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Defending Nature, Saving Life since 1988

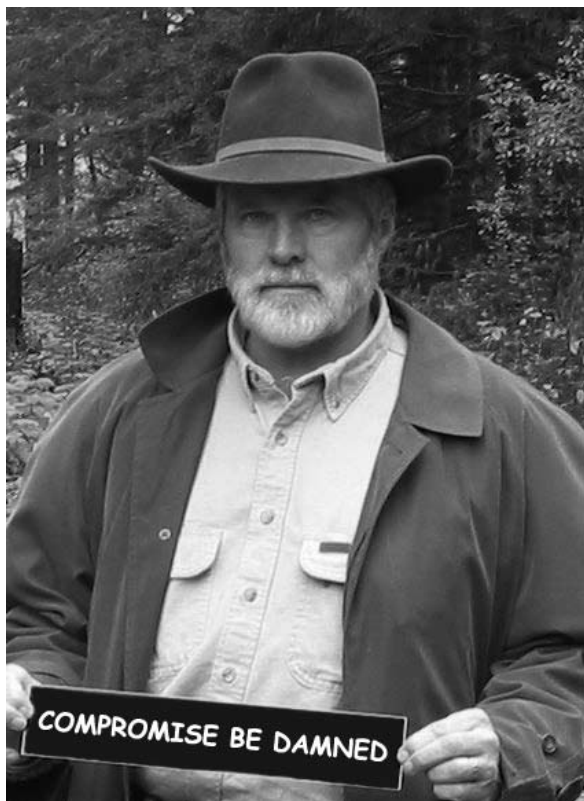
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Logging, Lies and Landslides



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America Betrayed Into Tyranny

Anyone who has been even marginally awake must realize by now that the betrayal of our nation is almost complete. Seven years ago, our democracy, already reeling from decades of corporate dominance, was hijacked by a lawless cabal whose reliance on secrecy, violence and cronyism is reminiscent of a criminal enterprise. Meanwhile, the Democrats, with impeachment off the table from day one and with the exception of the occasional rhetorical flourish, have done little or nothing to prevent our freedoms from being systematically and deliberately abridged. The threat of permanently repressive governance, as we were warned by the founding fathers, has come not from foreign enemies, but from within. "Experience hath shown," wrote Jefferson, "that even under the best forms of government those entrusted with power have, in time, and by slow operations, perverted it into tyranny."

And tyranny is close upon us. The current administration is arguably the most unenlightened and morally bankrupt in the nation's history; an allegation affirmed by the two strategies it employs to further its military and political agendas: waging war on its enemies and lying about its intentions. In an absurdly brief period of time, it has managed to destabilize the Middle East, dismantle the underpinnings of the middle class; disassemble the regulatory agencies established to keep Americans safe and corporations accountable; shred the Constitution and the Bill of Rights; drain the economy; and despoil the environment with a rapacious indifference that threatens the entire planet. The lies designed to obscure their agenda are too numerous to enumerate; The Center for Public Integrity counted 935 lies related to Iraq alone.

The Democrats, who many in the environmental community look to for redemption, have compliantly yielded and authorized the wars and the wiretapping, the torture and the trade agreements and, by their silence [voting for it is not silence], attested to the bogus "patriotism" of the Patriot Act. Having offered little meaningful opposition to the Bush agenda, the democrats once again hold out the temptation of the ballot like Lucy holding the football for the ever-gullible Charlie Brown.

In the absence of publicly funded elections, the 35,000 lobbyists who troll the halls of Congress will continue to ensure the corruption of elected officials. The "change" our presidential candidates so vehemently advocate will, once again, prove delusory. Ironically, Alexander Hamilton and John Adams counseled against political parties, arguing that they would be divisive. But divisiveness may not be the worst possible outcome. Tacit agreement masked by empty rhetoric is much worse. Distinguishing political parties by which special interests fund them is much worse. Muzzling opposition while cooperatively betraying the interests of the people is much worse.

The election looms, and we are enamored by a choice of candidates who can speak in complete sentences. Meanwhile the puzzle pieces of tyranny are in place — from private armies to concentration camps; from the suspension of habeas corpus to wide-scale domestic spying — and none of our would-be presidents are talking about restoring Constitutional checks and balances, reestablishing the rule of law, enforcing the Bill of Rights, eliminating personhood for corporations, de-linking money from free speech, and scaling back the power of the executive. In a larger sense, the Bush administration is not the issue. When Bush leaves, voluntarily or otherwise, someone will inherit staggering



supra-constitutional powers, and in a democratic, honest, fair and just America no one should have that kind of power, not a Democrat, not a Republican, not an Independent.

With the unprecedented consolidation of executive-branch power, America has been marched to the edge of the abyss. An abyss capable of devouring our humanity and compassion and thrusting us into a long, dark, terrible night. An abyss ruled by violence, suspicion and fear, where unimaginable horrors are inflicted by brother upon brother. An abyss where dissidents become enemies, and dissent becomes treason. The abyss of thuggery and threat, of death camps and torture cells. The abyss of 1930s Germany; the abyss of Stalin and Mao and Pol Pot.

Something mean has taken hold of our politics; something vile and uncaring that rewards deception, incompetence and abuse. The belief that "it can't happen here" is not one that is historically supported. What transpires over the next year will tell us if and how far we can step back from the abyss.

We have already lost so much: our moral authority, the respect of the world community, the health of our global environment, and many of the vital constitutional protections designed to forestall the rise of tyranny. As John F. Kennedy said, "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable." If this coming election is again rigged or postponed or cancelled; or if those intent on delivering the promise of change are rewarded with an assassin's bullet, or if the newly elected administration continues the betrayal of "We the People," the alternatives left to us will significantly narrow.

As responsible citizens working for the betterment of the world and the protection of the environment, our challenge will be to apply the full force of our hearts and minds to creating the world we want, before our only alternative is to become that which we resist. What is needed are Americans who are willing to do their part—through protests and struggle, on the streets and in the courts, through civil disobedience and, if necessary, civil war, and always at great risk — to narrow the gap between the promise of our ideals and the reality of our time.

It would be well for all of us to remember what our country's founders so powerfully asserted in the Declaration of Independence as they realized they were living under an unjust and repressive government: "All men are created equal and there are certain unalienable rights that governments should never violate. These rights include the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. When a government fails to protect those rights, it is not only the right, but also the duty of the people to overthrow that government. In its place, the people should establish a government that is designed to protect those rights."

The gap is growing. The clock is running. It's up to us.

Blessings,

Victor Rozek and
Tim Hermach



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No Thanks

All those who feel it's OK to cut deals that leave us with less native forests, soil, air, and clean water.

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We welcome unsolicited submissions that address issues relevant to public lands protection and support the Native Forest Council's mission. If you would like us to return your work, please include a SASE or send an e-mail to tim@forestcouncil.org.

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Native Forest Council

The Native Forest Council is a nonprofit, tax-deductible organization founded by business and professional people alarmed by the wanton destruction of our national forests. We believe a sound economy and a sound environment must not be incompatible and that current public-land management practices are probably catastrophic 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

USDA Awards \$4.1 Million for Woody Biomass Projects

USDA has announced grants totaling \$4.1 million to help 17 small businesses and community groups find innovative uses for woody biomass from national forests, including new products and renewable energy.

The Native Forest Council is strongly opposed to any project that ties creation of energy with destruction of our forests.

Climate Target Is Not Radical Enough

One of the world's leading climate scientists warns that the EU and its international partners must urgently rethink targets for cutting carbon dioxide in the atmosphere because of fears they have grossly underestimated the scale of the problem.

In a startling reappraisal of the threat, James Hansen, head of the Nasa Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York, says the EU target of 550 parts per million of CO₂ — the most stringent in the world — should be slashed to 350ppm. He argues the cut is needed if "humanity wishes to preserve a planet similar to that on which civilisation developed."

Plug-in cars could actually increase air pollution

The expected introduction of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles could cut U.S. gasoline use but could increase deadly air pollution in some areas.

That's because a plug-in's lower tailpipe emissions may be offset by smokestack emissions from the utility generating plants supplying electricity to recharge its batteries. Plug-ins are partly powered, in effect, by the fuel used to generate the electricity.

About 49% of U.S. electricity is generated using coal.

Interior Department Seeks Comment On Possible Bering Sea Drilling

The Interior Department recently asked for public and oil industry comment on possible drilling in an area of Alaska's Bering Sea, where energy exploration was banned following the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989.

More information can be found at the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service Website: www.mms.gov/ooc/press/2008/press0408.htm

18 States Sue EPA Over Greenhouse Gas Pollution

Eighteen states sued the Environmental Protection Agency for failing to limit greenhouse gas emissions from new cars and trucks, one year after the Supreme Court ruled that the agency had the power to do so.



change.

The suit seeks EPA's response to the high court's April 2, 2007, ruling, a landmark decision seen as a sharp defeat for the Bush administration's policy on climate

The cost of corn-based ethanol

The U.S. Agriculture Department sent shudders through much of the food industry at the end of March when it released estimates that showed farmers would plant 8% less corn this year.

With corn prices already pushing up food prices, a spokesman for the Grocery Manufacturers Assn. called the projection "alarming" and warned that the estimate bodes ill for consumers at the supermarket.

In particular, the association is protesting federal energy policies that have created increased competition between the nation's food producers and energy companies for corn.

Green Scare Arrests in MI

On March 11, 2008, four people were indicted on charges stemming from a 1999 arson at Michigan State University (MSU) in East Lansing. The four — Marie Mason, Frank Ambrose, Aren Burthwick and Stephanie Fultz — were indicted on multiple counts for the December 31, 1999, fire that destroyed an agricultural research office and a fire that destroyed commercial logging equipment the next day near Mesick, Michigan. The charges could result in up to 20 years in prison.

The mainstream media quickly labeled these as "terrorist" acts, despite the fact that these fires caused no harm to human or animal life. Two of the accused, Frank Ambrose and Marie Mason, have been repeatedly harassed by federal authorities pertaining to a failed arson at an Ice Mountain bottling facility in Michigan. Ambrose was also indicted several years ago over anti-logging activities in Indiana and was portrayed as a "terrorist" for nine months before the government dropped the charges.

The government has portrayed these indictments as being critical arrests in the so-called war on "domestic terrorism." US Attorney Charles Gross, based in Grand Rapids, said: "This was an act of domestic terrorism, plain and simple... There's no two ways about it. The use of violence and the destruction of property to make a political statement cannot be tolerated in a civilized society." Rather than attempting to understand why the facility at Michigan State University and the logging operation in Mesick were targeted, the media seems more interested in focusing on the "terrorist" angle and has entirely downplayed the reasons why the actions were undertaken which were explained in the comminiques issued after the actions.

