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If You Think This is Brazil, Think Again!

America's National Forests: Birthright or Boardfeet?

For 150 years we have cut our native forests without thought of consequence. We now know that forests are the lungs of the planet. They provide us with pure water and healthy fisheries. They moderate the climate, are a primary source of medicines, and serve as genetic banks for a wondrous diversity of plant and animal life. The complex products of centuries of evolution, once gone, they are gone forever.



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Less Than 5 Percent Remains

"I am utterly convinced that most of the great environmental struggles will be either won or lost in the 1990s. And that by the next century, it will be too late."

> Thomas Lovejoy, Smithsonian Institute





Native Forest

"Since Christ's time, God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanche, and a thousand straining, leveling tempests and floods: but He cannot save them from fools."

> John Muir Founder of the Sierra Club

How Did This Happen?

Special Interests vs. the Public Interest

The timber industry spends millions of dollars in political contributions to buy congressional influence. In return, Congress provides below-cost, taxpayer-subsidized public timber and helps circumvent existing environmental laws by mandating that the Forest Service cut national forests at way beyond sustainable levels.



1919: "It is wholly irrelevant to discuss at just what particular time in the future our remaining supplies of virgin timber will be exhausted, for the pinch comes long before complete destruction."

Gifford Pinchot Society of American Foresters

1933: "The privately owned forest capital in the West is being liquidated as rapidly as possible."

> The Copeland Report U.S. Senate

Warnings Were Ignored for Decades



photo by Joel Davis, The Oregonian

1976: Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield, a co-sponsor of the National Forest Management Act, wins language in the law allowing the Forest Service to exceed sustainable timber sale levels.

1981: President Reagan appoints John Crowell Jr., vice president of Louisiana-Pacific [a timber company] to oversee the Forest Service as assistant secretary of agriculture.

1983: Crowell orders national forests supervisors to redraft their management plans after seeing that large acreages will be removed from timber production to comply with environmental laws.

1940: [Secretary of Agriculture] "Wallace analyzes forest problems, urges Northwest to lock barn door before timber horse is stolen."

Headline from Seattle newspaper

1940: "The forces of liquidation are at work also in the ponderosa pine region. In nearly every lumber producing district the sawmill capacity exceeds the growth, so much so that the private timber supply will be exhausted within fifteen or twenty years."

> Henry A. Wallace Secretary of Agriculture

1985: Oregon Rep. Les AuCoin directs the Forest Service to increase Northwest timber sales by 900 million board feet; one billion more in 1987, 300 million in 1988, and 200 million more in 1989.

1989: Hatfield and AuCoin insert language in an appropriations bill that frees 1.1 billion board feet of national forest timber from a federal court injunction protecting the spotted owl.

Why Does It Continue?

U.S. taxpayers subsidize logging of national forests

Congress allocates funds for the U.S. Forest Service to help the timber industry log our national forests. The Forest Service spends over \$2 billion annually building and maintaining logging roads, (there are over 360,000 miles of logging roads) burning slash, trying to control erosion, insects and fire, and preparing timber for sale. But as Perri Knize, writing in **The Atlantic Monthly** in October of 1991, observed: "The Forest Service timber program has lost \$5.6 billion over the past decade...Most of the 122 national forests have never earned a dime on timber, and only fifteen showed a profit last year."

Beyond financial losses, the Forest Service fails to assign value to standing forests. Ancient forests are considered "decadent" and are not valued for their oxygen production, water storage and filtration, or climate moderation. They are not valued for the fisheries they spawn, the medicines they provide, the flooding they abate, or their aesthetic value. In Alaska, the Forest Service sold 200-year-old trees for \$1.48 each!

Thus, vastly undervalued, and subsidized by taxpayer dollars, the national forests are enormously attractive to industry--which pays no taxes on the use of public lands--and lobbies unremittingly to be allowed to continue this economic and ecological folly.



