

A Publication of the Native Forest Council

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Forest Voice

1996
4th
Edition

What every American should know about our nation's public forestlands

Diminishing America: *Our Vanishing Forest Legacy*



Native Forest Council
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Eugene, OR 97402

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If You Think This is Brazil, Think Again!

Shortly after the catastrophic eruption of Mount St. Helens, a concerned President Carter flew across southwest Washington to view the devastation. Skimming over the crests of barren, lifeless hills, the President expressed his horror at the extent of the destruction. State officials awkwardly explained that they had not yet reached the site of the volcanic eruption. What Carter was viewing was human-caused. The President was seeing the results of clearcut logging.

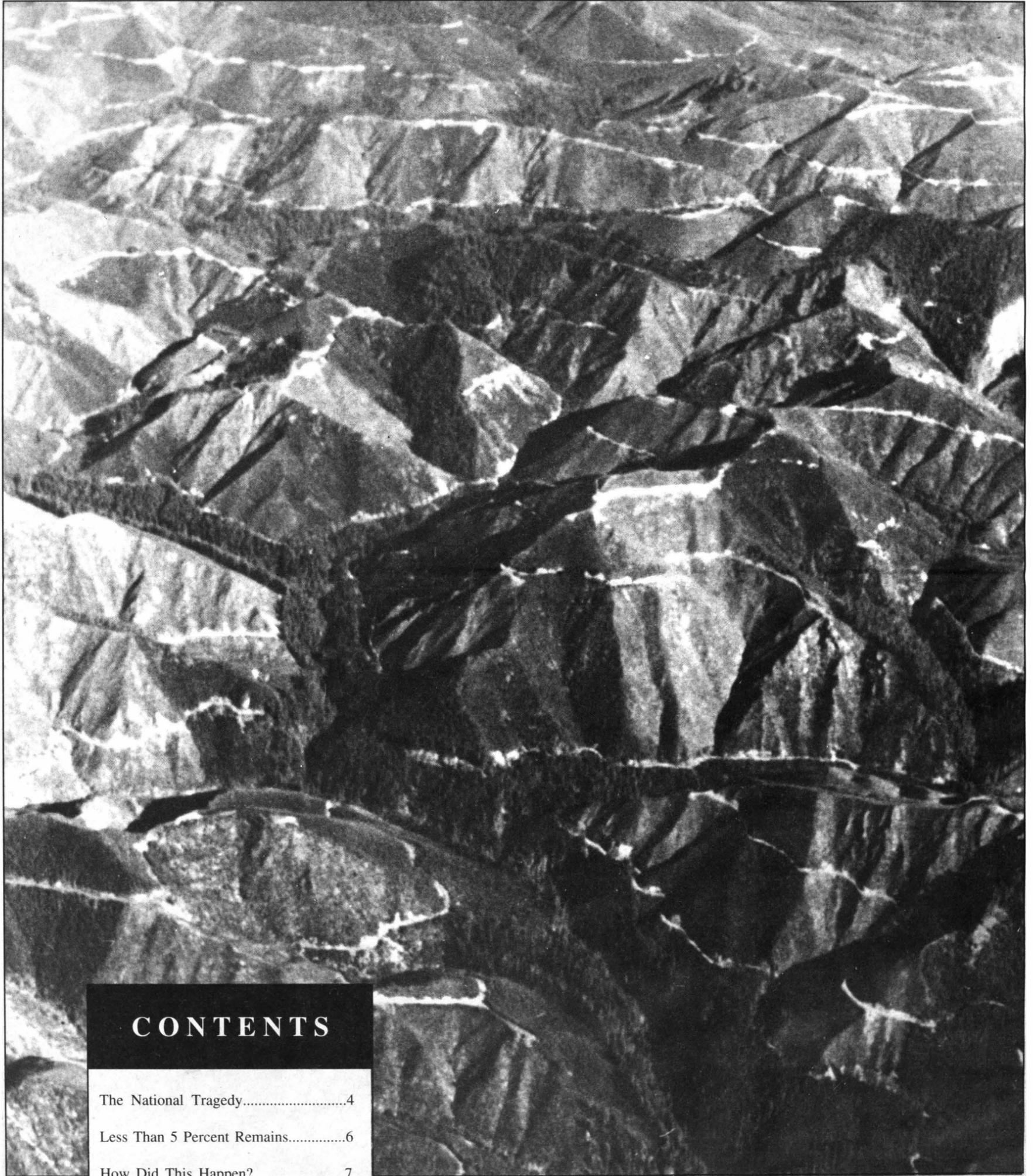


photo by Lighthawk

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*“We need everything that’s out there...
We log to infinity.
Because we need it all now!”*

