace them. There are two reasons for this. There are too many of us, and we want too many of the wrong things.

There are also two key questions. Will a critical mass realize that we're far down a path to destruction that must be altered? And will we realize it in time to reverse it?

Throughout human history, we've shown an ability to coordinate and succeed at phenomenal tasks. That ability makes humans unique among animal species. But that same history shows we are malcontents prone to digression into parochial bickering. It takes some common understanding and overriding urgency to transform ourselves from dilettantes to heroes.

Will the environmental crises be our next such awakening? I have been a soldier in that movement, and I will be again. All who come to that battle have had their epiphanies. Mine came at 10,000 feet in the Colorado Rockies, while I was bouncing in a wild ride down a mountain on gold mine property in the back of a company pickup, cradling my golden retriever/Malamute cross named Jake. Hoping to make it to the mine building in time to reverse the effects of cyanide poisoning and save his life. Jake was the best dog I ever had.

I went to work for the mine, the only one left operating near Cripple Creek, in the late 1980's. It used a solution of water, potassium cyanide and lime to pull gold into solution out of low-grade ore crushed into finger-sized pieces and stacked on giant flattened "pads" of hundreds of thousands of tons. Atop each pad was a system of hoses and fittings that spread the solution in a cloud of droplets over the ore, like watering acres of lawn. Beneath each pad was a heavy black poly liner, and the yellow gold-filled solution ran down these liners into giant poly-lined ponds for later processing. Ponds, pads and metal and PVC distribution lines crisscrossed the landscape.

And they leaked, occasionally spilling thousands of gallons of solution onto the land. Deer and horses got past the fences and died after drinking the solution. If there's not enough lime to keep the pH up, the cyanide can become gas, and I've seen birds fly over the systems and fall dead because of that, once just before I was to be walking onto those pads to service the sprinklers. And then there was Jake, who fell into a pond half a mile from our house and couldn't climb up the slippery poly slope and out of the pond to safety.

Cyanide, aside from killing things that breathe and ingest it, is absorbed through human skin and can kill you that way. Dogs, luckily, don't take it in well through their skin but through their foot and nose pads. Those small absorptive surfaces are the only reason Jake was still paddling weakly around when we got the word and blazed up to the pond. I lassoed him out of there and we hauled him to the headquarters building. No one we'd heard of had tried administering the oxygen and amyl nitrate antidote to a dog before. Jake was breathing about three times a minute when we got him in. He responded to the amyl nitrate and made a full recovery, as living things do from cyanide poisoning if it doesn't kill them.

But there in that dingy, dusty mill, surrounded by half a dozen good working and beer-drinking companions in waterproof gear, steel-toed boots and hard hats, who were happy for me and my dog, I made a silent commitment to work to reverse this polluting and dangerous way of life we've come to condone. I told no one of that vow, not even my wife. Industry provides a seductive deal with the devil. It allows us to make enough of a living to dwell in splendid places, and the Cripple Creek Mining District was one of those places, as is the landscape of northeastern Minnesota. But industry also dominates any rural economy, and in our hope to melt into the physical and spiritual beauty of the landscape we are pinned to that industry with the iron spike of our own desire. We come to believe it's the only way to live where we are. But it's

Six months after the poisoning near Cripple Creek, I was working as a canvasser and teacher of canvassers for Clean Water Action in Minneapolis, Fargo and Duluth, going into neighborhoods each weeknight, showing individual people in their own homes how contributions to the movement and letters to legislators make a big difference in the political process. Calls to action from individual citizens grew into thousands of communications to the Capitol and had enough weight for environmental victory after victory. And we helped elect Paul Wellstone, one of the environment's greatest champions in Washington, D.C.

Sometimes, you could see the light of success actually switch on in a citizen's eye, the glimmer of understanding how simple and formidable it can be to empower a population, the firming of a mouth with a new and profound purpose.

A beginning, certainly, but we are good at beginnings. More demanding is the perseverance required to give beginnings meaning. What must happen is a fundamental shift in priorities among people. Too many of us care too much about the wrong things. I see this in myself. Bigger boats and motors to speed myself faster from fishing spot to fishing spot, when this contemplative pastime actually becomes richer with each decreased mph. More

We are good at beginnings. More demanding is the perseverance required to give beginnings meaning.

money to buy these toys, these ATV's and snowmobiles and faster computers and plasma televisions, and to blazes with the natural resources it consumes and the world it pollutes to manufacture and use and throw away.

No, millions of people in this country have come to the realization that more is not better. To simplify, to slow down, to ponder the nature of things and reach humility through a more basic lifestyle — these are things we both can and should do. Will this happen in time? Will it happen to enough people?

I look through the glass that is my 41 years of life, a glass slightly warped as are all such by each individual's unique experiences. I've spent the 12 years since my work with Clean Water Action on the environmental sidelines, gaining insight through 10 years of newspaper work into the best and worst of human character. Mulling, digesting, evaluating. In my heart of hearts, I have more doubt than hope. I don't believe we have the essential ability to cast off our way of life and embrace such radical change. However, I've spent too much time on the sidelines. I could fight for women's rights, take up the battle on behalf of the poor or of victims of discrimination. These are all worthy efforts

But without an environment to support us, those causes would fall by the way as immaterial. Survival first. It's time to get back in the fight that matters most, to demonstrate the perseverance to turn what was a beginning 12 years ago into the remainder of a life's work. I don't think we will win the war, but I've been wrong before. And there is honor in the fight, if it is the right fight.

—Steve Foss, the Ely-Babbit (MN) editor of *The Timberjay*

Tim, I Am Grateful for Everything You Do

Dear Tim, In 1929, a book was published entitled *The Charm of Trees* by Thomas F. Davis. Each chapter is about one tree species and although there is a little science in the description of an aspen, beech, birch, hemlock, oak, etc., it is mostly a cultural description full of love and awe.

"One knows them all, the mountain lovers, the sea lovers, the star lovers, the bird lovers and happy souls they are. But there are some to whom the most marvelous thought of God is a tree, for here is beauty, life, growth and beneficence."

Also: "Instead of filling my sanctuary with men and women...I like rather to cultivate the acquaintance of trees ...The natural feel of a tree is so beautiful and expressive, it seems as though it must have its corresponding spiritual truth."

This reminds me of Thoreau in his book about the Maine woods where he asks what is the highest use of a tree, and he answers that the highest use must be to remain standing as a tree and to function as intended by design.

Tim, I am grateful for everything you do. Much Love, Moisha Bleckman, NYC Sierra Club

Forest Voice

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support the Native Forest Council's mission. If you would like us to return your work, please include a SASE. Inspired? Incensed? Impressed?

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Native Forest Council

Or e-mail: tim@forestcouncil.org

Cover

Waterfall in Yosemite National Park



YEEESH



The Native Forest Council is a nonprofit, tax deductible organization founded by a group of business and professional people alarmed by the willful and dishonest destruction of our national forests. We believe a sound economy and a sound environment need not be incompatible and that current fraudulent public land management practices are devastating to both.

The mission of the Native Forest Council is to protect and preserve every acre of publicly owned land in the United States.

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News and Views

Peace Is War, Skies Are Clear

MoreOrwelliandoubletalk:EvenPresidentBushcouldn't have missed the irony (could he?) of his September 15th visit to the Detroit Edison power plant in Monroe, Michigan. Mr. Bush called the plant a "living example" of his Clear Skies initiative, telling workers they were "good stewards of the quality of the air." The plant is one of the worst polluters in the country. Under the

initiative, it will continue to spew sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide into the air for at least 17 more years.

Texas Chainsaw Massacre

On October 30th, the Senate approved HR 1904, the Bush administration's so-called Healthy Forest Initiative. The bill calls for increased logging on at least 20 million acres of publiclyowned forests and would do nothing to reduce fire risk. It would remove the legal oversight and judicial review of logging plans.

Interior Bill Laden with Sleazy Riders

An appropriations bill passed by the House October 30th threatens national forests, grasslands, streams and wetlands. The Interior Department's spending bill for fiscal year 2004 includes limits on the public's ability to challenge destructive logging operations, a renewal of grazing permits for harmful grazing, and paving paths and streambeds to create even more roads on public lands.

