

Executive Summary

This Land is Your Land:

The Bush Administration's Assault on America's National Forest Legacy

New policies promoted by the Bush administration over the last three years seriously threaten our nation's forest legacy. Many of these policies have been advanced under the administration's broad reaching "Healthy Forests Initiative," which claims to make forests healthy by logging them. The Bush administration is also attempting to significantly weaken other rules and regulations governing forest management such as the National Forest Management Act and the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. These actions limit opportunities for public participation in decisions affecting public lands, undermine water quality and fish and wildlife protections, and give logging companies increased opportunities to exploit public forests. **In particular, the Bush administration's policies:**

- Eliminate Protections for Roadless Areas granted by the popular Roadless Area Conservation Rule.
- Strip Wildlife & Forest Protections through a radical rewrite of the regulations implementing the National Forest Management Act.
- Triple Logging in the Sierra Nevada by reopening and weakening the Sierra Nevada Framework, a widely supported management plan that called for more environmentally sound management for 11.5 million acres on eleven National Forests in the Sierra Nevada.
- Increase Logging in the Pacific Northwest by weakening two provisions of the Northwest Forest Plan, which regulates the management of public forests in western Oregon and Washington and Northern California.
- Weaken Endangered Species Act Compliance by eliminating Endangered Species Act "consultation" requirements for fire related projects.
- Create New Loopholes for Logging by exempting many timber sales, fuels reduction, road building and salvage logging from environmental review and citizen involvement.

"This Land is Your Land," documents regional examples of damaging proposals moving forward under these new policies, from Alaska to Virginia, on lands administered by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). **Brief summaries of the projects include:**

- The **Martin Run Timber Sale in Pennsylvania** includes 1,000 acres of clearcutting, 1,200 of toxic herbicide spraying, and nine miles of road construction in beautiful old growth and proposed wilderness in the heart of the **Allegheny National Forest**.
- The **Bark Camp Timber Sale in Virginia** on the **Jefferson National Forest**, threatens to renew logging in an area prone to landslides that has already cost one local resident his life, and in the popular High Knob tower and Bark Camp Lake area that attracts over 40,000 visitors a year.
- The **Gator Timber Sale in Florida** on the **Osceola National Forest** would log in an inventoried roadless area that contains rare longleaf pines and is likely to negatively affect the Florida black bear.

- The **Northwest Howell Timber Sale** in **Wisconsin** would log nearly 12 square miles of forest that is critical habitat for rare, sensitive, and endangered species, and the **Cayuga Timber Sale** would log 8.5 square miles in an area heavily impacted by 45 other timber sales on the **Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest**.
- The **Big Grass Timber Sale** will clearcut forests in a narrow corridor between two areas of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and the **Tomahawk Timber Sale** clearcuts along the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness edge on **Minnesota's Superior National Forest**.
- The **Moorhead Timber Sale** on the **Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky** would log 4,700 acres damaging the water supply for over 80,000 Kentuckians, negatively impacting tourism and harming breeding bald eagle habitat.
- The **South Fork Clearwater Timber Sales** in **Idaho's Nez Perce National Forest** would log over 17 square miles of forest and construct 54 miles of new logging roads in landslide prone areas significantly damaging wildlife habitat and water quality in an area that is part of the ancestral home of the Nez Perce Tribe.
- The **Missionary Ridge Timber Sale** on the **San Juan National Forest in Colorado**, billed as a fire prevention project, plans to clearcut 4.5 square miles of forest impacting tourism, water quality and wildlife habitat, despite admissions in federal court by the government that the project will do little to reduce the threat of future fires.
- The **East Rim Timber Sale** on the **Kaibab National Forest in Arizona**, billed a community protection project, plans to log old growth forests on the rim of the Grand Canyon, 48 miles from the nearest community.
- The **Valle Vidal Coalbed Methane Development Project** in **New Mexico** on the **Carson National Forest** would mar the scenic beauty of the area while causing severe erosion, stream sedimentation and water pollution.
- The **Gravina Island Timber Sale** on the **Tongass National Forest in Alaska**, will log in an inventoried roadless area and build 22 miles of subsidized logging roads impacting 45 miles of prime salmon and trout streams.
- The **Solo Timber Sale** in **Oregon** plans to clearcut 167 acres of Ancient Forest including trees over 250 years old in an area that provides clean drinking water for 185,000 Oregonians on **Mount Hood National Forest**.
- The **Meteor Timber Sale** in **California** plans to log on 800 acres of ancient forests that are critical habitat to the Northern Spotted Owl and other threatened species on the **Klamath National Forest**.
- The **Meadow Valley Timber Sale** on the **Plumas National Forest** in **California's** Sierra Nevada Range will log 10 square miles adjacent to the Bucks Lake Wilderness and within tributaries to the Wild and Scenic Feather River.

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