- Harry Merlo
Chairman, Louisiana Pacific

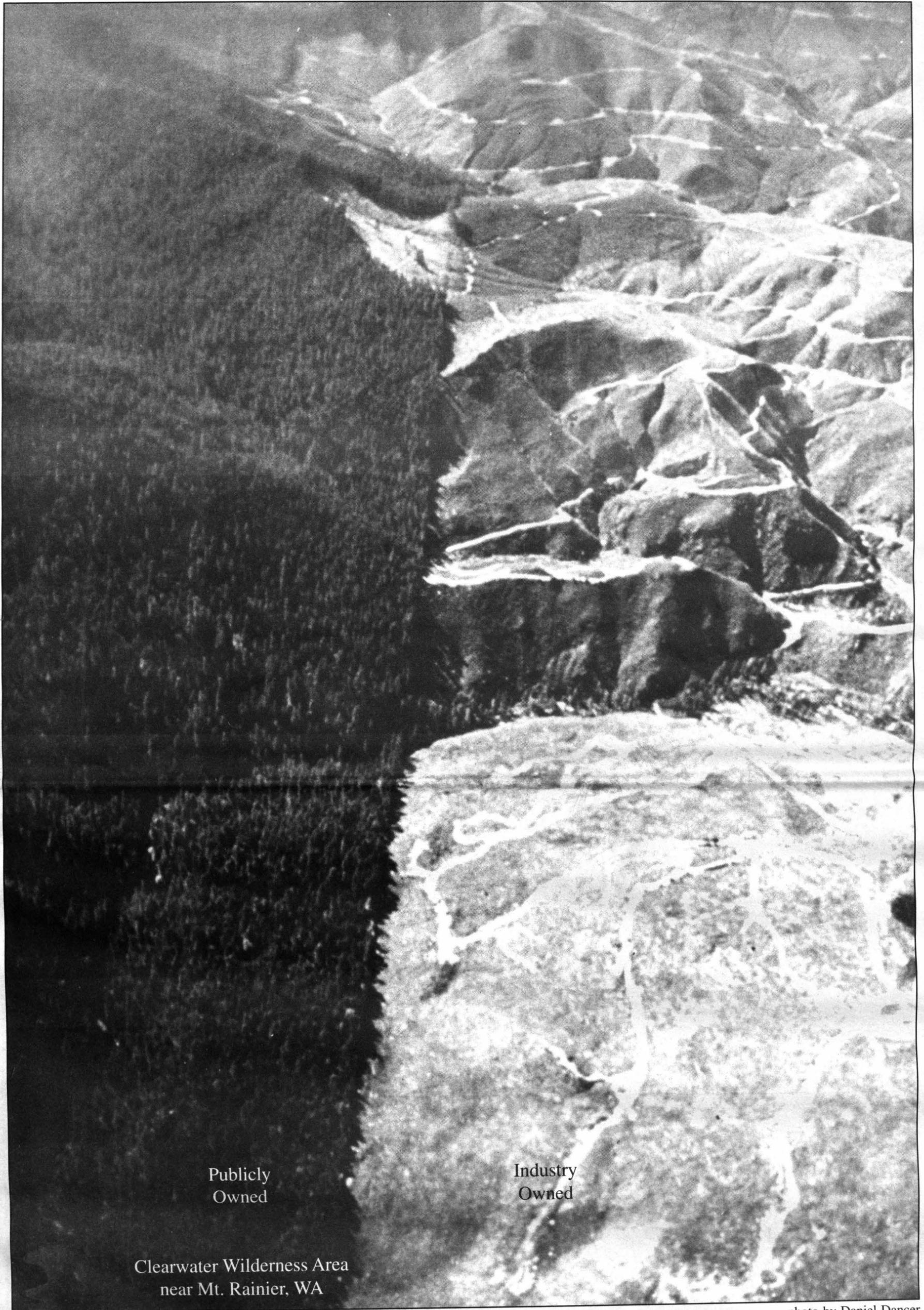


photo by Daniel Dancer

*“We’re determined to...make sure
our forests are a continuing source of joy
for every American.”*

Quote from a timber industry ad

A National Tragedy



Massive clearcuts, Olympic National Forest, WA

photo by Peter Morrison

"There is no right way to do the wrong thing."

- Jim Furnish
Supervisor of the
Siuslaw National Forest

"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
1990 Earth Day Edition



Destruction of lakes and watersheds

photo by Joel Davis

"To waste, to destroy our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed."

- Theodore Roosevelt
Message to Congress
December 3, 1907



Severe fragmentation, Willamette National Forest, OR

photo by Tryg-Sky/Lighthawk © 1990 Trygve Steen

"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



Devastation in the shadow of Mt. Rainier, WA

© 1994 Trygve Steen

Cut it down, rip it out, let our children do without!



Early snow highlights miles of clearcuts, ID

photo by George Wuerthner

“The earth belongs to the living and no man can by natural right oblige the lands he occupies, or the persons who succeed him in that occupation, to the payment of debts contracted by him. For if he could, he might during his own life eat up the use of the lands for several generations to come. Then the earth would belong to the dead and not the living generation. No generation can contract debts greater than may be paid during the course of its own existence.”

- Thomas Jefferson



Rio Grande National Forest, CO

photo by Bruce Gordon

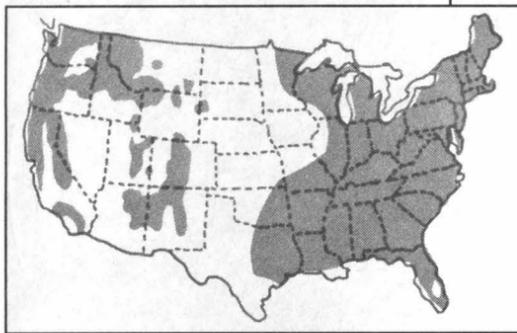
“I hope the son of a bitch who logged that is roasting in hell!”

- Franklin D. Roosevelt
After viewing the destruction on the Olympic Peninsula, 1937

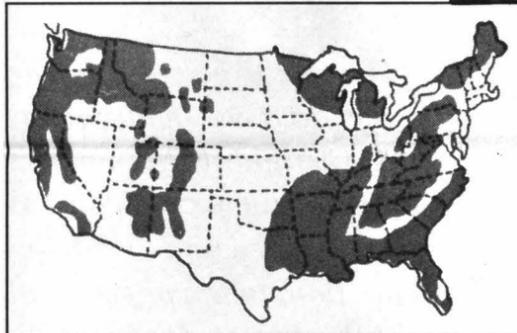
Less Than 5% Remains!