After their arrest, Ambose was released quickly, and it became known that he was cooperating with the government and informing on his fellow defendants.

Green Scare Continues in WA

Briana Waters is a devoted and loving mother of a 3-year-old daughter. She's a professional musician and violin teacher based in Oakland, California. In March 2006 she was indicted in federal court for her alleged role as a lookout during the fire at the UW Center for Urban Horticulture in Seattle, Washington.

The case was built on the testimony of two informants, Jennifer Kolar and Lacey Phillabaum, both from Spokane, Washington. Ms. Waters' attorneys, Robert Bloom and Neil Fox, filed a motion establishing that the government concealed important information helpful to her defense and created a fraudulent FBI report. Judge Burgess denied the motion and closed the pretrial hearing to the public. Numerous other legal problems cropped up during the trial that will form the basis of Ms. Waters' appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

After a 3-week-long trial in Tacoma, Washington, and a week of jury deliberation, on March 6, 2008, Waters was found guilty of arson. The charge carries a minimum of five to 20 years in federal prison. The jury did not find enough evidence to convict her of conspiracy and possession of an incendiary device, which carried a 30-year mandatory minimum sentence. In a shocking move by the court at her detention hearing, Waters was deemed a flight risk (even after making every court appearance to date) and was sent to jail to await her sentencing. This has had a traumatic effect on her daughter.

Sentencing for Ms. Waters is currently scheduled for May 30, 2008, in Tacoma. Her federal appeal has been filed in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Attorneys Office has publicly stated they will not prosecute Waters again for the charges they were unable to prove against her.

Let's Face The Real Costs Of Logging

by Bill Barton
Native Forest Council
Register-Guard, Eugene, Oregon
28 January, 2008

The endless discussion of the right way to care for our public lands in Western Oregon has taken on the attributes of a scratched vinyl record. We keep hearing the same tired industry lines. Despite endless clear-cuts, destruction, massive subsidies, and the Third-World-colony behavior involved in exporting our raw materials and jobs, the only solution we hear is more logging, with or without the Bureau of Land Management's Western Oregon Plan Revision.

Is anyone as saddened and tired of this as I am?

I was born in Lane County 49 years ago, and I cannot remember a time when subsidized and dishonest over-cutting has not been an issue. Even when my father was born in 1916, trashing and liquidating lands was a point of contention. That was the year that the Oregon & California Railroad lands were turned back to public ownership because of corporate treachery and fraud. Teddy Roosevelt recognized these atrocities even earlier.

The O&C Act in 1937 that tied logging of these lands to the counties' general funds, while perhaps well intentioned, did not foresee the divisive and destructive path ahead. Today, the timber industry has the technical capability to log any tree, anywhere, anytime. That was not the case in 1937.

We have two distinct goals mixed up in this conversation. First, we are committed to providing the community services that make our lives work. Second, we are committed to caring for our public forests, the lungs of the planet, in a prudent and sustainable way. Our production must be restricted to spending the interest rather than liquidating our capital.

The Government Accountability Office has said that almost all federal logging sales lose money. The office calculates that the Forest Service lost in excess of \$2 billion in cash flow alone, not counting the full replacement cost of goods sold, on timber sales between 1992 and 1997. Citizens and taxpayers lost \$2 billion over and above the money that logging interests paid to the agency for your trees.

Scales Tilted In "Balanced" Forest Plan

by Roy Keene
Register-Guard, Eugene, Oregon
12 February, 2008

By causing a train wreck for federal timber payments, the Bush administration schemes again to further corporate capital.

The administration's proposed fix for this wreck, instead of a fearful name such as "security" or

Yet in any agency accounting, no value is assigned to the standing forest. Nature is considered free goods. There are no natural resource capital accounts, no natural resource capital replacement accounts, no accounts for the full replacement cost of goods sold, nothing. We are being forced to grossly subsidize the liquidation and destruction of our ancient cathedral forests.

We depend on forests for our lives and survival. Life, even the quality of life, cannot be measured in dollars.

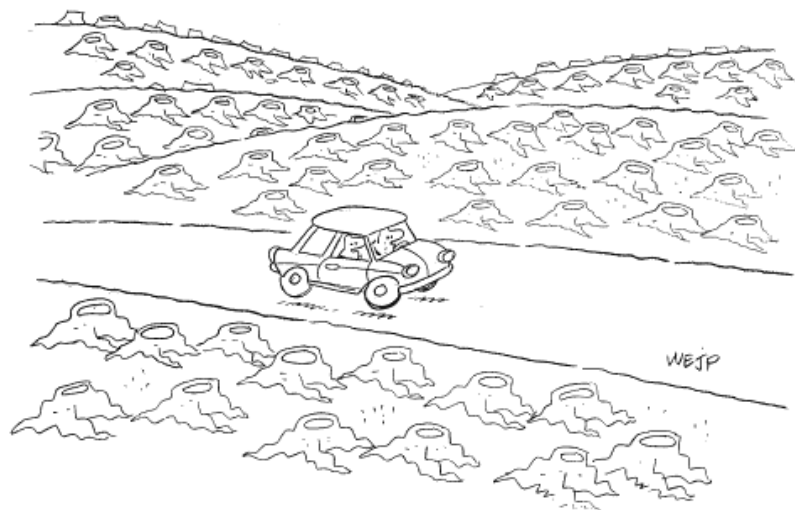
The tax structure is also stacked against the little guy. Big timber interests own about 600,000 acres of timberland in Lane County. These are taxed at an average rate of \$3.40 per acre, yielding around \$2.04 million per year for the county. Federal taxpayers are being asked to provide \$47 million a year to replace lost county revenue from timber sales, an amount based on sales during the unsustainable boom years of the 1980s.

Taxpayers are asked to pay \$47 million, while industry pays only \$2 million? Remember, the public lands tend to be the less productive, higher elevation lands.

It does not add up. Generating \$47 million in county revenue by logging takes \$94 million in sales, because the county gets only half of the revenue from sales on BLM-managed O&C lands. We get the least money for the most wood. In most cases, that money doesn't even cover the cost in damage to the county's roads by log trucks.

The wood products market is way down, so we will have to liquidate a huge swath of forest to generate \$94 million — further depressing prices in an already flooded market. The cost of logging-caused flooding and landslides and the loss of clean drinking water also is picked up by the taxpayer. And more of our vital ancient forests will be gone forever.

At the same time, the multinational logging interests are exporting 40 percent of the trees off of



"As a kid I once got lost in that wood."

their own forests (and ours too, as chips, pulp and minimally processed logs). With those trees go the mill jobs and income taxes they could generate.

Enough of the problem already. It is time for all of us to rethink the equation. What's the highest and best use of our forests and watersheds? Should they be valued as mere fiber farms for industry, or as the irreplaceable and priceless lungs of the planet?

Let's get some honest accounting on the table and find a way to support the services we need while providing the forests the care they deserve. Now is the time to separate dishonest and destructive corporate greed from counties' community services so that we can deal with both with integrity.

Our state is full of intelligent and compassionate people. Let's move forward into an equitable and sustainable future.

Teddy Roosevelt tried to do it a hundred years ago when he created our national forests. His dream has been sold out by the greedy corporate interests and their political lackeys. Let's be the ones who solve this problem and create a model for others to follow. Our grandchildren will be glad we did.

Bill Barton of Vida, Oregon, is a geologist and general construction contractor for sustainable logging and environmental projects. He is director of field operations for the Native Forest Council.

"terrorism," is called "balance." In this scenario, federal Bureau of Land Management's managers are budgeted to log more old growth to create "balance between species protection and timber production."

Why produce more timber for a glutted log market? Because the corporations that raid our forests are being paid back for their political contributions. In this market they can buy cheap, hold timber contracts for a decade, then resell our trees for a

double scoop when log prices rise again.

More federal logging also will provide a modest increase in county funding. Why should our forests always be the ones held hostage? Why not recall some of the inequitable tax subsidies granted to industrial forest owners?

In seeking balanced budgets, county commissioners have yet to challenge these huge and unearned property tax breaks and other privileges. Their silence condones more corporate plundering of the public's forest when there should be a call for corporations to pay fair taxes.

The BLM's latest forest plan, the Western Oregon Plan Revision, mirrors the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan in which President Clinton, under the guise of "balance," ignored science and chose Option Nine, which divided remnant ancient forests in half. The first timber sales of this devious plan, approved by the very conservation groups that filed the spotted owl lawsuit, continued to log old growth.

Long before politically tilted forest plans, Oregon's truly ancient forest was logged out by tidewater mills. Cedars and firs 1,000 years old and 20 feet in diameter were ignominiously felled, whipsawed into planks and split into shakes. Not a single grove of these giants was left for future generations.

Where was the balance?

After the timber industry finished cutting old growth from its own lands in the 1960s, it pressured



politicians to increase logging in public forests. Our forest managers sold billions of feet of the world's finest timber at a net loss to taxpayers and the U.S. Treasury. Most of this timber wound up overseas, not in domestic housing. No balance here!

Our forest managers sold billions of feet of the world's finest timber at a net loss to taxpayers and the U.S. Treasury

This corporate feeding frenzy has left our forests with degraded water and soil, massive species declines, millions of ecologically dysfunctional acres, billions of dollars in deferred road maintenance and a disproportionately small remnant of old trees. We're passing on a forest to future generations that is tragically out of balance.

Rebalancing this legacy should begin with no more road building or clear-cut logging, especially of old trees. This is critically important in the checkerboard landscape, where sections of BLM and privately owned land alternate.

Capital has been taken from our forests for a century, devaluing and weakening them in the

process. In Oregon's federally managed forests, there are thousands of miles of roads to fix, hundreds of streams to restore, and millions of acres of dense monoculture plantations to interplant and thin. This kind of work could provide longer lasting jobs and a wider range of economic stimuli than logging what little old growth remains.

But what about the few remaining mills that depend on federal old growth to saw export products? It would be wiser ecologically and economically to provide their workers with federal forest jobs instead of more old growth. There'd be no need to worry about the owners — they've already made millions off our timber.

Where is the balance in further impoverishing our forests to fatten the rich?

Roy Keene is the Native Forest Council's forester, a real estate broker and forestry consultant, received the Wilderness Society's Environmental Hero Award for his role in passing Oregon's 1984 Wilderness Act.



“Never separate the life you live from the words you speak.”

— Paul Wellstone

Check Industry's Record for Honesty & Integrity

Do they have any?

by **Tim Hermach**
Native Forest Council

Crimes against nature are, by extension, crimes against humanity. The *Register-Guard* has recently published a couple of opinion pieces authored by logging industry supporters that have taken very personal shots at a couple of community minded local professionals.

