

10 Good Reasons to End Logging on Public Lands

- 1. Public Lands Belong to the People:** Nearly 200 million acres of public forestland belong to all Americans and to future generations. Only 4% of America's original forest cover remains, almost entirely on public land. Our natural heritage should not be liquidated for the profit of private corporations.
- 2. Public Support:** Americans are strongly in favor of environmental protection. A nationwide poll conducted in 1998 concluded that 69% of Americans now oppose allowing timber companies to log our national forests.
- 3. Native Forest and Habitat Protection:** Forests play an important role in creating soil and minimizing erosion, lessening flood and drought potential, and maintaining clean air. National forests, while only 28% of America's timber land, contain over half of the nation's remaining wildlife habitat.
- 4. Direct Subsidies and Indirect Costs:** The federal logging program operates at an increasing loss each year. In 1997, U.S. taxpayers lost \$1.2 billion logging their forests (source: John Muir Project, verified by Congressional Research Service.) Taxpayers, not industry, pay for administering the timber sale program, constructing logging roads, replanting trees, and restoring degraded habitat. The costs of deforestation to biodiversity, clean water and air, fisheries, tourism, and our spiritual well-being are incalculable.
- 5. Timber Supply:** Production of timber volume from the National Forests accounts for less than 5% of the total volume of timber produced in the United States (U.S. Forest Service).
- 6. Waste:** Half of the trees in this country are wasted through inefficiency and lack of recycling. Eliminating this waste would save more than three times the amount cut on public forests. Despite the existence of alternative fibers for pulp, such as hemp and kenaf, about half the trees cut each year are turned into paper products. 50% of the landfill waste in America is wood and paper fiber.
- 7. Automation and Exports:** Between 1979 and 1988, while logging increased, more than 26,000 timber jobs disappeared due to automation. In the Southeast, new chip mills being built can consume 200 square miles of forests in 3-5 years, while employing as few as 4-12 workers per shift. In the Northwest, nearly half of all timber cut is exported raw or minimally processed. Every million board feet of lumber shipped overseas takes 7 direct jobs and 14 indirect jobs with it.
- 8. Jobs:** The billions of dollars currently spent subsidizing the logging of public lands could instead employ tens of thousands of people to restore forests rather than destroy them. In 1996, the Forest Service issued a report predicting that by year 2000, recreation, hunting and fishing on National Forests will contribute 38 times more to the national economy than the National Forest logging program and 31 times as many jobs.
- 9. Timber Subsidies:** The U.S. government's dumping of cheap, subsidized public timber artificially lowers wood prices and devalues private timberland. Ending logging of public forests will increase the value of private forests. Woodlot owners would receive a higher price for their timber, providing an incentive for sustainable management.
- 10. Lawlessness:** In 1991, Federal Judge William Dwyer accused the federal land agencies of a "systematic and deliberate refusal" to comply with environmental laws. If the Forest Service cannot obey existing laws, why should we expect them to comply with "better logging" laws? The laws must be changed to stop the logging!

For more information contact:

Allegheny Defense Project
P.O. Box 245
Clarion, PA 16214
(814) 223-4996
info@alleghenydefense.org

National Forest Protection Alliance
P.O. Box 8264
Missoula, MT 59807
(406) 542-7343
nfpa@wildrockies.org