Exports: U.S. provides raw materials for foreign competitors

Japan and other foreign nations are feasting on America's forests. Like a third-world nation, we are exporting our resources (and our jobs) for the benefit of others, while our government spends hundreds of millions of dollars each year subsidizing this practice.



Domestic mills close while U.S. timber is exported

The Register Guard, Eugene, OR

Over the last decade, 45 percent of all the trees cut in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and California have been exported. *(Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce)* That's the equivalent of exporting 10 billion board feet of timber each year. Using the standard multiplier of six direct timber jobs per million board feet, we have also exported 60,000 jobs.

While it is illegal to export oil from the U.S. because oil is deemed too precious, the last remaining 5 percent of our native forests are being ground to pulp, chipped or sliced and shipped out of the country.

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

- Perri Knize, The Atlantic Monthly

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

- K.J. Metcalf, retired Forest Service planner, Alaska

In 1990 Congress finally enacted a "ban" on exports of trees cut from public lands. But like many such hollow laws, it is full of loopholes and exceptions allowing industry to continue exporting with a minimum of inconvenience.



Forests ground to wood chips for export

photo by Bill Ballenberg

Nature Pays You Pay Your Children Pay

Global Warning - Forests act as the lungs of our planet. They convert carbon dioxide (a greenhouse gas produced by burning fossil fuel) into oxygen for us to breathe. Deforestation is estimated by the Worldwatch Institute to be responsible for up to half of the greenhouse effect. Six out of the last ten years have been the hottest on record.

Endangered Species -

Animals such as the Northern Spotted Owl are "indicator species" for a range of animals and plants that inhabit Native Forests in the Pacific Northwest. Their decline is a warning that an entire ecosystem has been badly degraded. Around the nation, many threatened and endangered species are losing habitat on publicly owned forests: Woodland Caribou and Marbled Murralets - Northern Rockies/Idaho Panhandle National Forest; Red Cockaded Woodpecker Southeast U.S.; Red Squirrel -Coronado National Forest, Arizona.

Lost Recreation and Tourisum Opportunities - 24 out of 36 Oregon counties site tourism as a top economic development strategy. Yet logging scars and defaces the landscape that people travel to Oregon to find. World-class recreation opportunities; hiking, fishing, camping, rafting are compromised. National Parks are packed, campgrounds resemble shopping mall parking lots, while we liquidate public wilderness that rightfully belongs to future generations.

> Flooding and Drought - Intact Native Forests abate flooding and drought by absorbing massive amounts of rainfall and atmospheric moisture like a sponge. Healthy forests gradually release the water through dry seasons, providing reliable water supplies. In November of 1990, heavy rains produced widespread flooding in Western Washington State. The only river which stayed in its channel was the Nisqually - the only unlogged watershed in Western Washington.

Soil Erosion - "Mass erosion is common for many years after logging, after the original roots have rotted but before a new root network has replaced it. Until then, soil erosion can damage real estate values, hydroelectric dams, municipal water supplies, fresh water fisheries, and the biological diversity of stream ecosystems," states Eliott Norse, Ancient Forests of the Pacific Northwest.

Soil Erosion is common for after logging, at roots have rotte new root m replaced it. L erosion can estate values, dams, muni supplies, fresh and the biologic

Dying Fisheries - Valuable salmon and steelhead fisheries throughout the Northwest have been decimated. Spawning beds

Impure Drinking Water - Native Forests provide dependable, pure, clear drinking water. Timber operations and

resulting soil erosion cloud

herbicides and pesticides

used on tree farms, poison it.

water supplies.

Fertilizers,



The Native Forest Council Providing visionary leadership to ensure the integrity of native forest ecosystems without compromising people or forests.

THE ZERO-CUT, PLUS JOBS SOLUTION: The National Forest Protection Acts

The National Forest Protection Acts (NFPA) is a package of draft legislation developed by the Native Forest Council. The bill is divided into five separate acts, each providing solutions to different elements of the forest crisis: forest protection, exports, assistance for timber workers and communities, restoration of biological diversity, and government accountability. NFPA is endorsed by over 1 million petition signatories and organizations representing 5 million people. For more information, contact the Native Forest Council, P.O. Box 2171, Eugene, OR 97402, or call (503) 688-2600.