Unable to refute their facts, big timber continually attacks those who dare to expose the industry's record of plunder and destruction of the public's lands and watersheds. Sadly, these industry spokespeople resort to name calling and personal attacks on folks whose only intention is to bring the truth to the table so we can make rational choices on how to deal with our forests and the monocrop plantations created by years of destructive, dishonest and heavily subsidized over-cutting of our public forests.

The logging industry resorts to these tactics for a very simple reason. If the truth were known, the same folks from whom they have been extracting huge subsidies for decades would run them out of our forests and watersheds if not hang them from the nearest tree. It is much easier to personally attack a couple of honest and intelligent folks than it is to explain away more than 100 years of deception and parasitic destruction.

Roy Keene has walked a distinguished path as a forester, advocate for honest, sustainable forest practices and professional businessman. His past is one filled with honor and integrity. His op/ed of February 12 offered a productive and clear alternative to improve current logging practices. His knowledge is current and his honesty is widely known. The logging industry chose to slam him personally instead of constructively responding to his concerns and the issues he raised.

The industry's record on the other hand, shows they have continually lied and deceived the public. Here are just a few examples of that deceit:

In the 1960s the logging companies said that they only needed to cut trees off the public lands for another 20 years. They said growth on their lands would catch up and fill the demand for timber from that point on. Yet today, they are still screaming for a greatly increased cut from the public lands.

The logging companies said they would not cut and run. They did.

They said they would cut in a sustainable way.

They did not. They are still cutting their lands at ever younger ages and much faster than they are growing.

They said they would renew the forest. They degraded the forest.

They said they would never log the steep, landslide-prone backcountry. They have logged most of it.

They never take responsibility for the damage their egregious practices do. Landslides, near extinctions, climate change, whatever the damage, they always say: "It was an act of nature."

They said if they were not allowed to burn sawdust and wood debris in wig-wam burners it would destroy the industry. It created one. Think charcoal briquettes.

They say they care about jobs. They do not. They export whole logs, pulp, and chips. With those resources go our local family wage mill jobs and tax base. If they could strip our public forests with computers and robots they would do it. Technology has drastically reduced the number of workers needed to plunder the forest. They blame the spotted owl for the workforce reduction.

They say they care about America and then deposit much of the ill-gotten plunder from the Third-World style export policy in offshore accounts where our communities never see a dime. They have successfully lobbied to have all severance taxes removed from industrial forest tracts over 5,000 acres. They pay almost no property taxes. They certainly do not pay their share.

This is one of the most heavily subsidized industries in our nation. Taxpayers subsidize the removal of each precious tree from our public forests

This is one of the most heavily subsidized industries in our nation. Citizen taxpayers subsidize the removal of each precious tree from our public forests. These trees are not just about a Sunday afternoon hike. They are crucial to the survival of the human race. They clean our water and support spawning beds critical to the survival of the fishing industry. They hold and enrich the soil upon which we depend. The forests constitute a potent weapon in the battle to stabilize our climate. They are the lungs of the planet and without them we will not survive. Yet we pay the logging companies to liquidate them.

This is what they do not want you to know. Every well-intentioned and honest forest products worker is tangled in industry's web of deceit and dishonest PR that in effect makes them perhaps the largest group of welfare recipients in the nation. The taxpaying citizens are supporting them just as surely as we support those on social security or any other entitlement program. But this entitlement is a double-edged sword. First it robs the federal treasury of dollars, and then it robs our children and grandchildren of their future, the ancient forests that provide the soil, air, and water so critical for human survival.

Although they have never been honest about it, their plan has always been the same. They have always intended to convert as much of our complex ancient native forest as possible into industrial fiber farms. That is why even though over 90% of Oregon's native forests are gone, this pig in the trough and destructive industry continues to demand more of the last remaining native and ancient forests.

They have even developed a whole new set of dishonest programs and institutions with which to continue the destruction, three of which are:

1. Fuels reduction based on fear and scientific perjury. The real goal is to eliminate nutrient competition for their monocrop fiber plantations.
2. Collaborative forestry, stewardship. These are deceptive and covert ways of re-naming logging to avoid litigation. The stewardship authorities have been effective in seducing environmental groups into becoming plantation managers.
3. Biomass, cellulosic ethanol, new and destructive ways to mine the nutrients of the soil. This practice will lead to depletion of the soil to the point it will not grow forest.

The list goes on. The subsidized conversion of your public forests into their private wealth is alive and well.

So the next time you hear the shills of the logging industry come out swinging at people of honor and conscience, go look at what's left of your forests. Glance out the window on your next flight over the Northwest. It does not take long to see why personal attacks are their preferred game. They cannot speak to the real issues without the truth being shown. And the truth will force them to change, or it will destroy them. Crimes against nature are crimes against humanity. Help us stop them, and help start us on a path to rebuild our nation instead of tearing it down and destroying it.

Risky Timber Practices Worsened December Flooding

by Peter J. Goldmark
Seattle Times

While images of December's Lewis County floods recede like the waters of the Chehalis River, the impacts of the devastation to local families, Washington state taxpayers helping rebuild a community, and the blow to our economy, continue.

Homes are damaged or destroyed. Many farms and businesses are threatened or lost. Cleanup will continue for months. Economic recovery for many will take years.

While some in government and the timber industry have referred to the record floods as an "act of God," clearly there was a human hand involved that made a bad situation worse. In this case, the buck stops at the Department of Natural Resources, tasked with permitting timber sales — even on private land, in this case Weyerhaeuser — on slide-prone, steep slopes.

While some in government and the timber industry have referred to the record floods as an "act of God," clearly there was a human hand involved that made a bad situation worse.

As stark photos of the clear-cut hillside illustrate, the agency permitted a clear-cut on a slope that should never have been logged in this manner, if at all. Led by Public Lands Commissioner Doug Sutherland, agency personnel acted against state rules designed to balance harvest goals with protecting property, public safety and the environment. In short, they failed to exercise appropriate professional distance between a public agency with a broad public mission and the industry they are tasked to oversee.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case of lax oversight and too-cozy relationships with industry, whether timber or large developers. From land swaps that result in forests lost to strip malls and vacation homes to similar land-damaging clear-cuts, the department and its leadership are failing to protect both public health and the long-term value of our public land.

At a state Senate hearing on the floods held on Jan. 10, agency personnel defended their actions, and predictably placed responsibility on the severe weather. Yet, independent scientists confirmed that while the rain was abnormally intense, the flooding itself was indeed made catastrophic as a result of human action, in this case logging the slopes and development on the floodplain.

It's time to move forward with two initial steps that can help restore balance and accountability.

First, an independent audit of how logging permits



Photo: Steve Ringman / The Seattle Times

are prioritized and approved is critical to helping too-often-overworked land managers, biologists and other on-the-ground workers better assess the impacts of risky timber harvests. Part of this is also to determine where the agency needs to provide a more critical review of permits, and better reflect the goals of promoting local economic growth, maintenance of rural school trusts, and safeguarding environmental and community values.

The Legislature passed in 2006 — and voters reaffirmed that same year — performance audits for state agencies. This is a perfect opportunity for the state auditor or Forest Practices Board to initiate such an overview of DNR performance.

Second, the state Forest Practices Board should, at its February meeting, take action to review and strengthen steep-slope logging regulations. The damage to Lewis County clearly was made worse by mudslides from the clear-cuts, building up at the base of the hills, bursting from pressure, and sending torrents of dirt, trees and water across a floodplain already stressed from years of development and pavement.

There are lessons to be learned from every tragedy which, if we do not heed, we risk seeing over and over again. In this case, it may only be a matter of time before another flood, initiated by another ill-advised clear-cut.

But, with proper oversight and accountability, we can prevent any new clear-cuts on steep terrain that only damage our communities, our environment and our economy.

Peter J. Goldmark is an Okanogan rancher and candidate for Washington commissioner of public lands.



More Voices

After Steve Ringman's photo was published in the *Seattle Times* [see cover and center spread this issue], the public was outraged. Here is just a sampling of the responses published in the *Seattle Times*.

Steve Ringman's photograph of Weyerhaeuser's clear-cut at Stillman Creek is one of the most powerful and elegant examples of the old expression "a picture is worth a thousand words" that I have ever seen ["Mudslide photo spurs look at logging practices," *Local News*, Dec. 16].

The photo captures in an instant the foul obscenity that is perpetrated on our planet every day so that the bottom line will look just a little better at the end of the next quarter.

Even more sickening is that this activity is all perfectly legal and approved by corporate-owned stooges in the government.

The photo also illustrates the axiom "watch what they do, not what they say."

Look at Ringman's photograph. Now look at Weyerhaeuser's "Values" statement on their corporate Web page where they proclaim we "hold ourselves to the highest standards of ethical conduct and environmental responsibility."

Tragically, most people believe this public-relations fraud because they want to. Corporate rape of the landscape is acceptable. Just show me the money and show it to me now.

— Pete Wolfsehr, Ellensburg

Well, I for one feel so much better about future floods now that I've read that Weyerhaeuser spokesman Frank Mendizabal says that they'll look to "see if we need to make any changes in our practices." I mean, we've all seen their slick advertisements telling us what gentle care the experts at Weyerhaeuser take with our public lands. Bambi and all his forest friends are so grateful.

Here's an idea: How about you stop clear-cutting on steep slopes. And does that geologist who said there were "no potentially unstable slopes" above Stillman Creek still have his job? If not, perhaps he could find work selling real estate in the wetlands near Chehalis.

— Phil Cochran, Seattle

I appreciate your photographer Steve Ringman lifting a corner of the shroud, and giving us a snapshot of the dirty secrets of industrial logging in our state. The subsequent whining and hollow mea culpas from Weyerhaeuser and the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are as predictable as the landslides following the clear-cut, discussed in the article.

Who are they kidding? To believe WeyCo's claim of "natural disaster," I have to evoke a harsh god with chainsaws and corks. And for DNR ("Department of Nothing Remaining") to blindly rely on Weyerhaeuser's geologist to do DNR's job, is like letting Blackhawk investigate its own shenanigans in Iraq — totally irresponsible.

It is clear that Weyerhaeuser is only "green" during their interminable TV infomercials, and DNR is a responsible agency solely on paper. I don't know if it is incompetence, corruption or both, but the net result is corporate and regulatory malpractice of the highest order. The good people of the Boistfort Valley, and the state of Washington, deserve far better. I challenge Gov. Christine Gregoire to vigorously enforce state laws, and clean agency house.

— Paul Kennard, Seattle

After seeing the photo on the front page of Sunday's *Local News*, I have a couple of observations to offer:

One, the mudslides were triggered by a cataclysmic rainfall; 20 inches in a 24-hour period would be hazardous in almost any environment.