*"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."*

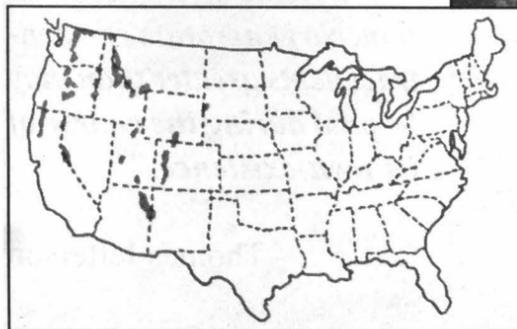
Thomas Lovejoy,
Smithsonian Institute



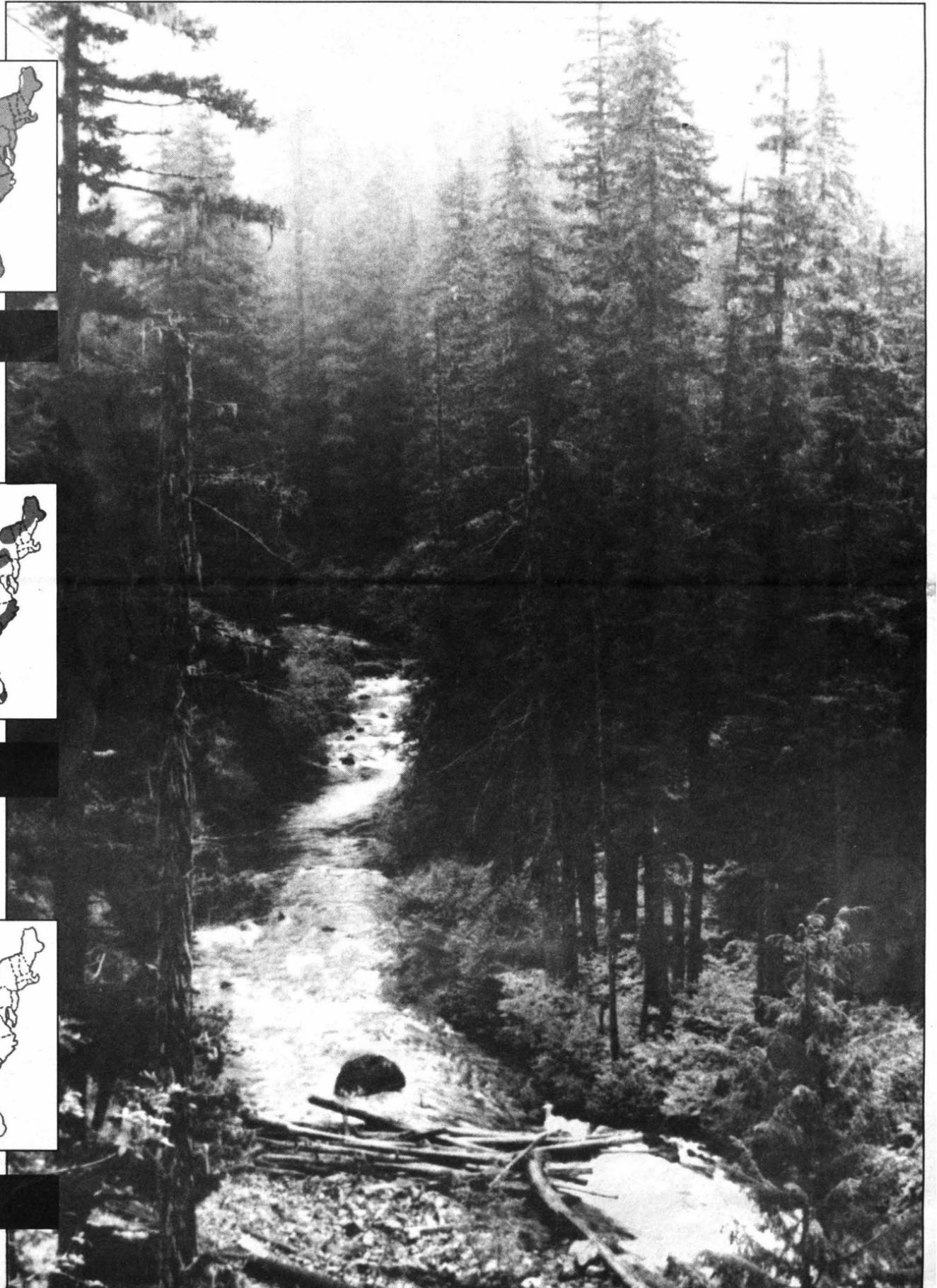
Native Forests 1620



Native Forests 1850



Native Forests 1996



Native Forest

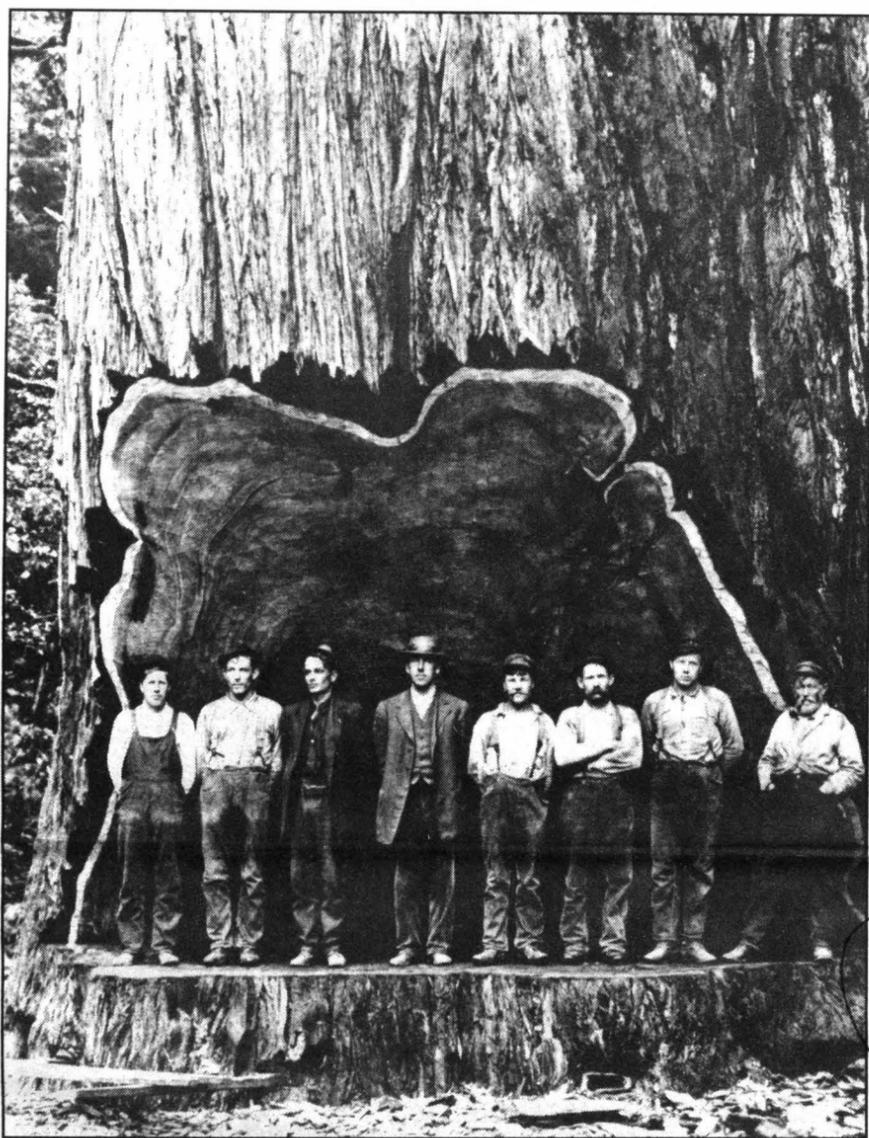
*"For not only are ecosystems more complex than we think;
they are more complex than we can think."*

Jack Ward Thomas
Chief, United States Forest Service

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 access to taxpayer-subsidized public timber. When environmental laws are broken and the federal timber program is successfully challenged in court, Congress responds by passing "riders" exempt from existing laws and legal challenge, which mandate unsustainable and illegal logging.



Heritage Lost

Hammond Lumber Co., Georgia Pacific

Chronicling The Politics of Plunder

A Recent Chronology

1976: Oregon Senator Mark Hatfield, a co-sponsor of the National Forest Management Act, inserts language in the law allowing the Forest Service to clearcut public lands and to exceed sustainable timber harvest levels.

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

1983: Crowell doubles the cut, ordering national forests supervisors to redraft their management plans after seeing that large acreages were to be removed from timber production to comply with environmental laws.

1985: Oregon Rep. Les AuCoin, from his position on the Appropriations Committee, directs the Forest Service to increase Northwest timber sales by 900 million board feet. AuCoin calls for an increase of one billion more in 1987; another 300 million in 1988, and 200 million more in 1989. He is a major recipient of timber PAC money. After leaving Congress, AuCoin becomes a timber industry lobbyist.

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

Their infamous "318 rider" mandates 10 billion board feet of timber be cut in 1989-1990, exempt from environmental laws and judicial review.

1990: After 15 years of delays, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finally lists the Northern Spotted Owl as threatened. The owl is an indicator species for the overall decline of the forests. While the agency resisted, cut levels rose nearly every year exacerbating the crisis.

Environmentalists file suit claiming the government has violated the law by logging spotted owl habitat without a valid owl management plan.

1991: Judge William Dwyer rules that the evidence reveals: "...a deliberate and systematic refusal by the Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service to comply with the laws protecting wildlife." Further, the judge observes, the two agencies committed "a remarkable series of violations of the environmental laws."

Dwyer issues a temporary injunction on timber sales in spotted owl habitat on 17 national forests in Washington, Oregon, and Northern California.

Between 1991 and 1994, while the injunction is in place, the timber lobby "invests" \$2.3 million in Congress to grease the way for legislative relief from reduced cut levels mandated by law.

Key western senators like Packwood, Hatfield, and Gorton, receive over \$100,000 each.