No Limits: Big Mining Dumps on Public Land In 2001, Interior Secretary Gale Norton relinquished the federal

government's right to reject permits for destructive mining on public lands. Two years later, the other shoe

has dropped. This October, the Bush administration overturned rules limiting waste-dumping on public lands. Mining companies can now dig open pit mines and dump an unlimited amount of on public lands—waste that makes

rain and snow melt acidic and leaches toxic metals into rivers, streams and underground water sources.

More Stealthy Forest Initiatives

More efforts by the Bush administration to dismantle what little protection came from the Northwest Forest Plan: efforts to repeal surveys of the impact of logging on endangered species and proof that streams and salmon runs won't be harmed by logging.

Timber Thieves Steal Millions Annually

A June 2, 2003, report on NPR explained how millions of dollars worth of trees are stolen from national forests each year. According to the report, thieves have included meth addicts as well as corporations illegally moving boundaries of logging operations. As many as one in ten of the trees cut from the Olympic National Forest is taken illegally.

California Fires: Smokescreen for Logging

Proponents for logging on publicly owned lands are using this fall's California wildfires to push their agenda. However, current "Healthy Forests" legislation would do nothing to preven fires near suburban homes or eliminate the kind of dry brush that caused the California fires.



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Native Forest Council Platform

What Native Forest Council Stands For, Can't Stand and Fights to Change

A Unique Mix

"Unique" is perhaps one of the most misused words in the English language; Few things are truly one-of-a-kind. But the issues we cover in the Forest Voice do comprise an unusual, eclectic mix. At first blush, some of the topics may seem unrelated ("Why are you running a story on campaign finance reform? Aren't you about the forests?"). But a closer look reveals the relationship between environmental education and our attitudes about conservation; between federal policies and campaign contributions; or between corporate "free speech" and access to the media. For more than a decade, Native Forest Council has fought for total, uncompromised protection of our nation's national forests. Along the way, we've developed opinions and perspectives on a host of other issues that are crucial to the preservation of our nation's mountains, forests, rivers and streams. Give these a chance. They may seem unexpected or off-topic at first. But a closer look will show how the forest issue is related to many others.

Forever Wild

Nearly fourteen years ago, Native Forest Council was about one thing: Zero Cut on National Forests. Over the years, we've learned about other threats that were just as lethal as (if not worse than) logging: mining, grazing, oil and gas drilling and motorized recreation. For example: What's the point of stopping logging, if mining corporations can pile unlimited amounts of tailings on our national forests, polluting our rivers and streams with toxic metals? We also learned that the same wasteful destruction that was happening on our national forests was happening on other publicly owned lands: National parks and wildlife refuges and areas entrusted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). That's why we developed *Forever Wild*, a call for total protection of all 650 million acres of publicly owned land in the U.S.

Truly Conservative: The Precautionary Principle

When in doubt, do the least you can. In most cases, do nothing. We believe that human beings have failed to "manage" ecosystems better than God, nature or whatever benevolent force you believe gave us our forests, mountains, rivers and streams. Furthermore, backwards incentives within government agencies encourage the destruction of ecosystems, making any exception to absolute protection a dangerous loophole. As long as federal agencies and corporations use dishonest accounting to take public resources from taxpayers at their expense, loopholes and exceptions will be exploited for their benefit—and our detriment. Allow them to cut down trees that pose a danger to picnic tables, and they'll fill the forests with picnic tables! Of course, this is an exaggeration, but actual loopholes aren't much less ridiculous: The Forest Service and logging corporations have used salvage logging, fire prevention and other euphemisms to justify unnecessary logging that adds up to a net loss for the American taxpayers. That's why Native Forest Council stands for total protection, without exception. No logging, mining, grazing, drilling or motorized recreation on America's publicly owned lands. Sound extreme? A federal timber program that operates at a net loss of billions of dollars per year, even though less than 5% of our nation's native forest still stands, sounds far more extreme to us.

CACALLA LINES





President Theodore Roosevelt and John Muir at Glacier Point, Yosemite National Park, 1903.

Honest and Fully Costed Accounting

A virgin forest managed by nature is worth more than a clearcut, even from an accountant's point of view. Our national forests and parks, wildlife refuges and BLM lands offer trillions of dollars worth of services and assets. Yet our government continues to subsidize their destruction at a net economic loss. If they were running a business, they'd be bankrupt! Indirect subsidies, skewed accounting and incomplete economic assessment of assets has allowed corporate America to take trillions of dollars from the American people and justify the theft with a fraction of that value in jobs and products. The corporations that profit from our publicly owned lands are heavily subsidized by tax dollars. And they enjoy indirect benefits from using public lands. The Forest Service admits that it loses \$1.2 billion dollars managing the federal timber program every year. Welfare ranchers are subsidized by Wildlife Services and other federal agencies that help them for free. Public lands mining operations pay just \$5 per acre for millions in assets, and leave the expensive mess behind for the government to clean up — yet another indirect subsidy. Who pays for these subsidized costs? We the taxpayers. An accurate and fully costed accounting of what's happening on our public lands would reveal an economic travesty, refute industry's claim that we must choose jobs or nature and galvanize public support for conservation.

Corporations Aren't People

Our Bill of Rights was created to protect people and preserve Democracy. But the brilliance and foresight of this document have been subverted by corporate lawyers who began establishing the notion of "corporate personhood" in the 1800's and haven't given up since. Because of this false interpretation of our constitution, corporations are given the same rights and privileges as you or me, including free speech. These "rights" have allowed gigantic corporations to run roughshod over Democracy and unduly influence decision-makers with campaign dollars. Efforts to restrict campaign contributions have been stopped in the courts because corporations claim that contribution limits would restrict their free speech. We assert that corporations are not citizens, and that money is property, not speech. Not only is it appropriate to limit how money is spent, it's also necessary for a Democracy to survive.

Individual Rights Vs. Property Rights

We don't let property owners build adult bookstores next to elementary schools. Or skyscrapers in rural neighborhoods. From stock exchanges to stockyards, the individual rights of property owners have been limited by the rights of everyone else. Communities have a right to clean air, water and soil, and violation of these rights should lead to appropriate limitations for property owners.

A Corporate Death Penalty

How ironic that our judicial system can put people to death, but not corporations! The first U.S. corporations were created to combine resources for the greater good of communities, to build a bridge or a granary, for instance. When the corporation no longer served the community, the corporate charter ended. In many cases, corporate charters were actively revoked. Over the past 150 years, corporations have wrongfully been given rights of personhood. But corporations are public entities, created under the power of state governments. When corporations take away the inalienable rights of human beings, they should be dissolved. This is why Native Forest Council is calling for a Corporate Death Penalty Act: the right of citizens to revoke corporate charters.

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Forest Council has fought for total, uncompromised protection of our nation's national forests. Along the way, we've developed opinions and perspectives on a host of issues.

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Yes, Mr. President...
... There is a Holocaust in the Forest

Tnable to afford the \$2000 a plate dinner at the Chiles Center last week in Portland, Oregon, I missed my golden opportunity to thank President Bush for his comments about the state of forest health in Oregon and around the nation. The following day, after flying over the Deschutes National Forest, President Bush declared it a "holocaust." And I agree 100 percent with our nation's ecologically minded leader.

Why wouldn't President Bush want to alert the citizenry of the nation to the utter devastation on our public lands? The

Unable to afford the \$2000 a plate dinner at the Chiles Center last week in Portland, Oregon, I missed my golden opportunity to thank President Bush for his comments about the state of forest health in Oregon and around the nation.

Deschutes National Forest is crisscrossed with mile after mile of logging roads and pitted with clear-cuts that have left little more than 3 to 5 percent of the original majestic Ponderosa pine woods. The National Forest system of some 191 million acres contains over 400,000 miles of roads that channel drying winds into once intact forests. Compound that with the blistering sun baking denuded lands and literally millions of cut branches, needles and logging waste, and you have a fire hazard beyond imagination.