Two, can anyone, looking at the steps of that denuded slope, believe that normal rainfall wouldn't cause severe runoff and impact Stillman Creek below? The fringe of buffer-zone timber left at creekside may adhere to the letter of the law, but is obviously inadequate given that terrain.

The law should be amended to reflect the severity of the slope when calculating buffers. Plus, looking at all the denuded ridgelines in the backdrop of the photo, I can only say that the era of such massive clear-cuts should be declared over.

What an ugly legacy to leave our children.

— *Geoff Tudor, Sequim*

I just read about the photo that caused some Weyerhaeuser officials to consider changes to their logging practices. Huh? I'm not in the logging industry and am not a scientist, but I've known for 30 years now that clear-cutting, especially on steep slopes, screws up the drainage basins and the flood plains.

Is there really anyone in the Pacific Northwest who doesn't know that? I suppose it's nice that some changes are being contemplated, but it would be nicer if these decisions were being made by people who had the intelligence (or integrity?) to know these decisions were needed a long time ago.

The article also states that the state gave approval for the clear-cutting based on a report prepared by a Weyerhaeuser employee. Huh?

How do I get that kind of deal? It would be so cool to be the one who provides the information that determines how the government regulates me.

Wow, I could do pretty much anything I wanted. Without the Weyerhaeuser geologist's report, according to the article, the state would have had to send out a geologist who actually works for the state.

— *John Peekstok, Seattle*

Say it ain't so. The DNR [Department of Natural Resources] saved taxpayer money by relying on a Weyerhaeuser geologist instead of using one of their own. What a stroke of genius.

Isn't there a story about a fox and a henhouse in there somewhere?

— *Robert E. Gardner, Renton*

Thank you for following up on Weyerhaeuser's Stillman Creek forest practices, highlighted by the photo accompanying Lynda Mapes' Dec. 9 article on the Chehalis River flood ["Did development, logging set the stage for disaster?" page one].

Weyerhaeuser's spokesman claims the Stillman Creek landslides are the result of "a catastrophic event, a natural disaster." The politest word for this dissembling is "greenwashing."

The storm itself may have been a natural event (although climate-change science indicates that the severity and frequency of such events is directly related to anthropogenic warming of the ocean). But the damage caused by the forest practices has only one proximate cause — Weyerhaeuser's state-permitted roads and clear-cuts on steep, unstable slopes.

Weyerhaeuser has known for decades that clear-cut logging on such terrain inevitably leads to "catastrophic events." On the Chehalis River itself, the USGS long ago determined that such forest practices are a major contributor of sediment to Grays Harbor (where tax dollars are spent to dredge the shipping channel).

During the negotiations for the Forests and Fish rules in 1998, Weyerhaeuser and the rest of the timber industry refused to stop these high-risk logging practices. Stillman Creek running chocolate, rafts of logging debris in the floodplain, and heavily damaged aquatic habitat are the direct results.

— *Toby Thaler, Seattle*

Did Logging-Caused Landslide Destroy The I-5 Of Rail Transport?

Register-Guard
Eugene, Oregon
25 January, 2008

The massive landslide blocking Union Pacific's railroad line between Eugene and Klamath Falls has severed the primary rail link between the Northwest and California. It could have been much worse — if the slide had happened while an Amtrak passenger train was coming through, Oregon would have had a world-class disaster on its hands.

It's bad enough as it is. The Cascade Main Line carries 33 million gross tons of freight each year. The American Association of Railroads reports that the annual volume of freight moved by rail in Oregon was 73.6 million tons in 2005, so more than 40 percent of the state's total moves over that one line.

Daily traffic averages about 15 trains with 85 carloads apiece. It takes 3½ tractor-trailers to haul one rail carload of freight. Some of the rail cars are empty, but even so the rail alternative diverts a lot of trucks from Interstate 5. Indeed, the Cascade Main Line is the I-5 of the rail system.

Freight still can move between Northwest and California destinations by rail, but long detours are involved. The best option is to send trains up the Columbia Gorge and then along the Oregon Trunk Line that roughly parallels Highway 97 to Chemult.

If the slide had happened while an Amtrak passenger train was coming through, Oregon would have had a world-class disaster on its hands

There, the trunk line connects to Union Pacific track and continues to Klamath Falls and Redding, Calif. For southern Willamette Valley shippers, this adds several hundred miles to the trip — and the trunk line's capacity is limited, so some freight moving between California and the Northwest is being diverted as far east as Salt Lake City.

The only other option for southbound freight is the Central Oregon and Pacific Railroad line, which runs from Eugene to California over the Siskiyou Pass. This route is steep, with grades of up to 3.5 percent, and some of its tunnels are too low to permit passage of modern "high cube" freight containers. The Cascade Main Line, where track curvature is designed to compensate for maximum grades of 1.8 percent, opened in 1926 as an improvement upon the difficult Siskiyou route.

From that standpoint, the slide sets shippers back 82 years.

The slide itself covers two sections of track at both ends of a long hairpin turn as the rail line climbs toward Pengra Pass (not nearby Willamette Pass, familiar to travelers on Highway 58) in the vicinity of Salt Creek Falls. A slurry of mud, rock and logs slumped across 0.2 miles of track at about the 3,700-foot level, then continued downhill to bury another 0.2 miles of nearly track 1,000 feet below. The two sections, while close enough to be damaged by a single slide, are 10 rail miles apart.

Union Pacific and government officials say they have not determined the cause of the slide, and they are prudent to avoid premature judgments. But the slide started in a 15-year-old clear-cut, and it takes about 15 years for the soil-gripping roots of logged trees to decompose. The timbered slopes on either side of the clear-cut did not fail.

The Oregon Forest Practices Act and the timber sale policies of federal land management agencies need to be revised to take landslide risks into better account.

While landslides are common on steep pitches in the Coast and Cascade ranges, the biggest ones usually are associated with logging or road construction. This one is big. The Oregon Forest Practices Act and the timber sale policies of federal land management agencies need to be revised to take landslide risks into better account.

Restrictions on logging practices to limit the danger of landslides are resisted on the basis of their cost. But landslides can be costly as well. The economic consequences of the Cascade Main Line's closure will be widespread, and are continuing to mount. It's fortunate that no human costs, in deaths or injuries, must be added to the tally — but that was a matter of pure luck.

"What now remains compared with what then existed is like the skeleton of a sick man, all the fat and soft earth having wasted away, and only the bare framework of the land being left."

—Plato



Man's Folly Magnifies Nature's Power



by **Tim Hermach**
Animal Welfare Quarterly

This winter, the seasonal storms came as they always do to the northwestern region of the United States. In early December 2007, heavy rains and wind buffeted the fragmented forest landscapes and clear-cuts that now make up our public and private lands, snapping off the weak, fast growing, genetically altered trees that have replaced our once-great forests. Landslides and debris flows cascaded down the steep, barren slopes.

Nature has a way of sculpting our lives and forcing the growth of our compassion and empathy toward others

Further downstream, the mud, trees, stumps and other debris plowed into bridges and plugged culverts — creating temporary dams, which then burst, wiping out houses and roads. Some of the debris dams did not break, and those remaining held back millions of cubic yards of mud and debris, choking streambeds, flooding farmlands, killing livestock, and destroying infrastructure, businesses, houses and barns.

Over the last century, logging has been an ongoing activity on the heavily forested lands that make up the Pacific Northwest rainforests and the dryer inter-mountain regions. Logging interests, in an endless pursuit of money, and with a callous disregard for the harm to others, have engaged in extreme logging practices and a form of asset stripping. This practice has left the land looking like a war zone and has stripped its protections from both the sun and rains that regularly fall in the Northwest. Strip-mine logging, when combined with the steep slopes common in the region, causes the number and severity of landslides and mudflows to skyrocket.

The clearcutting also disturbs and compacts the soils, and the water runs off into the streams and rivers much faster and muddier than if the forest

canopy was still in place. Erosion of roadbeds and logged areas sends millions of cubic yards of mud and sediment into our streams and rivers, wrecking drinking water sources, choking spawning beds, and filling reservoirs while reducing their mitigation and flood control capacity. This acceleration of the runoff creates a rapid spiking of river levels and hence does not allow much time for the farmers, residents and businesses in its path to prepare or evacuate.

Some preliminary estimates of monetary damages in five western Washington counties this year exceed \$175 million. However, the figure is just a fraction of the total dollar value of damages done by the most recent storm alone. Estimates of the damage just to the Tillamook railroad bed, located in northwest Oregon, were thought to be as much as \$30 million. Losses included hundreds of farm animals and family pets. One dairy lost over 50 of its specially bred milking goats. The tragedy of a situation like this is surreal.

Nature has a way of sculpting our lives and forcing the growth of our compassion and empathy toward others. There are many stories of tragic situations in which no amount of valor could stand in the face of the destructive torrents washing downstream. Numerous acts of heroism were successful. Many people, some holding small children in their arms, were rescued from their rooftops by helicopters and boats during the rapid rise of the floodwater.

There was something other than the force of nature at work during the tragic events that unfolded during that storm in December. The destructive aspects of logging have been well-known for centuries. We have known that clear-cuts dramatically increase the number and severity of landslides. No one should be surprised that areas downstream from heavily logged lands will be adversely impacted in a storm event like this. These forest practices have been destroying complex ecosystems and creating huge swaths of semi-sterile forest ever since they were implemented.

In the 1990s, the near-extinction of wildlife and fish stocks finally resulted in enough litigation to slow down the logging on the public lands. Unfortunately, private logging interests bribed politicians, mounted enormous advertising and propaganda campaigns, and provided anti-environmental “science” curriculum to our public schools. They continued to strip their lands of trees much faster than they are able to grow back, setting the stage for events like the ones that wreaked havoc in Washington and Oregon. The logging industry counts on communities pulling together with goodwill and faith in these times of disaster. It tries to deflect its culpability by saying that

these are natural events, and the public should not overstate the impact of corporate practices.

The question is how can we possibly overstate the damage that the logging companies have done and continue to do? They have slashed and burned hundreds of millions of acres of land, public and private, nationwide. They are putting humanity's survival at risk and driving many species to the brink of extinction. They have devastated the commercial salmon fishing industry by wiping out the spawning beds where the salmon lay their eggs. They have raked in billions, if not trillions, of our tax dollars and wealth as hidden subsidies while they strip our country of its assets.

They want more. The Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service both have plans in the works that would increase logging on our public lands by 200 to 300 percent. At a time when our forests are more important than ever for their life-support system attributes, the corporate interests and their political lackeys are pushing hard to clear-cut the last of our irreplaceable ancient rainforests into “genetically improved” monoculture fiber farms that amount to nothing more than row crops in a form of soil mining.