1993: President Clinton convenes the Forest Summit in Portland, OR., and promises to present his administration's forest management plan within 60 days. Only the more moderate environmentalists are invited to testify.

1994: The plan adopted by the Clinton administration is called "Option 9." It allows far more logging than was recommended by most scientists, but the timber industry is still not satisfied.

The Native Forest Council (NFC) files suit to stop Option 9 which is written so loosely that even old-growth reserves and riparian zones are not off-limits to logging.

Judge Dwyer rules that the plan is barely legal. The NFC appeals.

1995: The money circulated in Congress by the timber industry begins to pay dividends. The industry's indebted politicians introduce a "salvage rider" to a rescissions bill which effectively allows unlimited logging of public forests exempt from environmental laws and legal challenge.

The wording of the rider allows the taking not only of burned or diseased trees but also trees "imminently susceptible to fire or insect attack," including "the removal of associated trees," which means anything that is standing.

Also under attack is the Endangered Species Act. After receiving \$34,000 from a coalition of timber, mining, ranching, and utility interests most critical of the act, Senator Slade Gorton R-WA invited industry lawyers to re-write the bill.

Yesterday's Warnings

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

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

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 \$3 billion annually preparing timber sales, building and maintaining logging roads, burning slash from logging operations, and trying to control erosion, insects and fire. Timber revenues returned to the Treasury total but a fraction of the expenses and salaries required to maintain a public timber program. As Perri Knize, writing in *The Atlantic Monthly* observed: "The Forest Service timber program has lost \$5.6 billion over the past decade. [1980s] Most of the 122 national forests have never earned a dime on timber." The General Accounting Office reported that between 1992-1994, the Forest Service lost an additional \$1 billion. Shamefully, taxpayers are forced to subsidize timber corporations and pay for the destruction of their own forests.

Beyond financial losses, the Forest Service fails to assign value--monetary or ecological--to standing forests. Ancient forests are consid-

ered "decadent" and are not valued for oxygen production, water storage and filtration, climate moderation, wildlife habitat, or recreation. 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 under \$2.00 each!*

No private timber grower could hope to compete with such largess. Thus, the Forest Service penalizes private landowners, virtually giving away resources that take centuries of investment to replace.

Vastly undervalued, and subsidized by taxpayer dollars, the national forests are enormously attractive to industry. It pays no-taxes on the use of public lands, and enjoys all of the benefits of ownership with none of the responsibilities. Industry, therefore, lobbies unremittingly to be allowed to continue this economic and ecological folly.

The power of the timber industry lobby is the second reason why public-land logging continues.



photo and caption by Elizabeth Feryl

Congress receives millions from the timber industry

It would be difficult to underestimate the impact of corporate PAC (Political Action Committee) money on the voting behavior of Congress. Books by Philip Stern, *The Best Congress Money Can Buy*, and *Who Will Tell the People*, by William Greider, document the dominion of money

over politics. Stern and Greider confirm that with few exceptions, our representatives vote the way they are paid to vote by their corporate clients. Stern tracks voting records and shows that the likelihood of a favorable vote on legislation of financial benefit to a specific industry measurably

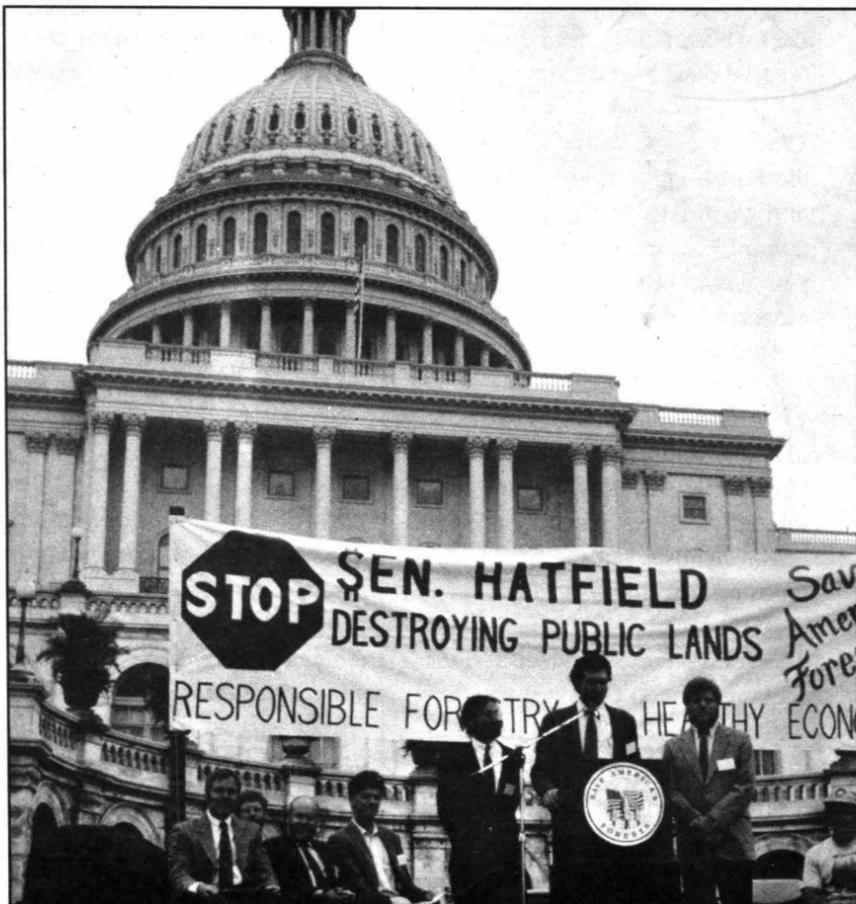
increases with the amount of money received by our elected representatives. When the contribution is high enough, the vote is all but guaranteed.

Between 1991 and 1994 alone, the timber industry slipped \$2.3 million under Congressional doors. Western delegations, and members of key natural resources committees with influence over forest policy, benefited most. In return, they unflinchingly voted the timber industry line. The "people's" representatives have allowed timber industry lobbyists and lawyers to write pro-logging legislation, and forced it into law in the form of cowardly riders (see *the Salvage Logging Scam*, pg 12) in order to avoid public hearings and debate. Since these riders are designed solely to circumvent existing forest management statutes, they are exempted by Congress from all federal laws. Further, such riders undermine the separation of powers doctrine by prohibiting judicial review and citizen court challenge.

America's public lands are being destroyed and irreplaceable forests are being managed for the short-term profit of large corporations. Our heritage, and the benefits of millennia of evolution, is being cut in a rampage of greed, sold out by the very people entrusted with its care.

Forest Facts

- *The U.S. Forest Service is the biggest socialized road-building agency on earth.*
- *There are nearly 400,000 miles of logging roads fragmenting our national forests--over ten times the mileage of the nation's entire interstate highway system--paid for by our tax dollars.*
- *Exports and automation are the two major causes of job loss in the timber industry. In Oregon, while the cut level rose by 18 percent, timber employment fell by 20 percent.*
- *Over 90 percent of all Forest Service timber sales don't even cover the direct cost of preparing the sale, let alone the true replacement cost of the destroyed forest.*



Forest activists protest outside, while timber lobbyists spread money inside.