I was hoping to walk with President Bush into a clearcut by my own home. Living by the Siuslaw National Forest, in Oregon, I was anxious to see the reaction of the president as he walked a moonscape that was once a living and breathing system. The ground crunches in pain as you walk the brittle landscape. Hardy weeds replace the once native flora, and stumps create an eerie backdrop to the mounds of limbs and unmarketable splintered logs that litter the ground.

Nothing in nature mimics a clearcut—even forest fires leave standing trees and shade. Clear-cutting is an aberration in nature, where all the intricacies of forest ecosystems are liquidated. The timber industry's recipe for "healing" a clear-cut is a prescription for disaster. Replanting trees in sequenced rows that compete for sunlight leads to thousands of dead branches, little growth on the forest floor and actually becomes a catalyst for high temperature fire disasters. What the doctor should order in this situation is kicking timber multinationals off public lands.

Nothing in nature mimics a clearcut — even forest fires leave standing trees and shade. Clear-cutting is an aberration in nature, where all the intricacies of forest ecosystems are liquidated.

In reality, President Bush was here in my state to "play doctor" and "aid" the ailing forests by intentionally razing natural systems and replacing them with fire-prone monocultures. He lamented the fires that have burned in Oregon, using the powerful imagery of fire to mislead his employees—the citizens of America. His "stewardship forestry" is music to timber multinationals. For Bush's song includes the lyrics: big timber, you are exempt from environmental law; have a grand time liquidating giant, fireproof trees.

Is choir sings in lockstep. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, our protector of public lands, states, "Dense, overgrown forests and range lands have grown like cancer." The unmentioned malignancy here is her and her bosses' intentional lies and cronyism towards the nation's avid clear-cutters. They could afford a seat next to the president in Portland; that \$2000 a plate was simply "chump change" for those who seek favors for votes.

The spectacle of Bush's ride over lands struck by forest fires is illuminated when one examines only the facts. And facts do not cease to exist simply because they are ignored. Burning trees make good television moments but smoke out hard data. In 2002, similar fires burned in the Umpqua National Forest. Close to 90,000 acres burned, with the press using terms like "devastated trees and darkened stumps." Yet, more than 80% of the forest was lightly burned, actually Mother Nature's tool to reduce undergrowth. And where did the most intense fire burn? In dense tree plantations that replaced once native trees. When the smoke clears it is easy to see that President Bush's forest plan is a hoax disguised to open native forests to the timber industry and damn the real data.

The cold hard facts are sobering: Over 50% of the Tongass National Forest in Alaska has been clear-cut since 1950. Of the original 243,000 km of long leaf pine in the southeastern U.S,

less than 16,000 km remain. By the early 20th century, one-third of the U.S. forests disappeared and by the 1990's the native forests standing in the lower 48 hovered around 4% of their original acreage. The national forests of the Pacific Northwest have been slashed into jigsaw puzzle status. The Native Forest Council has aerial photos available that look like war has been waged on our public

am sending a letter and e-mails to President Bush, asking if he would meet me in the once widespread cottonwood or water-oak blackgum forests of Texas to discuss proper stewardship of forests. Nearly 60% of these forests have been leveled in his own home state. I would bring him a copy of "Endangered Forests, Endangered Freedoms," a 2003 report from Greenpeace that gives shocking facts on the state of national forests in the United States. I would ask if he would give the press a statement with acres of clear-cuts in the background.

Ilustration by Charley Deppne

Come walk our national forests with common folks like me, Mr. President, and see the real holocaust in the nation's woods. I'll even buy you dinner.

Common citizens like me cannot afford luxurious and extravagant settings where access has too high a price to pay. President Bush's newest undeclared war is on our own turf: our forests. Sadly, once-proud forest defenders are now toying with the notion of "salvage logging," as if forest fires are the enemy.

Does President Bush think he can hide the truth in a growing sea of clear-cuts or homogeneously sterile tree farms? We should end commercial logging on public lands, use fire as the natural asset it is to forests, thin forests near populated areas using federal funds and let big timber multinationals provide our wood needs from their fiber farms.

Come walk our national forests with common folks like me, Mr. President, and see the real holocaust in the nation's woods. I will even buy you dinner. ■

This story originally appeared in Impact Press, "Covering issues the way the media should": www.impactpress.com.

John F. Borowski is a marine and environmental science teacher who lives in Philomath, Oregon, and works with the Native Forest Council. His articles have appeared in PR Watch, the New York Times, UTNE Reader, Forest Voice, Alternatives Magazine, Z Magazine, Liberal Slant and Commondreams.



John Borowski and his daughter, Jenna, at Opal Creek in Oregon.

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•Native Forest Council has aerial photos available that look like a war has been waged on our public lands. Go to www.forestcouncil.org.

Now Hear This by Amanda Griscom

Bill Moyers speaks his mind on Bush-brand environmental destruction and more

Environmental news and humor from Grist Magazine: www.gristmagazine.com

ill Moyers is best known as the broadcast journalist who, for more than 20 years, has brought the public frank, soulsearching, and sometimes frightening examinations of — well, of almost everything under the sun. On air, he's equally comfortable discussing politics or poetry, scriptures or science.

Born in Oklahoma in 1934 and raised in Texas, Moyers has had a highly celebrated and peripatetic career that has included stints as a Baptist minister, deputy director of the Peace Corps in the Kennedy administration, and press secretary to President Johnson. Moyers later became publisher of the New York daily Newsday, an analyst and commentator on CBS and NBC news, and a cofounder, with his wife Judith Davidson, of Public Affairs Television, where he produced series ranging from "God and Politics" to "Joseph Campbell and the Power of Myth."

Having racked up more than 30 Emmy Awards during his television career, Moyers is now the host and producer of the Friday night PBS series "NOW with Bill Moyers." He is also one of the few TV news and culture journalists who believe that there are still plenty of viewers who want to think and learn. At "NOW," Moyers has focused with increasing intensity on the Bush administration's environmental record. Since his show launched in January 2002, Moyers has produced more than 20 reports on environmental subjects ranging from mountaintopremoval mining to the industry backgrounds of Bush's key political appointees. On August 29th at 9 p.m. EST, he put the Bush record in a larger context, airing an interview with award-winning scientist David Suzuki, who believes the global environment is in its final moments of sustainability.

leave for his grandchildren.

Grist: In the year and a half since the launch of your PBS

program "NOW," you reporting on the Bush administration's environmental record. a time when most news outlets have focused on war and recession, you

and your team have been among the few journalists who've consistently taken a hard look at these policy rollbacks. What has been motivating you?

Bill Moyers: The facts on the ground. I'm a journalist, reporting the evidence, not an environmentalist pressing an agenda. The Earth is sending us a message and you don't have to be an environmentalist to read it. The Arctic ice is melting. The Arctic winds are balmy. The Arctic Ocean is rising. Scientists say that in the year 2002 — the second-hottest on record — they saw the Arctic ice coverage shrink more than at any time since they started measuring it. Every credible scientific study in the world says human activity is creating global warming. In the face of this evidence, the government in Washington has declared war on nature. They have placed religious and political dogma over

Grist tracked Moyers down at his office to discuss environmental policy rollbacks, the ecological concerns that he says "burn in his consciousness," and the world he wants to

have done extensive That was before the radical right and the corporations took married that conservaover the party. Your generation is too young to remember that back in the 1970's, when the world began to wake up to the global environmental crisis, the U.S. became the undisputed leader in environmental policy.

Bill Moyers has produced more than 20 reports on environmental subjects ranging from mountaintop-removal mining to the industry backgrounds of Bush's key political appointees.

Grist: Can you elaborate on their religious and political dogma?

Moyers: They are practically the same. Their god is the market — every human problem, every human need, will be solved by the market. Their dogma is the literal reading of the creation story in Genesis where humans are to have "dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the Earth, and over every creeping thing ..." The

administration has tive dogma of the religious right to the corporate ethos of profits at any price. And the result is the politics of exploitation with a religious impulse.