These forest practices have been destroying complex ecosystems and creating huge swaths of semi-sterile forest ever since they were implemented

The time has come to say “enough.” We can take a stand for our public forests and the wild beings that live inside of them. Our forests are the lungs of the planet, supporting all terrestrial life. It is time to stop all logging on our public lands and create strict rules banning export and regulating the practice on private lands, eliminating the damage that it does to our forests and watersheds. By doing this now, we will also lessen the damage to our farms and cities when the inevitable winter storms roll across these landscapes. We will never stop all the damage done by extreme weather, but we can be responsible for and minimize the self-inflicted part of the destruction.

No corporation or person has the right to make money by stripping the commons and putting others in harm's way — downhill, downstream, downwind or even downtime. The loggers have known for hundreds of years about the tragic damages they inflict. But with 95 percent of the nation's native forests strip-mined and clear-cut, it is obvious that not many of them care. Teddy Roosevelt gave them an earful when he set up the Forest Reserves, saying that there is no more deadly, destructive or dishonest industry in America. Logging companies lie, cheat, steal and worse — and they will take our very last tree if we let them.



Photos: Steve Ringman



"Timber harvest in sensitive areas has also been associated with increased incidence of mass movement. Clearcut harvest and/or slash burning on steep slopes may increase failure rates from two to forty times over rates on undisturbed sites."

—Cumulative Effects of Forest Practices in Oregon, Oregon Department of Forestry, 1995.

"A crucial factor in the stability of steep forested slopes is the role of plant roots in maintaining the shear strength of soil mantles... Once the covering vegetation is removed, these roots deteriorate and much of the soil strength is lost."

—R.R. Ziemer and D.N. Swanston, USDA Forest Service, 1977.



"Common sense tells you that roots hold soil in place and prevent erosion, and... trees suck up a huge amount of water. If you eliminate those trees when the runoff comes, then the earth just can't hold that much, and what you have is severe erosion and eventually mudslides."

—Alan Siporin, KLCC [Eugene, Oregon] commentator, on 1996 slide that killed 4 people.

"Presently, since there is no vegetation to retain rain-water and the snow lies exposed to the sun, in an instant after a storm, water will precipitiously swoop down from the mountains to the river's mouth and will carry such enormous quantities of debris as to break pasture land, devastate the country-side, destroy buildings, sometimes entire towns..."

—Giuseppe Paulini, forest owner, on the deforestation of Venice, Rome, 1601.



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Zero-cut on Public Lands — Native Forest Council**

State Keeps Slide Risks to Itself

Mudflow hazard maps go unseen by homeowners over development and property value concerns

by Michael Milstein
The Oregonian
20 January, 2008

State geologists predicted the landslide that crushed homes and severed U.S. 30 west of Clatskanie, but the state shelved the information partly because of concerns it would interfere with land development.

The prediction was spelled out in the form of landslide hazard maps that state geologists drew up for all of western Oregon after landslides killed five people in 1996. The maps labeled most of the area involved in last month's U.S. 30 slide as posing "very high" or "extreme" landslide hazard — the highest possible categories of risk.

They showed the danger extending from Oregon State University clear-cuts where the destructive chain of events began, downhill to an old earthen railroad crossing that allowed mud and debris to collect for more than a week, forming a lake. The debris finally broke loose Dec. 11, releasing a muddy torrent into homes that sat in the danger zone.

But people living in those homes never knew the maps existed — even though the state spent nearly \$250,000 developing them to help protect life and property.

People living in those homes never knew the maps existed

State foresters who reviewed logging more than a mile above the homes knew about the maps but did not refer to them, they said.

And other homeowners in a state full of risky terrain — Portland's West Hills, the Coast Range, parts of southwestern Oregon and more — don't know whether they face the same risk as those west of Clatskanie.

That's because a little-known state board quietly withdrew the maps from official use in 2003 after city and county officials complained that they labeled too much area as hazardous and might restrict development and hurt property values, according to state documents and interviews with people involved. The state law that called for the maps included mandates that made local officials see it all as a regulatory headache.

The state never supplied money to refine the maps — which cover 19 western Oregon counties — the way cities and counties wanted.

The result is that the maps showing areas at highest risk of landslides remain unknown to the people in the most danger.

The result is that the maps showing areas at highest risk of landslides remain unknown to the people in the most danger.

"I bought it a year and a half ago," Mike Roubal said of his family's home west of Clatskanie, buried almost to its eaves by the Dec. 11 landslide. He evacuated shortly before the mud hit but lost several uninsured vehicles, including a classic 1955 Chevy, and is now struggling with paperwork to seek state and federal assistance. "I wouldn't have bought it if I would have known there was this kind of risk."

State officials estimate cleanup and repair costs for U.S. 30 at \$1.3 million.

A few cities and counties refer to the landslide maps when permitting new development, but many do not. That leaves some Oregonians to build new homes where they may sit in the bull's-eye of a

"It's easier to do nothing and wait for FEMA to bail you out."

coming landslide, experts say.

"The information is out there — it's just not being used," said Scott Burns, a Portland State University professor and authority on landslides. "It's a pity, because if we get more of these big storms, we're going to have more debris flows and more people in danger."

The lack of action reflects widespread reluctance by local governments to control development or take other action to reduce risk from hazards such as landslides, floods and tsunamis, said Gail Achterman, chairwoman of the Oregon Transportation Commission, who also headed a task force on landslide risk.

"The hard policy decisions have simply not been made," she said. "It's easier to do nothing and wait for FEMA to bail you out."

The landslide maps were among the most advanced of their kind at the time they were produced, Burns and other geologists said. When scientists checked the maps against evidence of historic landslides, they found that the maps correctly identified more than 90 percent of the areas buried in slide debris.

Geologists who worked on the maps said they're especially frustrated that what could have been a tool to protect people from disaster has been all but forgotten. The area west of Clatskanie, around Woodson, was one of the areas geologists specifically checked to verify the accuracy of the maps, said Jon Hofmeister, who led the mapping



Photo: Frazier Landslide outside Oakridge, OR — Native Forest Council

for the state Department of Geology and Mineral Industries.

A 1933 landslide killed four people about a half mile from where the slide struck last month. Heavy rains in 1996 produced small flows of rocks and debris in the area, residents said, but nothing like the major barrage — compounded by the lake of debris that collected — that struck last month.

"I figured it would happen there again, and it did," Hofmeister said. The mapping was so complex he tied together the department's computers on weekends — for a month — to sift through terrain data for clues about where slides might strike and how they would rush downhill.

"It really pulls at my gut" that the information isn't widely available, said Hofmeister, who left the department after finishing the maps and now runs a startup energy company. "It's not a good allocation of resources to have things like this get developed and get dropped for political reasons."

Response to '96 slides

The maps emerged from statewide concern about landslide danger after the fatal slides of 1996. The slides didn't kill anyone in Portland but destroyed 17 homes and damaged 64 others — with costs totaling more than \$40 million.

The maps emerged from statewide concern about landslide danger after the fatal slides of 1996.

Gov. John Kitzhaber in early 1997 issued an action plan to reduce the likelihood of slides, and the risk to life and property when slides happen.

Some of his direction dealt with controlling logging of steep slopes, which can add to landslide risk. He also told the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon State University to map landslide hazards, giving local governments and property owners a picture of the risk.

A task force followed, and in 1999 the Legislature passed a bill outlining a state strategy on landslides. It gave the Department of Forestry authority to limit logging that could increase the risk of slides, but gave the mapping job to the state Department of Geology.

The job originally was to be done by four people over a couple of years, Hofmeister said. Instead, it turned out to be "me, myself and I" working on it, he said, with unpaid help from other landslide experts he consulted around the world.

The maps were meant to show cities and counties where they should more carefully review new development to make sure it wasn't in danger from landslides.

Former state geologist John Beaulieu, who headed the Department of Geology at the time, called Hofmeister's maps "a brilliant piece of work." He said "the technical part that he had to do was bigger and tougher and more cutting-edge than anyone realized."

The maps outlined areas with landslide risk, and then rated land inside those areas — through colors — from "extreme" to "low" hazard.

But the Legislature attached a mandate to the maps: Cities and counties had to adopt regulations requiring extra scrutiny of development in landslide zones. So the Department of Geology presented it to local officials in 2002 only as the broad outline

of the hazard zones — without the colored ratings, Hofmeister said.

That made it look like vast amounts of land faced landslide hazards, without providing local officials a way to distinguish areas of low hazard from those of extreme hazard — such as Woodson.

"It's like taking away the painting and only leaving the frame," Hofmeister said. "All you're going to see is this big balloon."

Cities and counties complained the maps were too general and included too much area. They quickly came to view the maps as a regulatory burden that could anger landowners and hurt property values. That was compounded by growing concern — later embodied in the Measure 37 property rights debate — that governments might have to compensate landowners if regulations took away use of their land.

"Do we really want to throw fuel on the takings compensation fire?" state Rep. Susan Morgan, R-Myrtle Creek, wrote in a letter to Beaulieu at the time. She said landslide rules "will be placing a substantial financial burden on Oregon's citizens at a time when we are trying to encourage economic development."

"There was a very, very strong bias then that, 'I don't want to regulate development,' " Hofmeister recalls.

Shortly afterward, the commission that oversees the Department of Geology formally withdrew the maps from use. The department had a plan to refine the maps, but there was never any money for it.

They quickly came to view the maps as a regulatory burden that could anger landowners and hurt property values.

State wants new maps

The maps are now available only on an obscure state Web site — www.coastalatlant.net — that Hofmeister and another state employee worked on at night and on weekends.

"Even geotechnical engineers don't know it's there," he said.

The state now hopes cities and counties will help pay for a new generation of maps based on laser measurements that provide a detailed picture of the land surface. That will probably take five years, at the earliest, said Vicki McConnell, the state geologist.

"Having that (earlier) map out there could in some cases be quite useful," she said. "However, we now have an opportunity to get even better information out there."

In landslide-prone Douglas County, Planning Director Keith Cubic said the county has tried to highlight the danger of slides for residents, but that



Photo: Frazier Landslide outside Oakridge, OR —Native Forest Council

only goes so far.

"We have heightened awareness, but we don't have the tool we were supposed to have," he said. "It's a frustration, because I think we could be doing a better job if we had the maps."

Columbia County, where Woodson is, might be one of the few counties that refers to the maps when considering new development. But Glen Higgins, the planning director, said there has been no drive to alert people whose homes may already be in danger.

"The general population kind of knows there's a risk out there," he said. "Whether the individual homeowner knows, I don't know."