The Insanity of Exports

If timber exports were restricted, logging of national forests could be stopped without impact to the domestic timber supply.



Where have all the forests gone? Log exports, Longview, WA

photo by Elizabeth Feryl

Forest Facts

- *Domestic mills close while the export docks groan under the weight of timber.*
- *We export more timber each year than is cut from all our national forests.*
- *Ten billion board feet are annually exported from just six western states: AK, WA, OR, ID, MT, and CA.*

Japan feasting on American forests

Japan and other foreign nations are feasting on America's forests. Like a third-world resource colony, we are exporting our forests and our jobs for the benefit of others.

During the last decade, 45 percent of all the trees cut in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and California were 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, exporting logs has cost Americans 60,000 jobs.

While getting one million board feet of timber to the export docks employs six people domestically, Japan reports employing up to 80 people making finished goods from the same raw materials. Those finished goods frequently return to the U.S. as imports, further depressing domestic jobs and manufacturing.

Ironically, it is illegal to export oil from the U.S. because oil is deemed too precious and scarce a resource. But the last remaining five percent of our native forests are being ground to pulp, chipped, slabbed or sliced and shipped out of the country.

In 1990, under great pressure from the environmental community, Congress finally enacted a "ban" on exports of raw logs cut from public lands. But like many such hollow laws, it is full of loopholes and exceptions creating the pre-

tense of regulation while allowing the continued export of public timber with a minimum of inconvenience. A few cuts of the saw turns a banned raw log into a "minimally processed" log fully eligible for export. Additionally, illegal substitution of private second-growth timber for irreplaceable public old-growth is common.

International trade agreements like NAFTA and GATT prevent a nation from protecting its resources exclusively for domestic use. But national forests could be set aside if they are protected from all logging--domestic and foreign. The impact on the domestic timber supply would be negligible.

The bulk of America's timberlands, 74 percent, are in private ownership. They are the most productive lands, typically low elevation with deep soils and long growing seasons. Private lands provide 86 percent of the nation's wood. They could easily supply all of the nation's timber needs without cutting a single tree from our national forests provided we stop the insane practice of exporting our forest heritage.

No nation ever secured its future or balanced its budget by exporting its natural resources. We are depleting our nation's natural wealth and mistakenly calling it income. The choice is simple: We can have jobs and forests, or we can continue exporting timber and lose both.



No timber shortage on the export dock

photo by Joel Davis



Mountains of wood chips loaded for export

photo by Bill Ballenberg

A minimum of 60,000 jobs have been lost to timber exports.

Satellite photos prove U.S. forests more damaged than Brazil's

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

- Timothy Hermach, Executive Director, Native Forest Council

Brazil



State of Amazonas, Brazil. Light areas denote clearcuts.

photo courtesy of NASA/Goddard Spaceflight Center

Congressional report uncovers Forest Service deception

Study finds reforestation claims exaggerated: Phantom forests exposed
Register Guard
Eugene, Oregon

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 forests we've cut down are not growing back."

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 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 sustain-

***“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



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

photo courtesy of NASA/Goddard Spaceflight Center

able harvest policy, Miller said.

“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 on-the-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.

Daniel Weiss, an aide to Miller said the report substantiates

***Forest re-growth
in the Northwest
is only 64 percent
of the volume
being cut,
the report says.***

NASA photographs showing that the Northwest’s forests are in worse shape than Brazil’s rain forests.

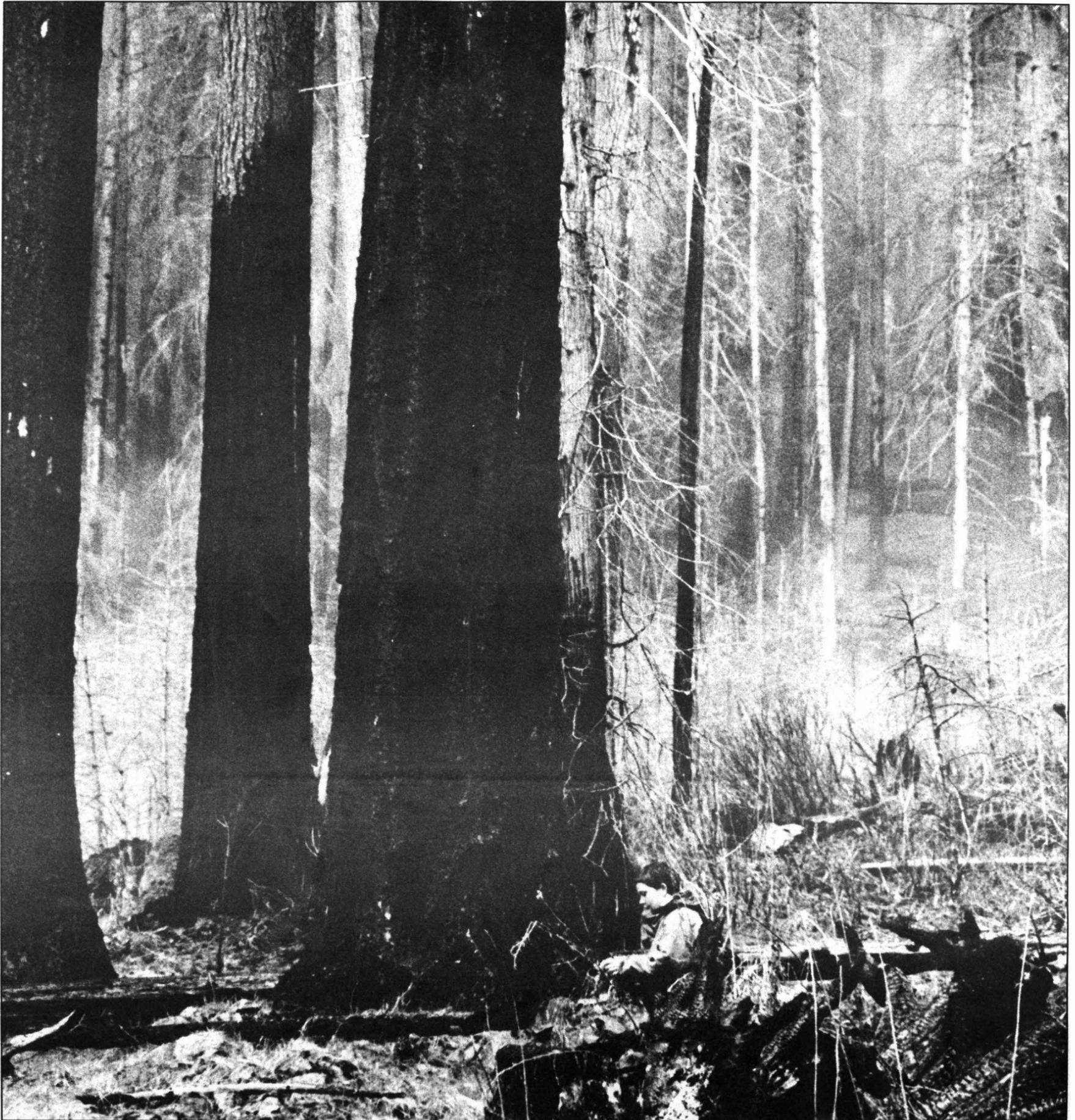
“Through aerial photographs and people’s analysis of on-the-ground surveys, we can see that in some areas the Forest Service says are reforested, there in fact are no trees growing there,” he said.