Whereas, the Congress of the United States of America, recognizing that less than 5 percent of our nation's native and virgin forests remain--and that over 72 percent of the nation's forestlands are now in private ownership--determines that if properly managed under free market conditions without unfair competition from taxpayer-subsidized public-land government timber sales, these private lands are capable of producing all of the wood products the nation requires for its domestic market in perpetuity.

Therefore, seeking to restore some degree of balance to our forest environment, the Congress expressly declares that all forestlands now in public ownership shall be maintained as natural, diverse forests, for the long-term public benefit derived from their broad ecological and environmental values.

In carrying out this mandate, the Congress specifically prescribes the following actions and mandates:

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ACT I...Saves the Last 5 Percent

- Protects all remaining native forests and watersheds
- Expands wilderness areas and national parks
- Establishes preserves and research areas

Act I - National Forest Preservation Act

All federal land management agencies are hereby directed to protect all remaining virgin and native forestlands and watersheds in public ownership. That protection shall extend to the diversity of wildlife including fisheries, and any threatened or endangered species; and will prohibit, without exception, any further timber sales or logging from such lands. Furthermore, no new road building shall be permitted.

Federal land management agencies are directed to classify and designate, by no later than March 1, 1995, all native and virgin forestlands which comply, or can be brought into compliance, with the specifications set forth in the Wilderness Act of 1964, as additions to existing Wilderness Areas or as new Wilderness Areas. Those areas that are adjacent to existing National Parks shall be added to those parks, or established as new national parks to be managed by the Park Service. The Park Service shall be obligated to fully protect and maintain such lands as virgin forests, in their natural state.

For native and virgin forestlands in public ownership, unqualified for National Park or Wilderness status, managing public agencies are directed to classify these lands, regardless of size, as National Native-Forest Preserves, National Biological Areas, or as National Forest Natural-Research Areas, which permit a broad range of non-consumptive, scientific and recreational uses, but prohibit any and all timber sales. No risk of loss, or actual loss of biological diversity shall be permitted on any and all federal lands.



Old-growth forest

photo by Trygve Steen

While domestic mills close, timber and jobs are exported from Longview, WA



ACT II...Keeps Jobs at Home

photo by Elizabeth Feryl

Protects American jobs

Assures domestic timber supply

Taxes exports

Act II - National Forest Domestic Processing Act

To assure the continued availability of forest resources for domestic requirements, and to protect American jobs, the Congress directs that all logs and other forms of unfinished raw-material woodproducts (merches, cants, chips, pulp, or veneer) whether from public or private lands, either exported or imported, be assessed an inverse graduated excise tax which shall begin at 200 percent and decrease as the extent of processing increases. At the point of maximum value-added processing, this tax shall converge at zero. Tax monies shall be dedicated to the programs in these Acts.

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ACT III...Provides Economic Solutions

- Provides assistance to timber workers and communities
- Provides "in-lieu-of property tax" revenues to counties
- Creates incentives for recycling and development of alternative paper and pulp sources
- Calls for closure and rehabilitation of non-essential roads

Act III - National Forest Economic Recovery Act

Congress shall make available to wood-products workers and industry, funds to assist the inevitable industry transition. These funds would promote, but not be limited to: forest rehabilitation jobs, relocation, education and training, family health care, mortgage assistance, property tax deferrals, and other assistance as needed. Additionally, federally guaranteed, long-term, low interest loans to spur investment in value-added product manufacturing facilities, and to close old-growth mills shall be provided, as will tax incentives for small, nonindustrial private woodlot owners to manage for sustainable long-term timber production. The Forest Service and the BLM are directed to provide jobs in ecosystem, watershed, and forest rehabilitation to restore native biological diversity, and environmental and ecological values.