Michael Milstein:
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"Too much logging has definitely made the conditions worse in this area. There is very little forest there anymore, and that has contributed to causing the landslides."

—Tabrani, director of National Coordinating Agency for Disaster Management, Java, Indonesia, on 2007 mudslide that killed 80 people.



Green Feud Stifles Efforts to Protect Forests and Roadless Lands

by Bill Schneider
www.newwest.net

If you follow the Wilderness issue like I do, you know that Congress is currently considering the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA), which would designate as Wilderness basically all of the remaining roadless land in Idaho and Montana, and most of northwestern Wyoming as well as smaller tracts in eastern Oregon and eastern Washington — 22.7 million acres in all, including 3 million already-protected as national parks, a chunk of real estate about the size of Delaware and Rhode Island combined.

That might be too big of a bite for anybody to chew, but it seems like something a pro-Wilderness group could support, don't you think?

If you're among those who never want to see another Wilderness, rejoice. This is your perfect storm.

And sure enough, the Wilderness Society and Sierra Club support NREPA, as does the Idaho Conservation League, the major pro-Wilderness group in the Gem State. But you might be surprised to learn that the major nonprofit we depend on to protect wild land in the Big Sky State, the Montana Wilderness Association (MWA), not only won't support NREPA, but opposes it.

When I started asking around about why MWA wouldn't support a bill that protects roadless Montana, I found an embarrassing state of affairs where dissension and a nasty, back-biting, power struggle have created such gridlock within the ranks of Wilderness advocates that I'm sad to say there's little hope of ending 25 years of Wilderness drought in Montana.

I was on the MWA Council back in 1983 when we passed the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Bill, but no congressional designations have been made since then. In recent years, we've seen no visible attempts by MWA to even have a Wilderness bill introduced.

Over the past two months, I've talked to several key players in both the MWA and the Alliance for the Wild Rockies (AWR), the primary architect and flag-carrier of the NREPA. Because so much was given to me in confidence, I'm not putting names in this column, and besides, I doubt it would add much to this distressing story.

Before I get started, I want to be clear on this point. This column isn't about a journalist trying to create bickering where there is none, like the media dreaming up a feud between Barack and Hillary. This feud is real, perplexing and clearly counter-productive to attempts to protect roadless land.

At the core of the debate is a dramatic split in philosophy among the people who want more Wilderness. This disagreement goes back at least 15 years and has worsened to the point of outright anger. Both groups believe they have the right approach and basically refuse to even talk about common ground — or to each other. Each side blames the other for lack of progress in preserving our roadless heritage.

And, of course, if you're among those who never want to see another Wilderness, rejoice. The opposition is playing your game. This is your perfect storm.

In the meantime, an entire generation of Montanans has gone by without a chance to fight for the concept of Wilderness. As I write this, it's hard not to predict at least one more generation will slip away before we see another Wilderness designation in Montana — if we ever see one.

Here's the rub. The MWA worships the collabora-

tive or quid pro quo approach where "stakeholders" such as timber companies, ATVers, mountain bikers, backcountry horsemen and hikers sit down and hammer out a compromise. Politicians — at least the breed we have in Idaho and Montana — prefer this so-called "bottom up" approach because they can jump in a thorny issue like Wilderness designation without getting pricked.

In past "Wild Bill" columns, incidentally, I have supported this something-for-something strategy, including MWA projects such as the Continental Divide Quiet Trails Proposal and the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Partnership (BDP).

The AWR has the "do the right thing," ecological approach and opposes the quid pro quo concept in general and the BDP in particular. They disagree with the continuous process of "balancing" our wild land until it's gone. By this, I mean the frequent messages we hear from politicians i.e. "I'm in favor of Wilderness, but we need some balance." The "balance" philosophy is why we're so out of balance. Depending on which figures you use, something north of 90 percent of the Lower 48 has been transformed into non-wilderness, and now we have to keep splitting up the last of the rest? In other words, when we're down to the last 1 percent, will politicians still want "balance," i.e. compromising down to 0.5 percent?

No way, says AWR, which wants to save all of the small percentage we have left. This has led to the repeated introduction of NREPA. Today's version, H.R. 1975, carried by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) with 122 co-sponsors, including nine representatives from Colorado, Oregon and Washington, but none from Idaho, Montana or Wyoming, actually had a hearing last year on October 18, the first for any version of this legislation. Nonetheless, most politicians in the New West continue to pan this "top down" approach, i.e. letting some evil eastern liberal tell us what to do with "our land," keeping in mind that only federal lands owned by all Americans, most of whom don't live in the northern Rockies, qualify for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The Wilderness Society and Sierra Club and the Idaho Conservation League sent in lukewarm letters of support for the NREPA hearing record, but no national alerts or aggressive efforts to turn out a lot of support for the bill. And nothing but silence from the MWA. In fact, MWA and AWR haven't even met formally to discuss the bill.

Even with a fourth of the U.S. House of Representatives sponsoring NREPA, it has little chance of getting a House vote, and even if it did, and even if the House passed the bill, which is unlikely but conceivable, it faces a lonely death in the Senate and certain veto in The White House — at least until next year when it might become The Blue House.

I believe one reason for NREPA's dim prospects, one of those unspoken "elephants in the room," is that members of Congress can see that even Wilderness groups like the MWA don't support protecting all our roadless lands. In suggesting this to MWA officials, I received stern denials of any such thinking. The group's cover story for opposing NREPA, albeit unofficially, is that the bill is so "socially divisive" that the MWA leadership fears a massive "blowback" in public support for Wilderness and for MWA collaborative efforts with timber companies.

MWA may be correct about public reaction to NREPA, but an invisible letter of support in the hearing record would have no impact on the current nonchalant attitude toward the bill, but would be a little peace offering for AWR. People knowledgeable in the realities of western politics, including timber company lobbyists, don't take NREPA seriously, but they most likely expect Wilderness groups to represent their memberships and support Wilderness bills, which is why they all do — except MWA.

Later this year, the MWA will likely convince the Montana delegation to take a chance on a *quid pro quo* Wilderness bill based on the BDP compromise with timber companies. If so, the bill would designate about 570,000 acres of new Wilderness in southwestern Montana, mostly high-elevation country with minimal timber-growing potential, in exchange for dedicating 730,000 acres to "low-impact" logging (i.e. no new permanent roads) including the sacrifice of 200,000 acres of low-elevation roadless timberland, much of it in the West Pioneer Mountains.

(The West Pioneers, incidentally, were granted interim protection by the passage of S. 393, the Montana Wilderness Study Act, back in 1973 when Montana had Lee Metcalf and Mike Mansfield as senators. Interim protection means agencies must manage the land to preserve Wilderness values until Congress decides whether or not it should officially be designated as Wilderness.)

What goes around comes around. I can assure you that the AWR and other NREPA backers will passionately oppose legislation based on the BDP. That's the level we've sunk to here in Montana — you oppose our bill; we'll oppose your bill.

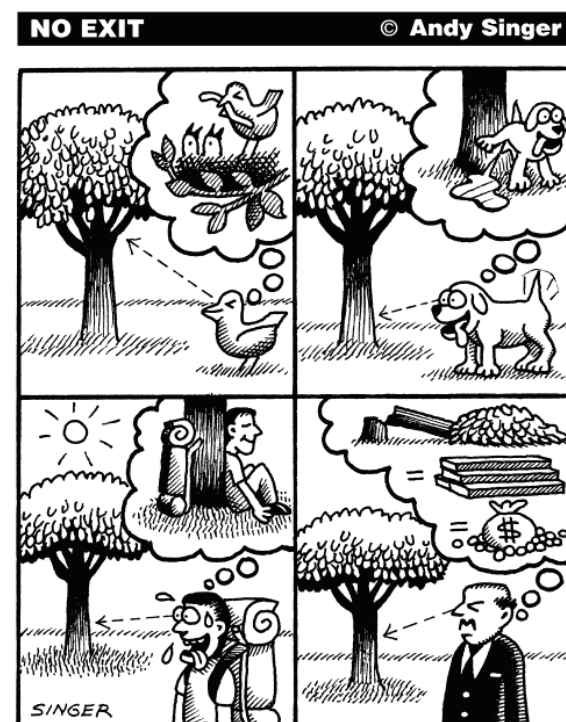
Keeping in mind that only federal lands owned by all Americans... qualify for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System.

I wonder how many members of each group realize how this spiteful polarization among their leadership plays into the hands of those who hate Wilderness.

Call me an idealist, but it seems to me that instead of ignoring each other, the leaders of our Wilderness organizations should shed past ill will, shelf their egos, sit down, decide on legislation that they can all support, and go for it. Defining a baseline for the Wilderness component of proposed legislation and having unified support among Wilderness advocates for that number seems like a logical first step. After that's done, try to develop support, above the baseline, from the timber industry and other detractors, hopefully enough to convince at least one member of the Montana delegation to introduce a bill. And then work together to end the Wilderness drought!

That sure sounds like a more effective approach to me, but I'm not going to try to hold my breath until it happens.

Bill Schneider is a former book publisher who for 30 years has been filling in the spaces between fishing trips, hikes and bike rides by writing books and articles about the great outdoors.



If a Tree's Owner Falls ... Maxxam's Corruption

by Patt Morrison
Los Angeles Times
28 February, 2008

If things had gone according to plan, this year of grace 2008 would have been the year that the last privately owned virgin, old-growth California redwoods — those older-than-Shakespeare, older-than-Jesus trees — got axed. That they haven't been turned into decking is thanks to stubborn lawmakers, environmental nags such as Julia "Butterfly" Hill — the most famous tree-sitter since the Cheshire Cat — and corporate gluttony that backfired.

That's how we came to today's hearing in a Texas courtroom. That's where Pacific Lumber — the California timber company that had been run astutely since the Battle of Gettysburg until it was overrun and then run to the edge of ruin by corporate raiders — will explain how it wants to save itself from bankruptcy.

When John D. Rockefeller visited the redwoods nearly 80 years ago, he saw a natural treasure. He put up \$2 million to spare 10,000 acres. Wheeler-dealer Charles Hurwitz saw a different kind of treasure. In a 1986 hostile takeover — financial-speak for date rape — his firm, Maxxam, got Pacific Lumber for nearly \$900 million, financed by junk bonds. Just to make interest payments, he had to cut down twice as many trees. Redwoods formerly chosen one by one for the chain saw were measured by computer coordinates and felled by the swath.

That's how big, bad business plays. Put the loopholes and fine print and asterisks into law. And when you can't make the rules, break them — or break the rule makers.