A mapper for the Forest Service first raised concern publicly about inventories. 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 clearcut 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.

The Salvage Logging Scam



Large trees often survive fire and are the target of "salvage" operations.

photo by Michael Omogrosso

"Salvage" is just the latest in a long line of timber industry and Forest Service euphemisms for logging. While the terminology changes, (*Multiple Use, Sustained Yield, New Perspectives, New Forestry, Retention Cuts, Visual Corridor Enhancement, Regeneration Harvest, Meadow Restoration, Ecosystem Management, Forest Health*) the on-the-ground results are the same: more logging, more clearcuts, more destruction of public forests, watersheds, and the wildlife they shelter.

Under salvage provisions, no matter what the condition of the forest, the solution is always the same: log it. Healthy old growth? The Forest Service considers it "decadent" and wants to salvage it lest it fall down on its own a few centuries from now. Insects? If trees

are visited by insects the Forest Service seeks to protect them from infestation by cutting them down. Prime targets are perfectly healthy trees which may be "in danger" of future infestation. If trees are actually sick or dying, they are salvaged under the pretext of "forest health." Once dead, they are cut to prevent fires. Even arson is rewarded with salvage sales. The blight caused by decades of excessive logging is unfailingly treated with more logging.

All of this ignores the fact that fire, insects, and systemic decay are natural occurrences, necessary to the health and regeneration of the ecosystem. Industrial logging disrupts these natural functions.

Salvage is particularly attractive to both the timber industry and the

Forest Service because it typically does not count against the Allowable Sales Quantity identified in the government's forest plans which set the amount of timber sold. There are no limits to salvage logging, and provisions are written so broadly as to include perfectly healthy trees. An editorial in the **San Francisco Chronicle** notes: "The...definition of 'salvage' timber would include all 'associated trees,' 'insect-infected trees' and 'trees imminently susceptible to fire or insect attack' --in other words, anything that can be cut." Included in that definition are the last California redwoods.

Such vagaries are legally indefensible and in violation of existing laws, so the timber industry has successfully lobbied Congress to exempt salvage from legal challenge and environmental law.

Further, the Forest Service is allowed to keep a greater portion of salvage timber revenues for its own use and is therefore invested in promoting salvage sales.

A Forest Service memo reveals that the agency knows full-well that salvage is a scam, and even instructs its timber planners how to use it. "If even one tree can be called salvage," the memo says, "call the entire sale a salvage sale. It's a political thing."

Thus, the timber industry, its captive politicians and the Forest Service profit. The American people and future generations, who are the rightful owners of the national forests, lose. And each day we become a little bit more impoverished as the diversity of life gradually disappears.

It doesn't take a cognitive giant to see that if this logging were truly "needed to improve forest health" there would be no need to exempt it from environmental laws.

- Derrick Jensen

"Salvage" rider, which allows virtually unlimited logging exempt from environmental laws and legal challenge, is signed into law.

When President Clinton signed a rescissions bill that included a so-called "salvage" rider, he not only broke his administration's promise to oppose all such riders, but doomed America's forests to years of ruthless exploitation.

Riders are attachments to larger bills that often have nothing to do with the primary legislation. They require no public hearings or debate, and thus offer a devious way to ram through laws that could otherwise not stand the light of public scrutiny.

This rider was largely written by timber industry lawyers and lobbyists, and was designed to bypass forest management, environmental, and species protection laws. The goal was logging without laws. At risk, the last five percent of the public's native forests, and a number of threatened and endangered species that will no longer enjoy the full protection of law.

A memo from the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior, clearly shows congressional determination to get the cut out even at the cost of extinction.

The memo purports to correct some "vital misunderstandings" involving the salvage rider. The Committee was concerned that land management agencies believed the rider would allow them to obey the law by "bar[ring] the release of any timber sale unit that has previously been determined to be 'occupied' by a marbled murrelet," a bird listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

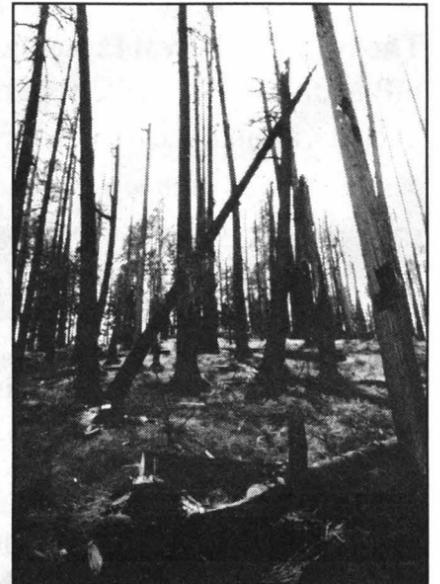
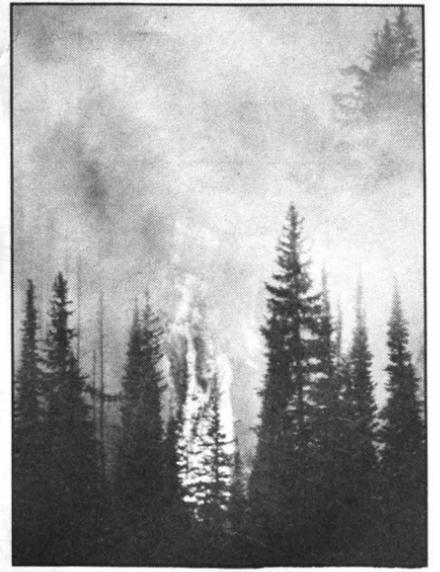
"This interpretation of the law," the memo said, "directly contradicts the agreement reached between Congress and the Administration; imposes language which we explicitly rejected, and is flatly illegal!"

The memo goes on to say that "we were thoroughly informed and understand that the expert marbled murrelet biologists define occupancy of an area as much broader than nesting." In spite of this understanding, however, the memo directs the agencies to release the sales.

The Committee's intent to log native and old growth forests was also clear. In the event that a timber sale does not qualify for release, the memo instructs the release of "an equal volume of timber, of a like kind and value." In the case of the murrelet, it means old growth since that is the bird's preferred habitat.

The Congress was quick to add that these substitute sales, like other sales prepared under the salvage rider, "do not require compliance with environmental laws or other federal statutes."

Likewise, Congress will not allow the listing of the coho salmon as threatened to slow the logging juggernaut. "While the [listing] agencies may conduct such conferences under the ESA as they



determine appropriate, the agencies may not in any way delay the award, release or completion of the [timber] sales."

The **USA Today** called the salvage rider a "sell out." The **Des Moines Register** called it a "sneak attack." But beyond concern for the future of our public forests, Americans can rightly share grave apprehension for a Congress willing to deceive the people, suspend federal laws, and block citizen access to the courts, in order to reward their corporate clients.