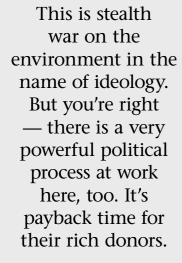
Meanwhile, over a billion people have no safe drinking water. We're dumping 500 million tons of hazardous waste into the Earth every year. In the last hundred years alone we've lost over 2 billion hectares of forest, our fisheries are collapsing, our coral reefs are dying because of human activity. These are facts. So what are the administration and Congress doing? They're attacking the cornerstones of environmental law: the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, NEPA [the National Environmental Policy Act]. They are allowing 17,000 power plants to create more pollution. They are opening public lands to exploitation. They're even trying to conceal threats to public health: Just look at the stories this past week about how the White House pressured the EPA not to tell the public about the toxic materials that were released by the September 11th attacks on the World Trade

Grist: I'm interested in your explanation of why — I haven't heard this dogma-based argument before. More often, critics interpret the White House environmental agenda as political pragmatism, as simply an effort to stay in power and pay back corporate contributors.

Moyers: This is stealth war on the environment in the name of ideology. But you're right — there is a very powerful political process at work here, too. It's payback time for their rich donors. In the 2000 elections, the Republicans outspent the Democrats by \$200 million. Bush and Cheney — who, needless to say, are oilmen who made their fortunes in the energy business — received over \$44 million from the oil, gas, and energy industries. It spills over into Congress too: In the 2002 congressional elections, Republican candidates received almost \$15 million from the energy industries, while the Democrats got around \$3.7 million. In our democracy, voters can vote but donors decide.

Grist: Add to that the fact that in every key appointment at every environmental agency you find someone from industry — a lawyer, a lobbyist, a former executive.

Moyers: The list is shocking. The Interior Department is the biggest scandal of all. Current Secretary Gale Norton and her number two man, J. Steven Griles, head a fifth column that is trying to sabotage environmental protection at every level. Griles has more conflicts of interest than a dog has fleas. The giveaway of public resources at Interior is the biggest scandal of its kind since the Teapot Dome corruption. You have to go all the way back to the crony capitalism of the Harding administration to find a president who invited such open and crass exploitation of the common wealth.



I'm a journalist,

reporting the

evidence, not an

environmentalist

pressing an

agenda. The Earth

is sending us a

message and you

don't have to be an

environmentalist to

read it.



Their god is the market. Every human problem, every human need, will be solved by the market. Their dogma is the literal reading of the creation story in Genesis where humans are to have "dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the Earth, and over every creeping thing ..." The administration has married that conservative dogma of the religious right to the corporate ethos of profits at any price. And the result is the politics of exploitation with a religious impulse.



Consider the example of Iraq. Once upon a time it was such a lush, fertile, and verdant land that the authors of Genesis located the Garden of Eden there. Now look at it: stretches upon stretches of desert, of arid lands inhospitable to human beings, empty of trees and clean water and rolling green grasses. That's a message from the Earth about what happens when people don't take care of it.

Grist: Protecting the environment has become an increasingly partisan issue under the Bush administration. The GOP has decidedly become the anti-environment party, causing

pro-environment
Republicans like
Sen. Jim Jeffords of
Vermont to defect.
And yet historically,
there has been a deeply
entrenched ethos of
conservation in the
Republican Party.

Moyers: Absolutely. But that was before the

radical right and the corporations took over the party. Your generation is too young to remember that back in the 1970's, when the world began to wake up to the global environmental crisis, the U.S. became the undisputed leader in environmental policy. Richard Nixon signed some of the pioneering measures of the time, including the very Clean Water Act that Bush is now hollowing out. And before that, of course, Teddy Roosevelt put the Republican Party in the vanguard of conservation. This idea of protecting and passing along our resources to future generations was a deeply entrenched ideal among those who were known as conservatives. But this is not a conservative mentality in power today. It's a new political order.

Grist: How do you define that new political order?

Moyers: I'll give an example that says it all: Jim Jeffords, the former chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, is an environmental champion. He made his priority efforts to curb global warming and protect the environment while advancing the economy. His successor is [Republican Sen.] James Inhofe of Oklahoma. He's the man who once characterized the Environmental Protection Agency as "gestapo." That's the new political order.

Grist: Can you describe any instances where you or your colleagues were shut out by the administration in your effort to report a rollback story?

Moyers: A press officer at the Interior Department told one of our producers no one there would appear on or speak to "NOW." We get [that response] all over town — "We're not talking to 'NOW."

Grist: Has the Bush administration been more effective at pushing their environmental agenda than the Reagan and Bush I administrations before it?

Moyers: Ronald Reagan came to power with the same agenda, but made a mistake when he appointed James Watt head of the wrecking crew at the Department of Interior. Watt made no attempt to disguise his fanaticism. He was outspokenly antienvironment and he inflamed the public against him with his flagrant remarks. But he took over a bureaucracy of civil servants who had come of age in the first great environmental wave of the 1970's — people who believed they had a public charge to do the right thing. When Watt stormed into office, these civil servants resisted. Now, 20 years later — after eight years of Reagan, four years of Bush the First, and three years of Bush the Second — that generation of civil servants is gone. The executive branch is a wholly owned subsidiary of the conservative/corporate coalition.

Grist: And surely their public-relations strategies have become far more sophisticated.

Moyers: Absolutely. They learned a big lesson from the Watt era. Not to inflame the situation. Use stealth. If you corrupt the language and talk a good line even as you are doing the very opposite, you won't awaken the public. Gale Norton will be purring like a kitten when she's cutting down the last redwood in the forest with a buzz saw.

By the time we all wake up, by the time the media starts doing their job and the public sees what is happening, it may be too late to reverse it. That's what the Earth is telling us.

Grist: Doesn't it seem inevitable that this tremendous discrepancy between the Bush administration's actions and words will be exposed?

Moyers: There is always a backlash when any administration, liberal or conservative, Democratic or Republican, goes too far. In this case, all the scientists that I respect and all the environmentalists that I listen to say to me, "What's different this time, Moyers, is that it could happen too late." Let's say by 2008 the consequences of all these policies become clear and the public rises up in protest. We don't have between now and 2008 to reverse the trends; it will be too late then.

Grist: What do you mean by "too late"?

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Moyers: Every policy of government that is bad or goes wrong can ultimately be reversed. The environment is the one exception to the rule of politics, which is that to every action there is a reaction. By the time we all wake up, by the time the media starts doing their job and by the time the public sees what is happening, it may be too late to reverse it. That's what science is telling us. That's what the Earth is telling us. That's what burns in my consciousness.

Consider the example of Iraq. Once upon a time it was such a lush, fertile, and verdant land that the authors of Genesis

located the Garden of Eden there. Now look at it: stretches upon stretches of desert, of arid lands inhospitable to human beings, empty of trees and clean water and rolling green grasses. That's a message from the Earth about what

happens when people don't take care of it. No matter what we do to Saddam Hussein, Iraq remains a wasteland compared to what it was. American policy makers see only the black oil in the ground and not the message that all the years of despoliation have left.

Grist: The irony is that despoliation doesn't just wipe out the verdant land, it makes it impossible to have a healthy, diverse economy.

Moyers: It stuns me that the people in power can't see that the source of our wealth is the Earth. I'm an entrepreneur, I'm a capitalist. I don't want to destroy the system on which my livelihood and my journalism rest. I am strongly on behalf of saving the environment [in no small part] because it is the source of our wealth. Destroy it and the pooh-bahs of Wall Street will have to book an expedition to Mars to enjoy their riches. I don't understand why they don't see it. I honestly don't. This absence of vision as to what happens when you foul your nest puzzles me.

Grist: Do you consider yourself a pessimist?

Moyers: I once asked a friend on Wall Street about the market. "I'm optimistic," he said. "Then why do you look so worried?" I asked. And he answered: "Because I'm not sure my optimism is justified." I feel that way. But I don't know how to be in the world except to expect a confident future and then get up every morning and try in some way to bring it about.

continued next page

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Terrorists want to kill us, they want to bring democracy down. The environment will kill us, it will bring us down. Why not appoint an emergency panel of Democrats and Republicans to recommend a course on global warning?