The thunder of clear-cutting roused enviros and politicians. Twelve years of wrangling ended in 1999 with the Headwaters forest — 7,500 acres of ancient redwood "cathedrals" in public hands — new rules on logging the other 210,000 acres and a government check for nearly half a billion bucks in Hurwitz's corporate wallet.

Did he use it to pay down Pacific Lumber's humon-

gous debt? No. He still owes almost as much on it as he did 22 years ago.

Back in 1981, according to David Harris' book, "The Last Stand," Pacific Lumber told shareholders that companies "have a duty to use [their] resources wisely." In 1986, the new owner, Hurwitz, was "joking" with employees that his golden rule is: "He who has the gold, rules."

Once upon a time, thrift, responsibility and debt-free profits were sound business. Now it's Las Vegas rules run amok

When the rules don't suit him, he's found ways around them. When Rancho Mirage didn't cotton to his development plan in the area — Frank Sinatra wrote an ad denouncing it — Hurwitz's lawyers sued the city, then threatened to sue city council members personally. Pacific Lumber tried and failed to recall the Humboldt County district attorney for alleging that the company used fake data to get a better deal in the Headwaters negotiations.

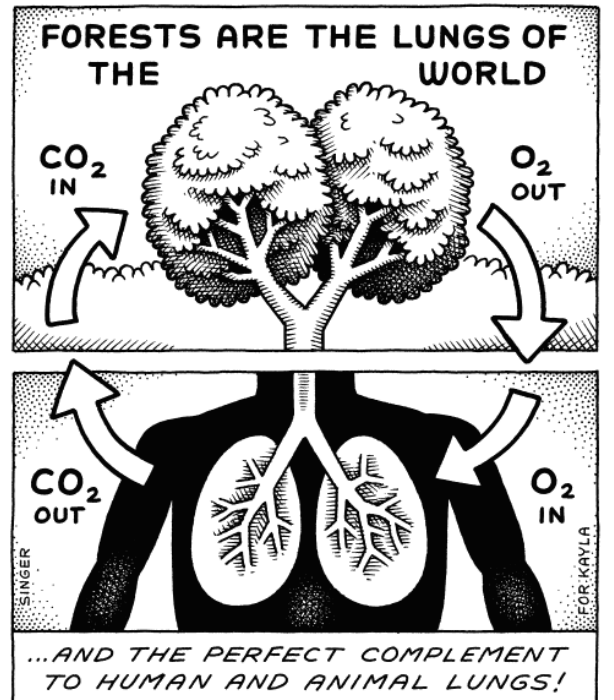
The Headwaters deal evidently wasn't good enough. Pacific Lumber went crying to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger that if California didn't lighten up on logging rules — rules Pacific Lumber had broken so often that its timber license was briefly yanked — the company would go bust. Sure enough, last year, Pacific Lumber filed for Chapter 11.

John Driscoll writes about Pacific Lumber for Eureka's *Times-Standard*. Virtually nothing, he told me, "could be more rooted in a community than [Pacific Lumber] is in Humboldt County. It's rooted in the land, rooted in the economy, rooted in the society here, and the outcome of this bankruptcy may determine whether [Pacific Lumber] — weakened over two decades — lives or dies."

Today's court date is in the Texas Gulf Coast and not California's North Coast because Pacific Lumber, now calling itself Palco, opened a snug little office in Corpus Christi — "a phone booth," California officials called it. That planted the flag for jurisdiction in Hurwitz's home state, not the home of the redwoods.

That's how big, bad business plays. Put the loopholes and fine print and asterisks into law. And

NO EXIT © Andy Singer



when you can't make the rules, break them — or break the rule makers.

In 2001, the feds were trying to get back some of the \$1.6 billion that taxpayers paid to bail out Hurwitz and his pals when their S & L went belly-up in 1988. (Put it on Hurwitz's tab; he didn't just clear trees, he raided \$55 million from Pacific Lumber's pension fund and replaced it with annuities from a Hurwitz company whose parent is now broke. Who could wind up paying those pensions? Us.)

Three GOP congressmen hammered investigators to lay off of Hurwitz. They subpoenaed confidential documents, putting them into the Congressional Record so Hurwitz's attorneys could get them. The upshot? No investigation, no payback from Hurwitz.

What could bankruptcy change? Options run from selling land for McMansions to an environmental buyout. The most plausible plan would save jobs and trees by restoring the careful logging practices of old.

Once upon a time, thrift, responsibility and debt-free profits were sound business. Now it's Las Vegas rules run amok — and look where that's gotten us: a landscape littered with sub-prime mortgage catastrophes, leveraged debt, securities fraud and imperiled pension funds.

And redwood stumps.



Clearcutting the Climate Conference

by Josh Schlossberg
Cascadia's Ecosystem Advocates

It may have taken decades, but could it be that the environmental movement has finally gotten the mainstream media, politicians and the American public to understand that protecting the environment doesn't just mean saving a favorite hiking trail or even some fuzzy critters, but is actually about the survival of life as we know it on planet Earth?

Or maybe it has more to do with the unanimous climate change science from the likes of James Hansen, James Lovelock, Steven Hawking and others. Or unprecedented natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and southern California's wildfires. Or possibly even Al Gore's simplistic movie.

Clearly one of the simplest, quickest and most effective steps we can take to cut back carbon emissions is to stop logging our nation's 5% remaining native forests.

Whatever the reason for the consciousness shift, one thing is certain: the time to act is now!

Now that the very real possibility of planetary destruction from the Climate Crisis has finally begun to register, the concern is no longer whether or not politicians, media or industry will keep ignoring the issue. Killer storms, ravaging droughts, raging wildfires, and rising sea levels have a way of keeping the topic in the public eye.

No, today's challenge is not that climate change will be left out of the dialogue — in fact, everyone from the Bush Gang to Fortune 500 CEOs are proposing all sorts of minor tweaks they claim will address climate change, while coincidentally allowing them to continue business as usual. So there's plenty of talk... the problem is that few genuine, comprehensive plans of action are in the works to veer us off our collision course with biospheric collapse. The dragon the environmental movement must now slay has a name and it is: "greenwash."

For example:

- We have Walmart finally responding to public pressure by agreeing to waste a fraction less energy when peddling their products — but no plans to encourage the local production and sale of goods by banning the construction of new box stores.
- We have Congressional bills that would mandate a slight increase in vehicle fuel efficiency — but no plans to rearrange cities and offer incentives for walking, biking and light rail, while making cities greener and more livable.
- We have programs to plant tree seedlings to absorb carbon from the atmosphere — but no plans to stop (or even to scale back) logging the planet's fraction of remaining native forests.



With the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization attributing 25-30% of human caused carbon emissions to logging the world's forests (the second largest source of emissions after fossil fuels), clearly one of the simplest, quickest and most effective steps we can take to cut back carbon emissions is to stop logging our nation's 5% remaining native forests.

Seizing the opportunity to connect intact forests and a livable climate, *Native Forest Council*, *Cascadia's Ecosystem Advocates* and *GreenwashEugene.com* organized "Clearcutting the Climate: a conference of science and action," this past January at the University of Oregon.

The concept of Clearcutting the Climate was to provide the latest science on forests, logging and climate change, expose fraudulent "solutions" to the climate crisis, as well as to facilitate collaboration between citizens and activist groups working on the issues of climate and forest protection.

200 concerned citizens from around the country attended the daylong conference to glean wisdom from the presentations of nearly a dozen scientists, educators, activists and environmental leaders from across the Pacific Northwest.

Dr. Olga Krankina, Professor of Forest Management and Forest Ecology at Oregon State, discussed the "newest objective for forest management:" carbon storage. Dr. Krankina reminded conference-goers that the forests of the Pacific Northwest contain some of the greatest stores of carbon on the planet and that the most significant impact the region could have in reducing its carbon footprint would be to keep its forests alive and standing.

According to Krankina, forest carbon is not just in the trees, but in the roots, soil, and dead plant material, while National Forests — which encompass most of the remaining native forests in the U.S. — contain three times the carbon stores of cutover private land (much of which should, of course, also be protected and allowed to recover).

The problem is that few genuine, comprehensive plans of action are in the works to honestly veer us off our collision course with biospheric collapse.

[Even though he and his organization support increased logging (thinning) on National Forests "to save the old growth,"] Doug Heiken of *Oregon Wild* did an excellent job presenting his "Myths and Facts about Forests and Global Warming," (www.tinyurl.com/2n96m5) which exposed several myths and outright lies perpetuated by Big Timber.

One myth Heiken dispelled was the lumberjack fantasy that all of a cut tree's carbon can be safely stored in two-by-fours. Heiken explained that after logging, milling, processing and transportation, only 15% of a cut tree's carbon is stored in short-lived wood products.

Heiken also tackled the wildfire myth that all of a forest's carbon is released to the atmosphere after a fire. Heiken demonstrated, to the contrary, that most carbon remains onsite after wildfire (old dead trees can last centuries), that wildfires emit far less carbon than logging and that post-fire "salvage" logging creates a "carbon desert."

While not physically present at the conference, Lance Olsen, former President of the Great Bear Foundation in Montana discussed — in video form — what he calls "climate-driven habitat fragmentation and deforestation"



and also how deforestation can alter rainfall patterns, leading to regional desertification and drought.

Dr. Alder Fuller of Eugene's Euglena Academy (www.euglena-academy.net) minced no words in explaining how the planet is probably past the tipping point for catastrophic climate change. The future, as he sees it, holds planetary changes which he predicts will be "rapid, violent and chaotic," ones that may "end civilization as we know it," such as: heating oceans, large scale ecosystem destruction, and — oh yes — the eradication of all but a billion humans from the face of the Earth.

After administering this bitter pill, Dr. Fuller assured attendees that all is not lost: even if we can't stop "global heating," we can slow it down by cutting back carbon emissions and by preserving as many wild ecosystems as possible. Fuller also offered the reality check that perhaps just as important as taking action to slow climate change is learning how to adapt to its inevitability.

During the late afternoon, conference-goers split up to attend two workshops, the first entitled: "Real and False Solutions to the Climate/Forest Crises." Mark Robinowitz, creator of *GreenwashEugene.com*, debunked some of industry's attempts to continue business as usual under a proliferation of corporate greenwash, such as the carbon offsets hoax, while tying in Peak Oil. Cascadia's Ecosystem Advocates (www.cascadiaecoadvocates.org) co-director Shannon Wilson, gave a slideshow on the follies and dangers of converting forests to biomass or cellulosic ethanol, while Aprovecho (www.aprovecho.org) eco-forester Matthew Hall gave a presentation on how to cut trees on one's own private woodlot in the least ecologically damaging way possible.

The other workshop was entitled: "How the Climate and Forest Protection Movements Can Work Together," where citizens and grassroots organizations laid the groundwork and devised strategies for future campaigns and collaboration.