"Light it and log it." Arson is a billion-dollar business on America's national forests. Current Forest Service policy rewards arson with timber salvage sales.

The Solution...Zero Cut!

Protecting taxpayers, jobs,
and America's forest heritage

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.

Act I - National Forest Protection Act

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

Act IV - National Forest Restoration Act

- Restores native biodiversity to tree farms
- Bans clearcutting and slash burning
- Bans the use of pesticides and herbicides
- Mandates no loss of biological diversity on public lands

Act II - Domestic Processing Act

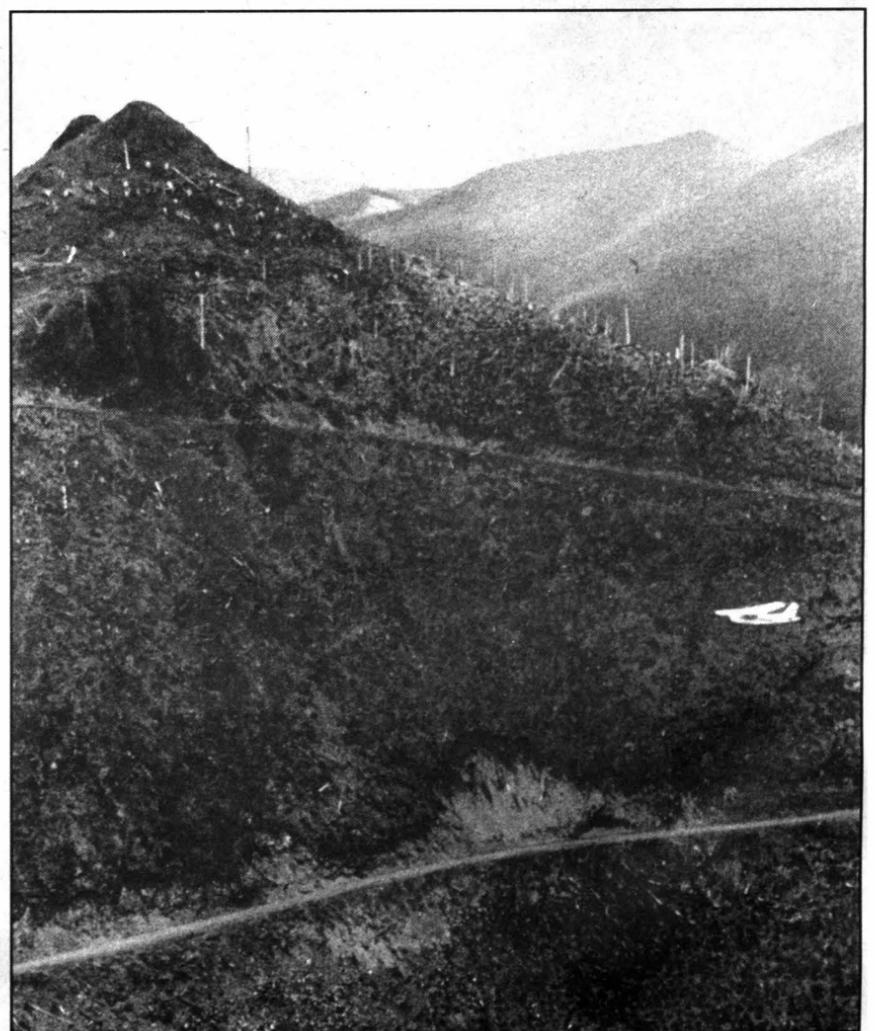
- Protects American Jobs
- Assures domestic timber supply
- Taxes exports

Act V - Government Accountability Act

- Protects citizen's access to the courts
- Assures enforcement of laws through loss of employment, pension, fines, and imprisonment

Act III - Economic Recovery Act

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



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What Can I Do?

*The question is not: What can I do to make a difference?
But, do I like the difference I'm making?*

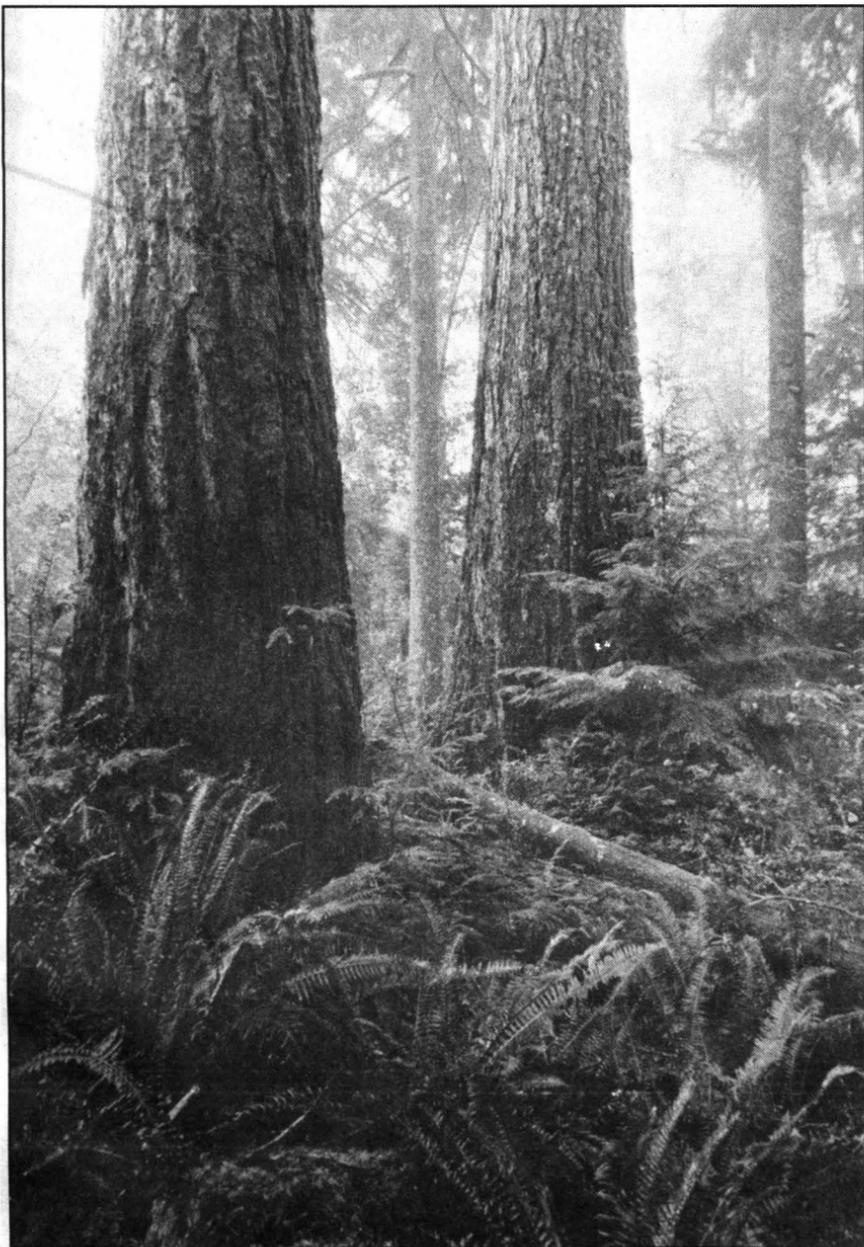


photo by Jim Hosmer

*Ninety-five percent of our native forests are gone,
and the timber industry calls us "radical" for wanting
to save the last 5 percent.*

*Those who would destroy our national forests
are counting on your silence.*

The Choice Is Yours



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The Native Forest Council
Uncompromising defense of public forests

America's national forests belong to the entire nation; to present and future generations. They provide us with many enduring and essential values beyond wood and paper. They moderate the climate, produce oxygen and clean water, are the source of medicines, prevent flooding, support healthy fisheries, and contribute to the quality of our lives.