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I really do believe if George Bush announced that saving the environment was more urgent than everything at the moment except the war on terrorism, if he were to call a global conference at the White House on how we can create a new vision and a new process for addressing this, the world's greatest challenge—then I believe they'd change the Constitution to

elect him to a third

term.

Moyers, continued from page seven

Grist: It sounds like for you the environment is a very personal issue, an emotional issue.

Moyers: For me it comes down to our most cherished values. To our ethics. You're asking, rightly, questions about science and economics, but this is a deeply moral issue. Economics and politics are a poor excuse for the moral imperative that we need to follow to save what is not our own so others that come after us can have a life.

A couple years ago, I took my then eight-year-old grandson to Central Park for a walk and we were on the rocks there looking out on the park and the skyline of the city and he said, "Pa, how old are you?" And I said,

"I'm 66." And he said, "What do you think the world will look like when I'm as old as you are?" And for the first time I could imagine a concrete future. The future wasn't abstract anymore — my grandson would be a real person living in a real place, the future. In some ways, what worries me the most is that Laura and George Bush don't have any grandkids. The president would see the world differently if he just had grandkids.

Grist: Yes, it seems as though on some level Bush is lacking some kind of emotional intelligence on these matters — as though he's sort of tone deaf to the environment.

Moyers: We had Devra Davis, a scientist at Carnegie Mellon, on the show recently. She described how Laura and George Bush designed their ranch at Crawford to be environmentally efficient, with solar paneling and lots of new technology. She

pointed out that they seem to understand these issues somewhat on an individual level, and yet they don't understand that the personal is not enough. It takes policy to translate. There is a disconnect between how they live privately and how they act

Grist: What, on a public level, do you want to see happen?

Moyers: The same thing that should happen with the war against terrorists. Terrorists want to kill us, they want to bring democracy down. The environment will kill us, it will bring

us down. Why not appoint an emergency panel of Democrats and Republicans to recommend a course on global warning? I grandkids. The president would see the world really do believe that if George Bush announced that saving the environment was more urgent than everything at the moment

except the war on terrorism, if he were to call a global conference at the White House on how we can create a new vision and a new process for addressing this, the world's greatest challenge — then I believe they'd change the Constitution to elect him to a third

Amanda Griscom is a freelance writer based in New York City. Her articles on energy, technology, and the environment have appeared in publications ranging from Rolling Stone to the New York Times Magazine.

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Knowledge is Power

In some ways, what worries me the most is

that Laura and George Bush don't have any

differently if he just had grandkids.

Resources for environmental education and political activism on the World Wide Web

NEWS and INFORMATION

- •www.tidepool.org Daily news about the Northwest coast www.projectcensored.org Reports on stories censored by the mainstream media
- www.mediachannel.org Daily world news
- •www.commondreams.org Current progressive news source, updated daily
- •www.prospect.org American Prospect magazine
- www.jimhightower.com America's #1 populist
- www.ewg.org Environmental Working Group: protection of food, water and air
- •www.motherjones.com Mother Jones magazine
- www.npr.org National Public Radio
- •www.defenders.org Defenders of Wildlife: Greenlines news updates

ORGANIZATIONS

- www.forestcouncil.org Native Forest Council
- www.moles.org Protecting communities from oil and
- www.pogo.org Project on Government Oversight: exposing corruption and exploring solutions
- www.essential.org Ralph Nader's site with activist articles
- •www.mineralpolicycenter.org Mineral Policy Center: protecting communities and the environment
- •www.commoncause.org Common Cause: nonprofit, nonpartisan citizen's lobbying group
- www.citizen.org Public Citizen: consumer advocacy organization founded by Ralph Nader
- •www.purefood.org Organic Consumers Association: campaigning for food safety, organic agriculture, fair trade and sustainability
- •www.gristmagazine.com Grist Magazine: gloom and doom with a sense of humor
- •www.oriononline.org Orion magazine: working to reconnect humans with the natural world

KNOW THE OTHER SIDE

No, we don't endorse these websites, but we do think it's a good idea to keep tabs on what certaom industries and their front groups are up to:

•www.weyerhaeuser.com Your favorite "tree growing" logging company: world's #1 producer of soft and hardwood lumber



- •www.plt.org Project Learning Tree: an industry front group that provides environmental disinformation
- •www.funoutdoors.com The American Recreation Coalition: industry coalition responsible for the disneyfication and commercialization of public lands
- •www.pacificlumber.com The Northern California-based Pacific Lumber Company

GOVERNMENT

- www.whitehouse.gov The nation's capital homepage
- •www.house.gov U.S. House of Representatives
- •www.senate.gov U.S. Senate
- •www.thomas.loc.gov Bill search engine, legislative info.
- •www.usfs.gov U.S. Forest Service
- •www.usda.gov U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
- •www.doi.gov U.S. Dept. of the Interior •www.blm.gov U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- •www.nps.gov U.S. National Park Service •www.fws.gov U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

OTHER

- •www.rachel.org Environmental Research Foundation: providing understandable scientific information about human health and the environment
- •www.action.org/mediaemail.html Links and tips for submitting op-eds to newspapers
- •www.fair.org Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting
- Features at www.forestcouncil.org: Explore aerial photographs of entire national forests that show the extent of logging on your public lands; Sign up for the "stumps list," an e-mail news and discussion list; Read past issues of the Forest Voice online; Check out the latest news and information from our unique perspective.

Combining Art, Activism

Kristen Lassen Hunt is using her art to help Native Forest Council

ouncil member Kristen Hunt is using art to capture the beauty of trees, inspire conservation and help us save public lands. Hunt, a painter and former art teacher, is donating 50% of the proceeds (beyond her costs) from her heritage tree prints to Native Forest Council.

The paintings of Oregon's heritage trees are available as



The Hager's Grove Pear Tree, pastels.

framed prints, and will soon be printed on greeting cards, as well. The state Heritage Trees Program, the first in the nation, was begun in 1995 to increase public awareness of the important contribution of trees to Oregon's history and their importance to our quality of life. The cards will include a detailed description and the location of each tree.

Hunt knew early on that she wanted to use her project to help save forests. "I decided I wanted to do something to protect old growth," she says. "A friend asked me 'Why old growth?' and I said, 'Have you ever walked in an old growth forest?' For me, it's a very healing, very spiritual experience: Just walking quietly in the forest can change you. You won't need medication. You won't need meditation."

A new member of the Council, Hunt doesn't recall where she picked up her first *Forest Voice* just a few months ago. But she does remember how it moved her. "I liked the articles and the approach. It didn't seem overly glitzy. It seemed very grounded and the people seemed really concerned about the forests." And that's important today, says Hunt. "I think, with the Bush administration, we've really lost quite a bit of ground. I'm very concerned about the forest plan."

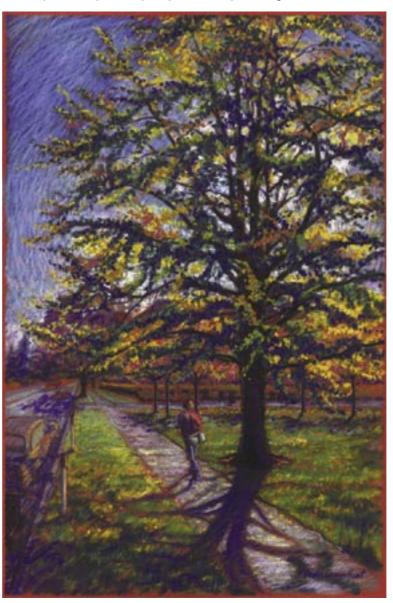
Hunt was born in California, but spent her childhood in North Dakota and Minnesota. "Trees were very important to me when I lived in North Dakota," she recalls. "Because there were so few. Under a tree was my favorite place to just sit or be." She spent her teenage years living in a wooded area in St. Louis, but it was the forests of the Pacific Northwest that inspired her the most. "I came out to visit my son in Oregon, and I'll never forget flying into Portland, dropping down out of

the clouds and seeing how lush and green it was. When I saw all the trees, I couldn't believe that people didn't just stand in awe of them every day."