Native Forest Council's Tim Hermach closed the conference, reminding attendees of the power of the individual to create change in the world. Hermach also stressed the need to demand accountability from the corporate oligarchy who are committing "crimes against nature and humanity," and how we must stop them and find the courage to forge a new path into an uncertain future.

The organizers hope that Clearcutting the Climate is a small step in the right direction.

Clearcutting the Climate was videotaped and will be uploaded to the website www.forestclimate.org, along with articles relevant to forests and climate change.

DVDs of the conference are available for \$20 by sending an email to info@forestcouncil.org, calling 541-688-2600, going to www.forestcouncil.org/join or mailing a check to:

Native Forest Council
ATTN: CONFERENCE DVD
PO Box 2190
Eugene, OR 97402

Sierra Club, with Clorox Deal, Becomes Just Another Corporate Front

Corporate Crime Reporter

March 26, 2008

www.corporatecrimereporter.com

Sierra Club used to be an environmental group.

Now, it's just another corporate front.

Sierra Club formally joined the ranks of corporate front groups earlier this year when it inked a deal with The Clorox Company.

Under the agreement, Sierra Club puts its stamp of approval on Clorox's Green Works brand of cleaners.

As a result, Sierra Club is getting lots of corporate appreciation, cash and favors.

And in return, Clorox gives Sierra Club a portion of the sales.

Sierra Club won't say how much money it will be getting from Clorox.

For years, under the leadership of Carl Pope, Sierra Club has been edging away from hard nosed environmental defense into the open arms of inside the beltway corporate lobbyists.

Now, Pope has made it official by signing on with the giant corporate miscreant.

In December 2007, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) fined Clorox \$95,000 for distributing an unregistered and mislabeled Chinese version of Clorox Disinfectant Bleach, in violation of federal pesticide law.

The EPA said that Clorox's Los Angeles production facility donated the illegal disinfectants to Los Angeles charities in 2005 and 2006.

The EPA said the products were intended for Asian export, so the labels lacked adequate English-language directions for use, hazard and precautionary statements, and the required statement "Not Registered for Use in the United States of America."

"The Sierra Club has become little more than another corporate front group," said Tim Hermach of Native Forest Council in Eugene, Oregon. "Carl Pope has sold out the Sierra Club's mission of saving nature and now seems proud of his role as an obsequious and professional Uriah Heep. As a result, Sierra Club is getting lots of corporate appreciation, cash and favors."

Sierra Club activist Karyn Strickler told Corporate Crime Reporter that "Sierra Club is more concerned about being an arm of the corporate Democratic Party than protecting the environment."

"The Clorox deal is a classic," Strickler said.

Strickler and Hermach were part of an active group of Sierra Club members who a couple of years ago sought to bring the Club back to its mission of protecting the environment.

But Strickler said that the effort at reforming the Sierra Club obviously failed.

"The corporate status quo forces led by Carl Pope didn't want a grassroots force to make sure that Sierra Club was fulfilling its mission by protecting the environment," Strickler said.

Pope touts Green Works as the first new line that Clorox has launched in 20 years.

"Green Works is 99 percent natural and made from ingredients derived from coconuts and lemon oil, and contains no phosphorus or bleach," Sierra Club says in its press release announcing the deal. "The products are formulated to be biodegradable, non-allergenic, packaged in bottles that can be recycled and not tested on animals. Starting in April, the product packaging will contain the Sierra Club's name and logo and a statement about Green Works' support for Sierra Club's efforts to preserve and protect the environment."

Corporate Crime Reporter is a legal print newsletter, published and mailed 48 times a year. Corporate Crime Reporter is now in its 21st year of publication.

"One of the truest tests of integrity is its blunt refusal to be compromised."

**—Chinua Achebe
Nigerian novelist, poet
and critic.**



Presidential Climate Action Project

National Climate Leadership:
The First 100 Days and Beyond

State of the Climate

An assessment of climate change and policy in the United States
January 24, 2008

As the United States approaches the end of the first decade of the 21st century, the most dangerous and difficult challenge of our time remains largely unaddressed. Global climate change continues unabated. The United States is the nation that is most responsible for the problem and most capable of contributing to the solution. Yet today, the United States stands virtually alone among developed nations in refusing to accept the need for decisive action.

Consequently, we regret to report that the state of the nation's climate policy is poor, and the climate and the ecosystems that depend upon it are showing increasing signs of disruption. Global climate change now threatens not only the environment, but also our national security, our economic stability, and our public health and safety. We can no longer discuss the State of the Union without assessing the state of the nation's climate.

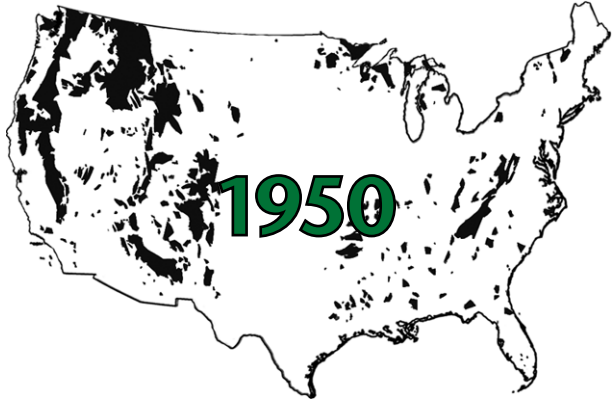
The growing consequences of climate change have not appeared without warning. Physicist John Tyndall first identified the connection between the greenhouse effect and climate change in the 1860s. Swedish geochemist Svante Arrhenius predicted in 1896 that the burning of fossil fuels would result in global warming.

The full text of the report can be found at:

www.climateactionproject.com/soc.php



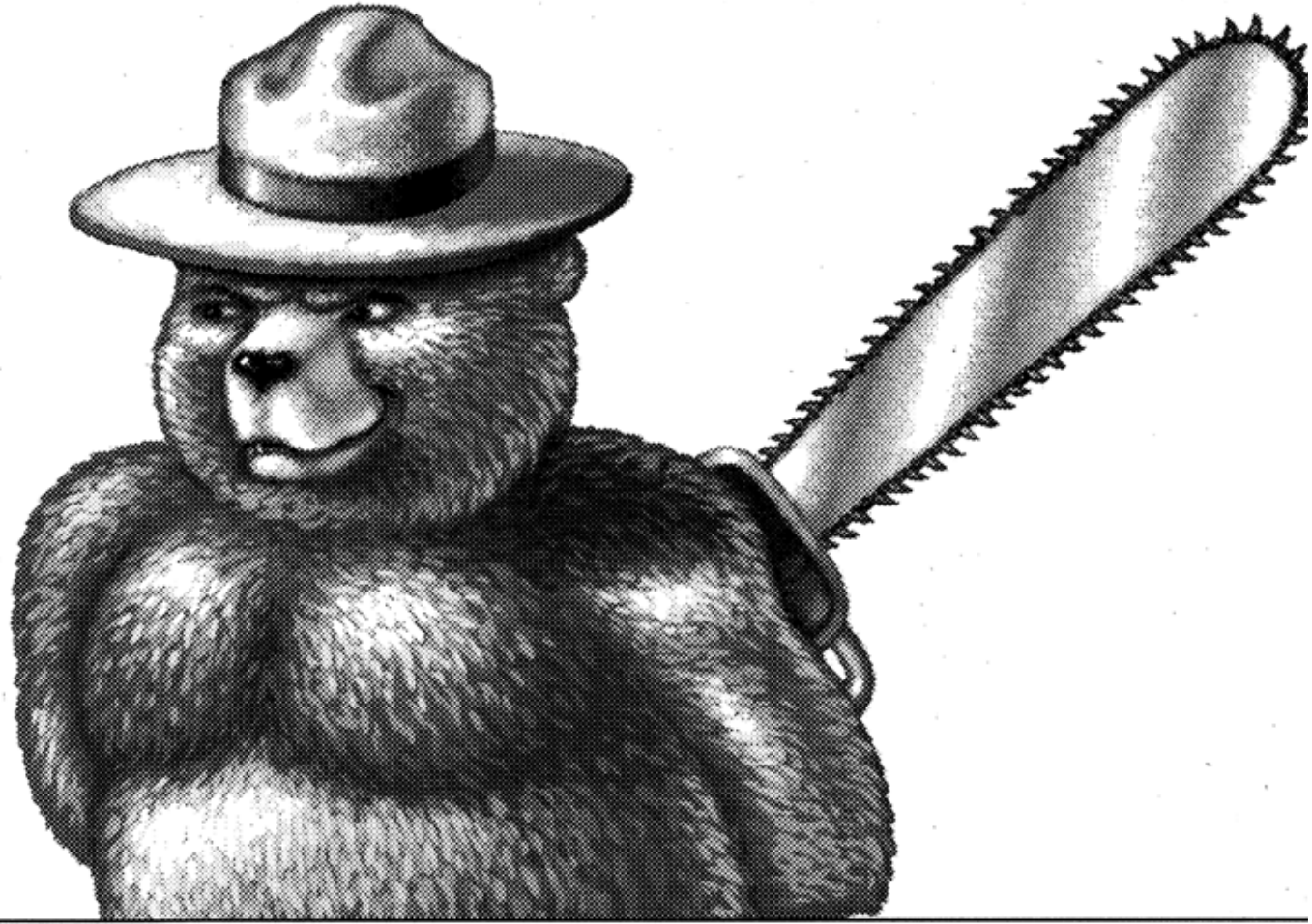
Save Our Disappearing Native Forests



A native forest is a self-regenerating forest that has never been cut or planted by humans.



There's a bear in the woods,
and he's destroying our heritage.



courtesy of Americans for Ancient Forests

Say it ain't so, Smokey.

YES!

I want to help save
the last of America's
national forests.
Here's how I can help:

Mail to:

Native Forest Council
PO Box 2190
Eugene, OR 97402
www.forestcouncil.org
info@forestcouncil.org

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 - Send me a monthly reminder
 - Bill my credit card
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State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

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My check is enclosed.

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Stay Informed. Join the Native Forest Council and receive a free subscription to the *Forest Voice*!

The *Forest Voice* is filled with stories of the effort to save the last of our ancient forests. Less than 5 percent of these once vast forests remain, and they're being cut down at the rate of 185 acres per day. Trees that took 1,000 years to grow are destroyed in ten minutes. Each year enough of these trees to fill a convoy of log trucks 20,000 miles long are taken from Northwest forests alone! The informative *Forest Voice* will keep you up-to-date on the latest news and unmask the lies and greed of the timber industry in their multi-million dollar effort to cut the remaining ancient forests. Join now, and save the last of the ancient trees for our children.