They are being cut in a rampage of timber industry greed--an industry that first over-cut private lands, and now demands unfettered access to public forests. It is an industry that cares little for our land or our workers, exporting American jobs and nearly half of all the trees cut in the nation while claiming a "timber shortage." Nor does it appear to care for future generations, being more than willing to cut down the last 5 percent of our native forests, knowing full well they are not renewable in economic time-frames.

Through its financial stranglehold on western congressional delegations, the timber industry continues to assert its outrageous sense of entitlement to destroy public forests at taxpayer expense. But with only 5 percent left, the time to stop compromising is now. **Zero Cut is the only scientifically and economically justifiable policy on public lands.** Once cut, our magnificent native forests--countless centuries in the making--will vanish forever from the earth.

Concerned and responsible citizens must proclaim their outrage and their will, or those with no vision beyond their own financial aggrandizement, will continue to diminish our nation.

If you want to like the difference you're making...

Join

Join the Native Forest Council. Your membership will support the only national grassroots organization committed to the single purpose of protecting our nation's remaining native forests. Your support will advance our national education and media campaign, alerting Americans to the causes and solutions of the forest crisis.

Participate

Volunteer to work for environmental causes. Excessive comfort is the enemy of achievement. If you're uncomfortable with the ongoing assault on the environment and the laws designed to protect it, get involved. A wide range of personal and professional skills are urgently needed: public outreach, media, education, lobbying, writing, editing, organizing, fund raising, public speaking, computer literacy, office management. Choose a cause and reclaim your passion!

Contribute

Funding is necessary to bring the forest issue before the American public. The multi-national corporations aligned against us have immense resources. They are able to purchase congressional influence and employ slick PR firms to "spin" the destruction of the last ancient forests as necessary and beneficial. But it is neither and stumps don't lie. Help us bring the proof before the people. The Native Forest Council is a non-profit, tax deductible 501(c)(3) organization.

Endorse

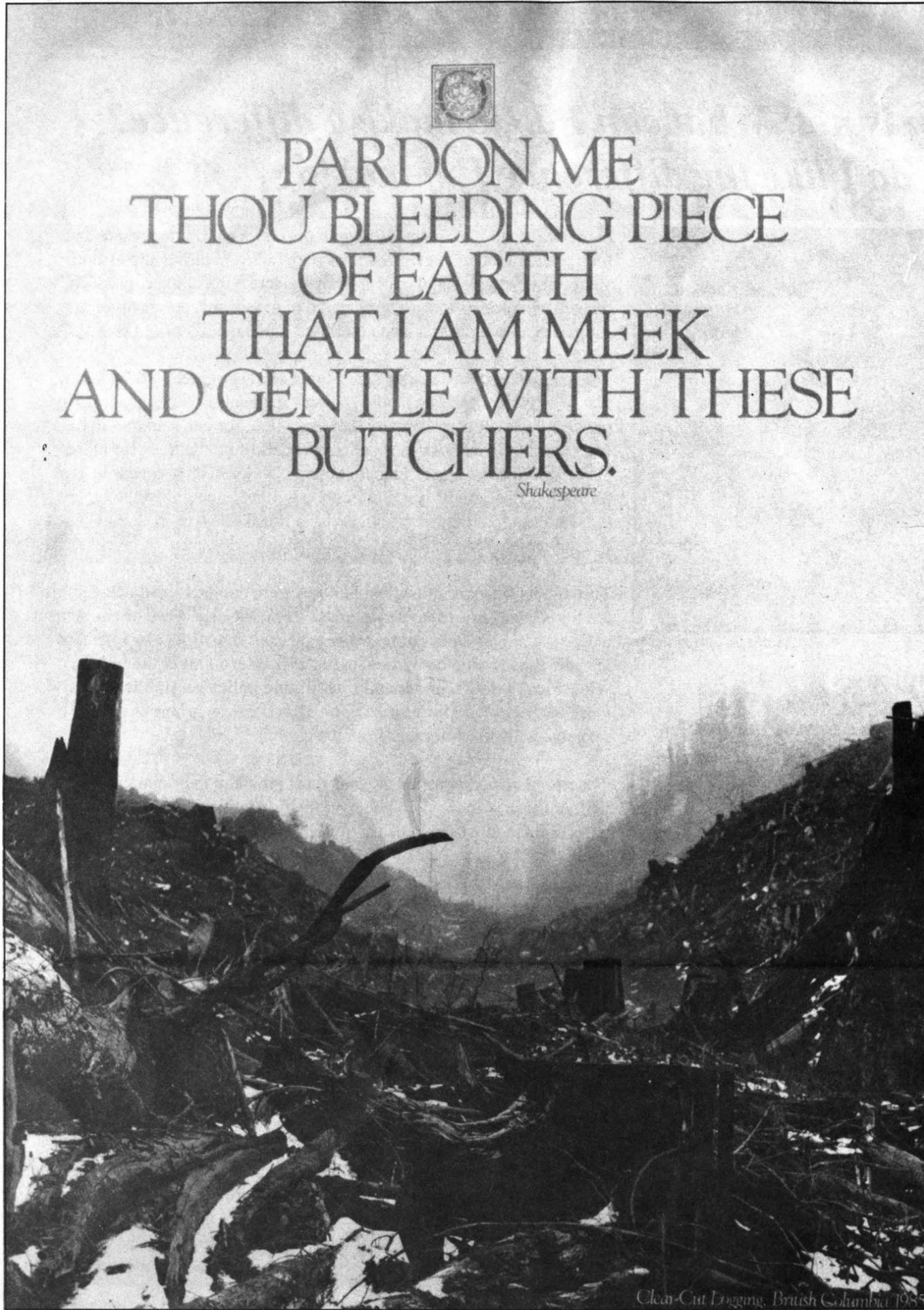
Have your organization, professional association, church, university group, or civic club, endorse Zero Cut and the National Forest Protection Acts. Send a letter of support on your organization's stationery to the Native Forest Council, P.O. Box 2190, Eugene, OR 97402.

Write

Write your congressional delegation today. Ask each of them to support an end to logging of public lands.

Call

Call the Congressional switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Ask for your representatives and speak your mind on the issues.



About the Native Forest Council

The Native Forest Council is a non-profit, tax-deductible organization founded by a group of business and professional people alarmed by the willful destruction of our national forests. We believe 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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An Invitation to Join Native Forest Council

Back the winning strategy to preserve America's forests

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