Hunt lives in Salem, Oregon, with her husband Bruce. They both enjoy gardening and cooking and are involved in the Unitarian church and social justice issues, including helping the homeless. ■

These note cards can be purchased through the Oregon Travel Information Council or by calling 1-800-574-9397. To purchase prints, contact Kristen at 503-361-7491.

The Hatfield Ginkgo, one of Oregon's Heritage Trees, pastels.



Have you ever walked in an old growth forest?
For me, it's a very healing, very spiritual experience: Just walking quietly in the forest can change you.
You won't need medication.
You won't need meditation.

Margaret Murie: 1902—2003

"I hope the United States of America is not so rich that she can afford to let these wildernesses pass by, or so poor that she cannot afford to keep them." –Margaret Murie



Mardy and Olaus on the Murie ranch in Moose, Wyoming, circa 1957. Photo courtesy of the Murie Family and the Murie Center.

Margaret "Mardy" Murie, champion of the wilderness, died October 20, at the age of 101. Olaus and Mardy Murie fought tirelessly for wilderness, helping stop dams in Glacier National Park and Dinosaur National Monument, and working to create Grand

National Park and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Their testimony was pivotal in the passage of the Alaska Lands Act, and the Wilderness Act of 1964.

The Murie homestead became a nexus of the conservation movement, where conservationists and scientists from all over the world would come for inspiration and wisdom. The ranch became a pseudoheadquarters for the Wilderness Society while Olaus was director from 1945–1962. It was also there that much of the Wilderness Act was drafted.

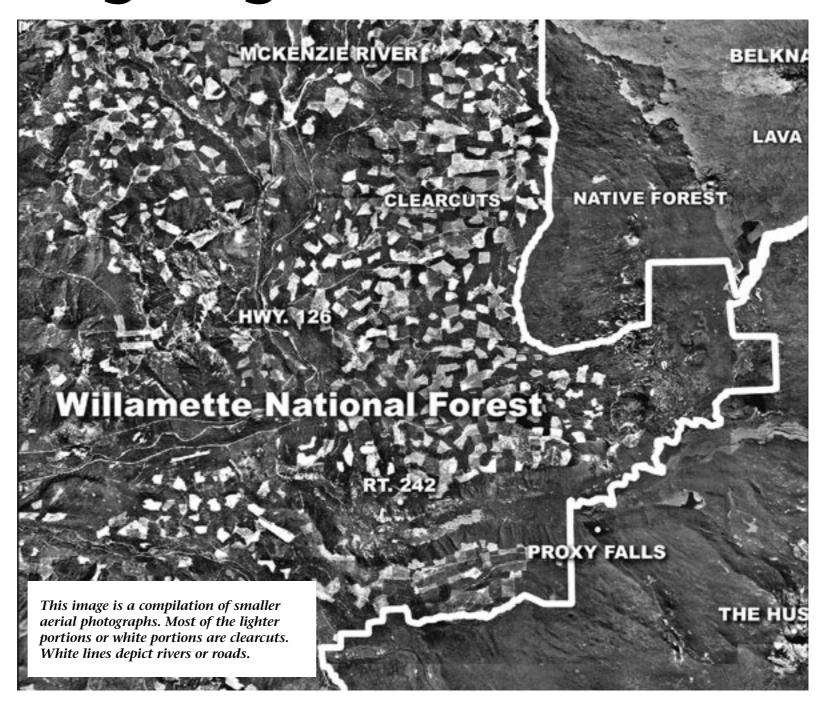


Some of the white portions of this aerial photo mosaic of the Olympic National Forest depict snow, but the rest of the white areas show

"I hope the son-ofa-bitch who logged that is roasting in hell."

—Franklin Roosevelt, after seeing the destruction of the Olympic Peninsula in 1937

Targeting Your Forests



ore than a decade ago, the first *Forest Voice* was pasted up by hand in the garage of Forest Council President Tim Hermach. Today, it's created on a computer network and sent to the printer over the internet. But the importance of compelling images is the same. Now, we're using technology to reveal the destruction of our national forests in some very new ways.

For decades, aerial photographs of the entire nation have been available. But they haven't been easy to find. Or to interpret. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Brett Cole and other Council staff and volunteers, we've been able to "stitch" thousands of smaller images into complete depictions of national forests. By exposing the extent of the destruction of our national forests, we hope to convince America, beyond any doubt, that we must save what's left and restore what's been lost of our national forests.

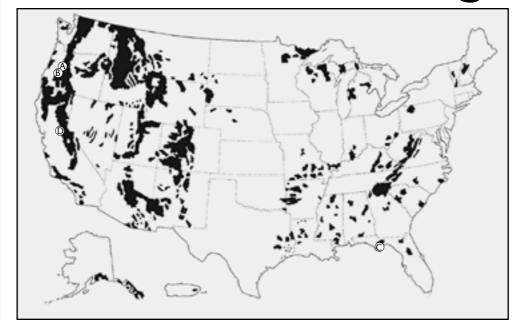
In this edition, we're printing some complete national forests and some other samples of these aerial photographs. To see more, visit our web site: www.forestcouncil.org and click on "Obscene Photos." Our interactive mapping features allow browsers to navigate national forests. This is a work in progress, so check back often for new additions. If you are interested in public presentations, photo installations or materials for the media, please contact us: tim@forestcouncil.org, (541) 688-2600 or PO Box 2190, Eugene, OR 97402.



See a forest near you—from the air. Navigation maps on our web site allow browsers to cruise selected national forests.

Featured Aerial Images

To date, we've compiled complete images of a dozen national forests. Here, you'll find a selection of the most dramatic photos from this collection. To see them all, visit forestcouncil.org.



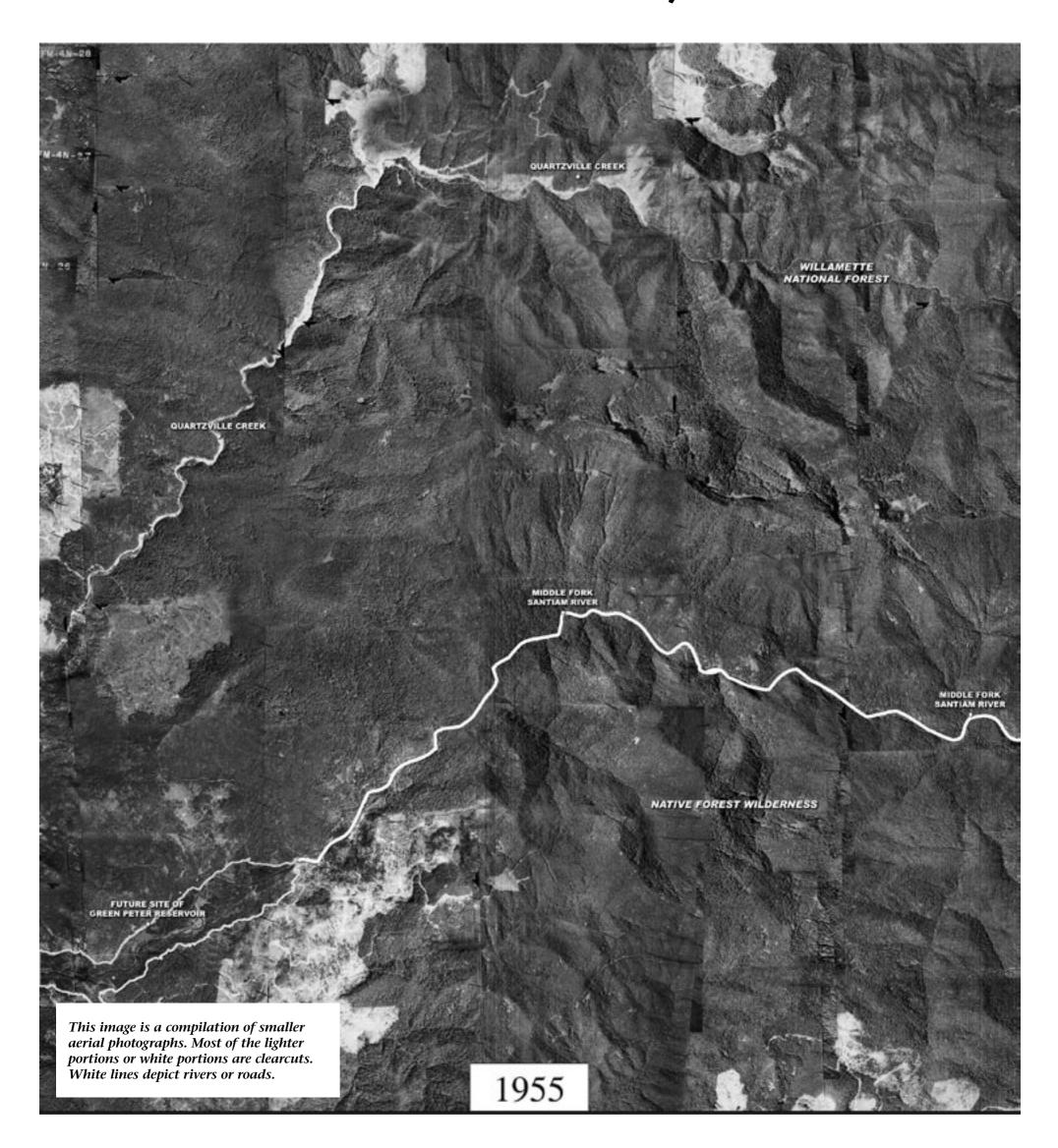
	Forest/Park/Area	Page
A	Willamette	11
В	Santiam River	12
C	Apalachicola	14
D	Tahoe	15