Congress shall make available a trust for stable payments to counties and schools as a replacement for the loss of revenues from federal timber sales. Payments to be consistent with national parity in payments to counties with federal lands. Such payments shall be based on "in-lieu- of property taxes" as if the lands were privately owned, rather than revenues based on extraction and destruction of irreplaceable living natural resources.

To reduce the demand for wood products to non-depleting, sustainable levels Congress directs the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate regulations (including incentives and penalties) for recycling of wood and paper products. Further, the Secretary will provide incentives for innovative product designs which minimize consumption and waste of all wood fiber products. The Congress shall appropriate funds for the research and rapid development of alternative non-forest pulp and paper sources, and to eliminate environmentally unsound processing of pulp from wood-fiber.

The Forest Service and BLM shall identify all roads in federal forestlands not essential to the forest-wide travel network. These roads shall be closed without delay and re-vegetated by the year 2000. Aerial mosaic maps of all U.S. National Forests and BLM forestlands shall be provided annually to the Congress as proof of compliance, and be made available to the public at little or no cost.



photographer unknown

Act IV - National Forest Restoration Act

ACT IV... Restores the Forests

• Restores native-forest diversity to "tree farms"

• Bans clearcutting, slash burning, and the use of pesticides and herbicides

• Mandates no loss of biological diversity on federal forestlands

The Congress directs that all public forestlands which have been converted to tree farms, and are no longer native or virgin forests, be classified as Perpetual Forestlands. Such lands shall be allowed to naturally regenerate and exist as original (before human intrusion) forests with their historic biological composition of species and age diversity. Slash burning and all forms of herbicides, fertilizers, pesticides, and other chemicals are prohibited. With the exception of parks and campground access, new roads are prohibited. Congress further directs that sales of timber from such lands be noncompeting and sustainable. No forms of clearcutting (evenaged management) shall be permitted, and quantities logged on any site shall not exceed 2% of the biomass per acre in any one decade. The full range of ecological and successional attributes of a native, virgin forest must be maintained. No loss of biological diversity shall be permitted on federal forestlands.

Congress directs that no timber sales shall be permitted that harm the ability of private-sector timber-growers to earn a fair return on their investments.

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Suislaw National Forest, OR

The National Forest Protection Acts would restore so-called "thrifty" second-growth forests to their original biological diversity

ACT V... Makes Government Obey the Law

- Guarantees accountability
- Protects citizen access to the courts
- Assures enforcement through loss of employment, pension, fines and imprisonment

Act V - National Forest **Government** Accountability Act

Each and every citizen of the United States shall have standing in federal court to hold fully accountable all government employees and agencies who deliberately or through willful negligence break the nation's environmental laws, and shall--should they prevail--recover all legal costs and fees. Federal employees, if found guilty, shall lose their employment and pensions and may be subject to fines and imprisoned for violations of federal laws.

When government routinely exempts itself from the law, the law must include provisions for accountability



Protesters at the spotted owl "God Squad" hearings

photo by Elizabeth Feryl

The Politics of Extinction

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

> U.S. District Judge William L. Dwyer, from his decision halting timber sales in the Northwest pending federal compliance with existing environmental laws



"If the spotted owl goes, so does the Endangered Species Act. And over the long haul, to state the matter bluntly, the survival of the act is more important than the survival of jobs."

> James J. Kilpatrick, Chicago Sun-Times

"Much of what's left of our primeval forest is about to vanish in a rampage of greed. The time has come to just say no."

Life Magazine, Earth Day 1990 Edition

"If we managed our civilization well, the world would outlive our civilization."

Marilynne Robinson, Author





Lions slaughtered in Arizona

photo courtesy of Wildlife Damage Review

"Human history becomes more and more a race between education

"Environmentalists may be hell to live with, but we make great ancestors."

Andy Kerr, Oregon Natural Resources Council

and catastrophe."

H.G. Wells



Behind their Ads

A sample ad from the \$50 million timber industry media campaign designed to conceal the stumps in your national forests.