Willamette National Forest



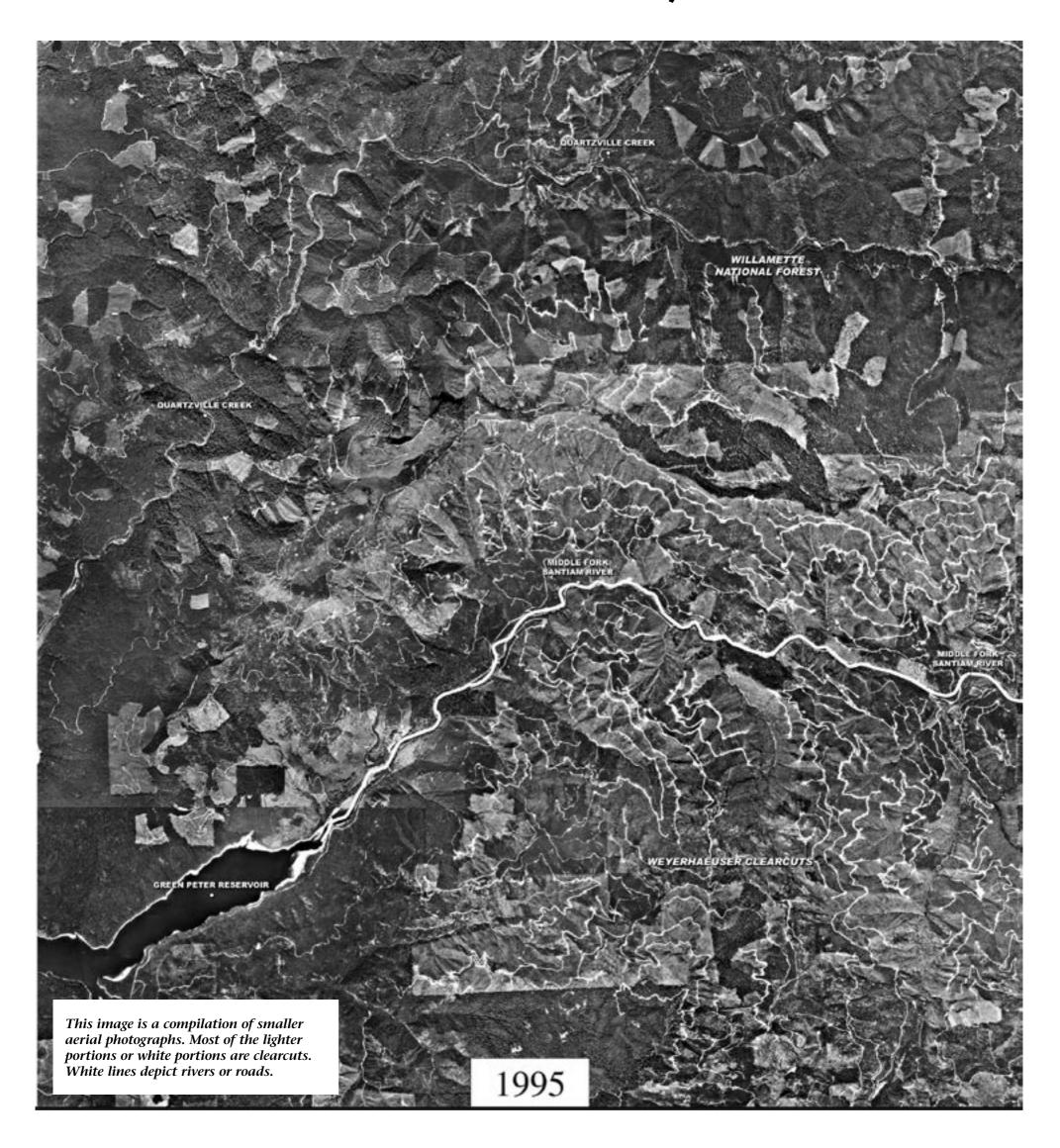
"Without natural resources, life itself is impossible." —Gifford Pinchot, first chief of the U.S. Forest Service

Middle Santiam River, 1955



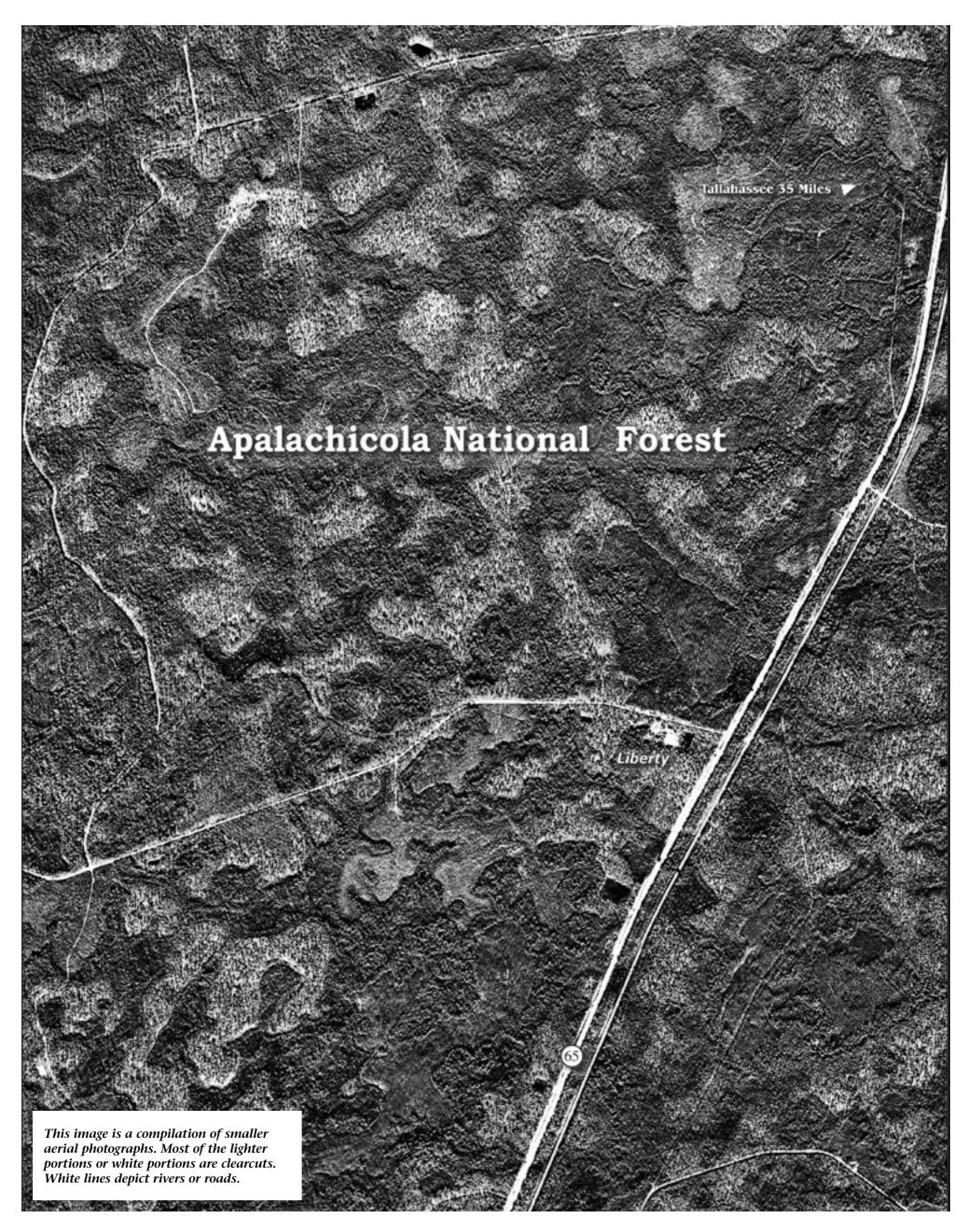
"Conservation is a great moral issue, for it involves the patriotic duty of ensuring the safety and continuance of the nation." __Theodore Roosevelt

Middle Santiam River, 1995



"The nation behaves well if it treats resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value." —Theodore Roosevelt, 1910

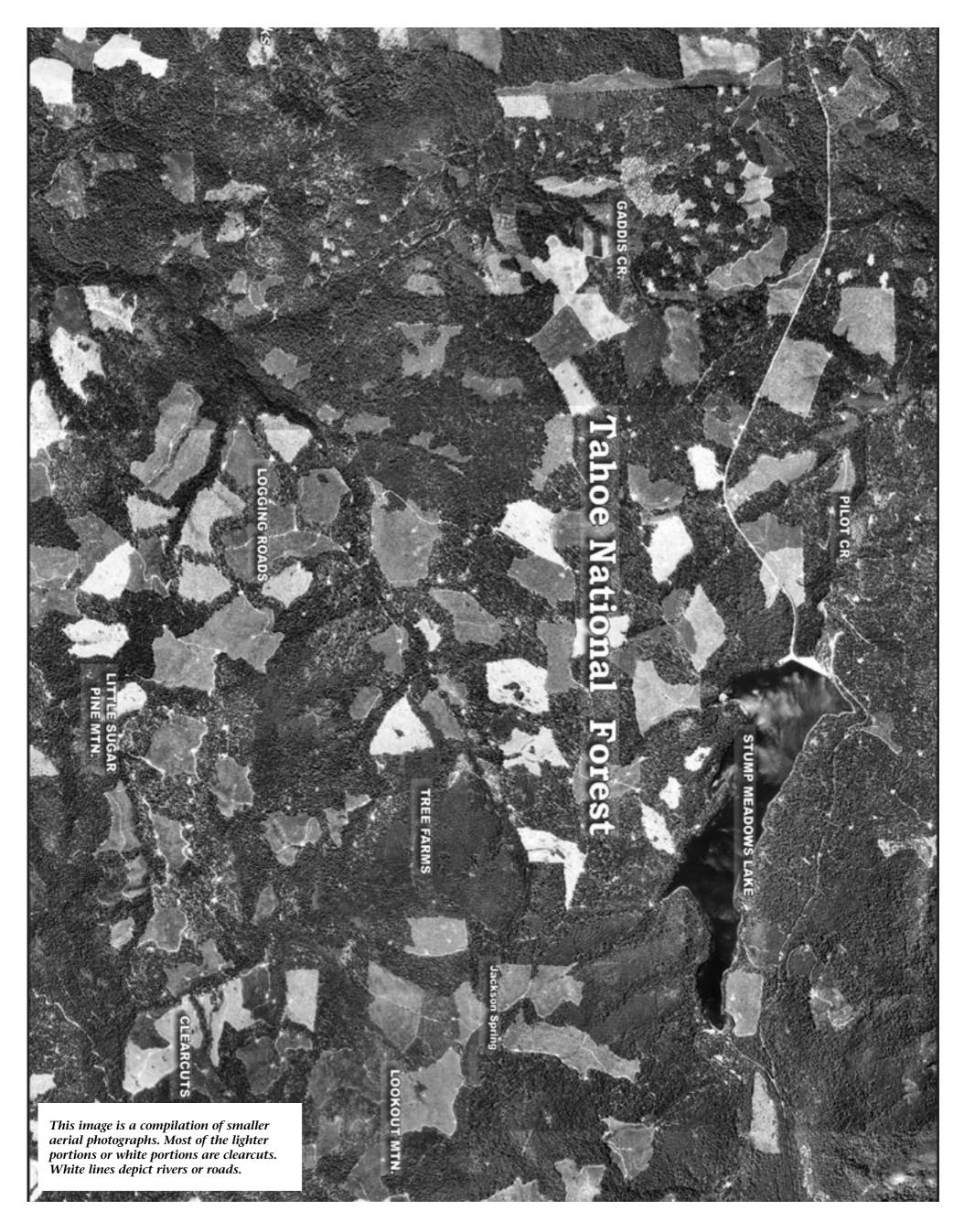
Apalachicola National Forest



"The only trouble with the movement for the preservation of our forests is that it has not gone nearly far enough, and was not begun soon enough."

— Teddy Roosevelt

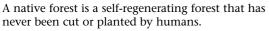
Tahoe National Forest

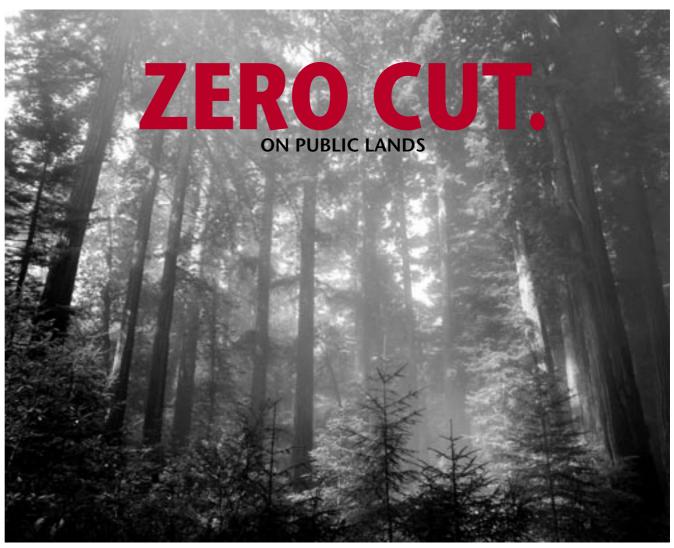


"Nothing I saw in Vietnam after 30 years of war looked as bad as nearly every place in our National Forests here in the Northwest." —Tim Hermach

Save Our Disappearing Native Forests







Ittle more than 100 years ago, our national forests were first opened to logging. Since that tragic decision, 40 million acres of our forest ecosystems have been clearcut. The worst part? We're paying them to do it. The destruction of our nation's forests, rivers and streams—a living life-support system that gives us clean air, soil and water—costs taxpayers billions annually. But a ban on public lands logging would not affect the nation's timber supply; logging on national forests provides just four percent of the nation's timber and paper products. It would, however, preserve our nation's last remaining natural treasures.

PETITION

LERO CUL • No more compromises, negotiations, deals or surrenders. The destruction of America's public lands must stop! I want to help save what's left and recover what's been lost of our national forests. We need the clean air, soil and water that only forests provide. By signing this petition, I am urging the Bush administration to stop all logging on our national forests, and to spend our tax dollars on the restoration, not the liquidation, of our nation's precious heritage.

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