THE TRUTH ABOUT AMERICA'S FORESTS.

Today America has over 20% *more* trees than it had just twenty years ago. And the numbers are growing daily, with trees being replenished faster than they are harvested in every region of the country.

Thanks, in part, to private landowners and America's forest products companies, who plant over 6,000,000 trees a day, reseed entire forests, and use other forest management techniques to promote natural regrowth.

We're determined to keep up with the growing demand for wood and paper products. And to make sure our forests are a continuing source of joy for every American.

Everything is OK...

"America has over 20% more trees than it had just twenty years ago."

Our concern is not for tree farm statistics; it is for the remaining 5 percent of our native forests which reside, almost exclusively, on public lands. The public, if asked, would not be eager to trade a priceless forest heritage for a clearcut

Don't Worry...

"[We] plant 6,000,000 trees a day."

Replanting doesn't guarantee survival. Without the shady canopy of mature trees and the cool, moist forest floor to sustain them, nursery seedlings often die on parched clearcuts. Many areas have been replanted three and four times

Trust Us...

"We're determined to keep up with the demand for wood products...and to make sure our forests are a continuing source of joy for every American."

National forests provide only 14 percent of the nation's timber. We export more than that each year. Limiting exports would ensure an ample

and a seedling.

A more relevant comparison would be counting the number of trees with a ten-foot or greater diameter. America has lost millions of acres of native forests in the last 20 years. They were replaced by antiseptic, even-aged, corn-row, single-species tree farms. Such plantations are biologically impoverished and do not contain the diversity of plant and animal life found in native forests.

There is no timber shortage. Public forests are cut only because they are heavily subsidized at taxpayer expense, and therefore cheaper. If, in fact, we have so many more trees, why then is the timber industry so intent on logging the last remaining shreds of America's native forests?

without success.

What survives does not have the strength of natural diversity. Four national forests in Eastern Oregon are dying from insect infestation because they were overcut for decades and replanted with a single, non-indigenous species.

Additionally, when industry claims they plant six seedlings for every tree cut, they are only counting the mature trees that they actually take to market. For each marketable tree, there are dozens of smaller trees and non-marketable species that are cut, bulldozed and burned. A thousand-year-old tree is not "replaced" by six seedlings. That's roughly equivalent to saying your grandmother can be "replaced" by six sperm cells. domestic supply. The national forests belong to all Americans. We do not need the timber industry to "manage" them for us. Forest have many values beyond commodity timber. They provide us with fresh air and clean water, healthy fisheries, wildlife habitat, and recreation. They moderate the climate and are a source of medicines.

The great forests that once blanketed this nation from the Mississippi to the Atlantic, from the Canadian border to California, are all but gone. Public lands comprise but a fraction of the timber base. If the timber industry can log sustainably, it should do so on private lands. If it can not, it should certainly not be allowed to destroy public lands.

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photo by Michael Williams

"We're determined to...make sure our forests are a continuing source of joy for every American." Quote from a timber industry ad

Satellite pictures prove U.S. Fore Study finds reforesta

"If another nation had done this to our lands, we would call it an act of war."

- Timothy Hermach Executive Director, Native Forest Council



Mount Hood National Forest, Oregon. Light areas denote clearcuts.

Congressional report uncovers Forest Service deception

"Phantom" Forests Exposed *Register Guard* Eugene, Oregon June 16, 1992

WASHINGTON--The government has overestimated reforestation and growth rates on national forests in the Northwest, resulting in exaggerated logging quotas that cannot be sustained, a congressional report said.

"The mismanagement of these forests has been devastating,"

Rep. George Miller, D-CA, said in releasing the study of 15 national forests in Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho and Montana.

"This report shows that in spite of repeated assurances by the Forest Service, the forests we've cut down are not growing back," said Miller, chairman of the House Interior Committee.

The Eugene (OR) based Willamette National Forest and the Umpqua National Forest, with headquarters in Roseburg, were among the forests faulted in the report.

A U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman defended the agency in broad terms but conceded that there were "glitches in the system."

The study prepared by committee staff shows dozens of examples of "phantom forests," where logged areas have not regrown and timber inventories have been overstated, Miller said.

The Willamette Forest has unrealistic projections about the growth of replanted trees, while some reforestation efforts have failed in the Umpqua Forest, the report said.

Also, the study found acute reforestation failures and unrealistic growth projections in the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's Medford (OR) District.

By exaggerating inventories and regeneration, the Forest Service and BLM justify cutting more timber than would be allowed under the government's sustainable-harvest policy, Miller said.

s more damaged than Brazil's claims exaggerated

"This report shows that in spite of repeated assurances by the Forest Service, the forests we've cut down are not growing back."

- Rep. George Miller, D-CA



State of Amazonas, Brazil. Light areas denote clearcuts.

"The Forest Service does not check whether new saplings are growing after they are 3 years old, they do not check forest inventories against actual onthe-ground surveys and they have not stopped cutting in forest areas that they know will not grow back," Miller said.

As a result, forest re-growth in the Northwest is only 64 percent of the volume being cut, the report says....

Miller distributed the report to members of the House Interior Committee, which is scheduled to vote on a proposal by Miller and Rep. Bruce Vento, D-MN, to ban logging across about 8 million acres [one quarter of which is] old growth forest in Oregon, Washington and California. Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-OR, and Rep. Bob Smith, R-OR, are fighting the bill.

Daniel Weiss, an aide to Miller said the report substantiates NASA photographs released last week showing that the Northwest's forests are in worse shape than Brazil's rain forests.

"Through aerial photographs

and people's analysis of on-theground surveys, we can see that in some areas the Forest Service says are reforested, there in fact are no trees growing there," he said....

A mapper for the Forest Service first raised concern publicly about inventories in February. LeRoy Lee of Santa, Idaho, said inflated government logging quotas on a national forest in Montana were based on thousands of acres of "phantom trees" that were cut years ago but still show up in Forest Service computers as mature timber....On one ranger district near the Idaho and Canadian borders, nearly three-fourths of the barren clear-cut lands are on the books as mature timber....

Other national forests surveyed were the Olympic in Washington; the Clearwater in Idaho; the Kootenai and Lolo in Montana; the Mount Hood, Rogue River and Siskiyou in Oregon; and the Klamath, Plumas, Sequoia, Sierra, and Six Rivers in California.

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WhatYou Can Do!

The question is not: How can I make a difference? But: Do I like the difference I'm making?

Join

Join the Native Forest Council. We are a national, non-profit grassroots organization providing solutions to the forest crisis that compromise neither forests nor people.

Contribute

Many people still do not know that logging is allowed on national forests. But only an informed and concerned public will be able to pressure Congress for meaningful protection of public lands. Help support the NFC's Media Campaign to Protect National Forests. The Native Forest Council is a nonprofit, tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization.

Write / Call

Write your congressional delegetion today. Ask each of them to support an end to logging of national forests and the introduction of ational Forest Protection Acts. Or call the congressional switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Other key contacts:

Kika de la Garza, D, TX-Chr. House Agriculture Committee Room: 1301 LHOB Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-2171

Robert Byrd, D, WV-Chr. Senate Appropriations Comm. Room: S-128 Capitol Washington, DC 20510 (202) 224-3471

President Bill Clinton The White House Washington, DC 20001 (202) 456-1414

George Miller, D, CA-Chr. House Natural Resources Comm. Room: 1324 LHOB Washington, DC 20515 (202) 225-2761

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Mike Espy Secretary of Agriculture 14th & Independence SW Washington, DC 20250 (202) 447-3631

About the **Native Forest** Council

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

Therefore, it is the mission of the Native Forest Council to provide visionary leadership, to ensure the integrity of native forest ecosystems, without compromising people or forests.

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Yes!

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