



"I started out as a boy bent over a spring. Then I climbed mountains. I became a conservationist. Then I saw what we all were doing, and I wanted to stop us from doing worse. Now I want to restore what once was, not for an old man's memories, but for a baby's smile."

David R. Brower

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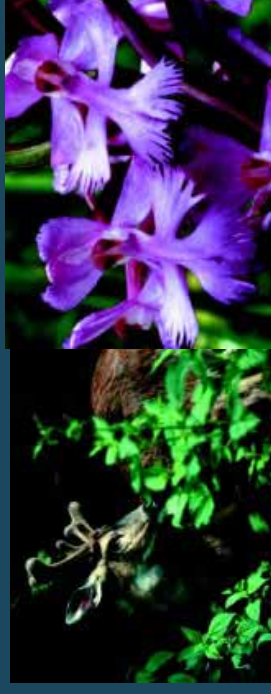
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America's 10 Most Endangered National Forests REPORT



The National Forest Protection Alliance



Photo by Tom Turner

David Brower

The Archdruid and our National Forests

If there was one clearcut the U.S. Forest Service could take back, it would probably be one it authorized in the Tahoe National Forest in 1922 that dried up a small spring and forever changed the course of American environmental history. In the summer of 1921, nine-year old David Brower was exploring the forest near his family's campsite and discovered a spring. "I was quite pleased to find clear water bubbling from dirt," he recalled in his 1995 memoir, *Let the Mountains Talk, Let the Rivers Run*. Returning the following summer to visit his spring, he found it gone, along with the forest all around it. Standing in a clearcut at age 10, David began a journey that would last the rest of his life—defending forests and other wild places from the U.S. Forest Service and timber industry. Reflecting back on that moment, he wrote, "I think now that those loggers who destroyed my spring, and the Forest Service that served them, went about their work with the same dedication as a whaler hunting down the last blue whale. It was their livelihood, those loggers, their lifestyle, their art. But it is our future."

When David Brower died on November 5, 2000, his 88-year life journey ended, but his work to protect our national forests did not. He passed on a torch that now burns in the hearts and souls of generations of activist leaders. Lying in his hospital bed several

weeks before his passing, David quipped to NFPA Executive Director Tom Weis and me, "I'm fully in support of the Forest Service. I wish we had one. What we have is a Timber Service."

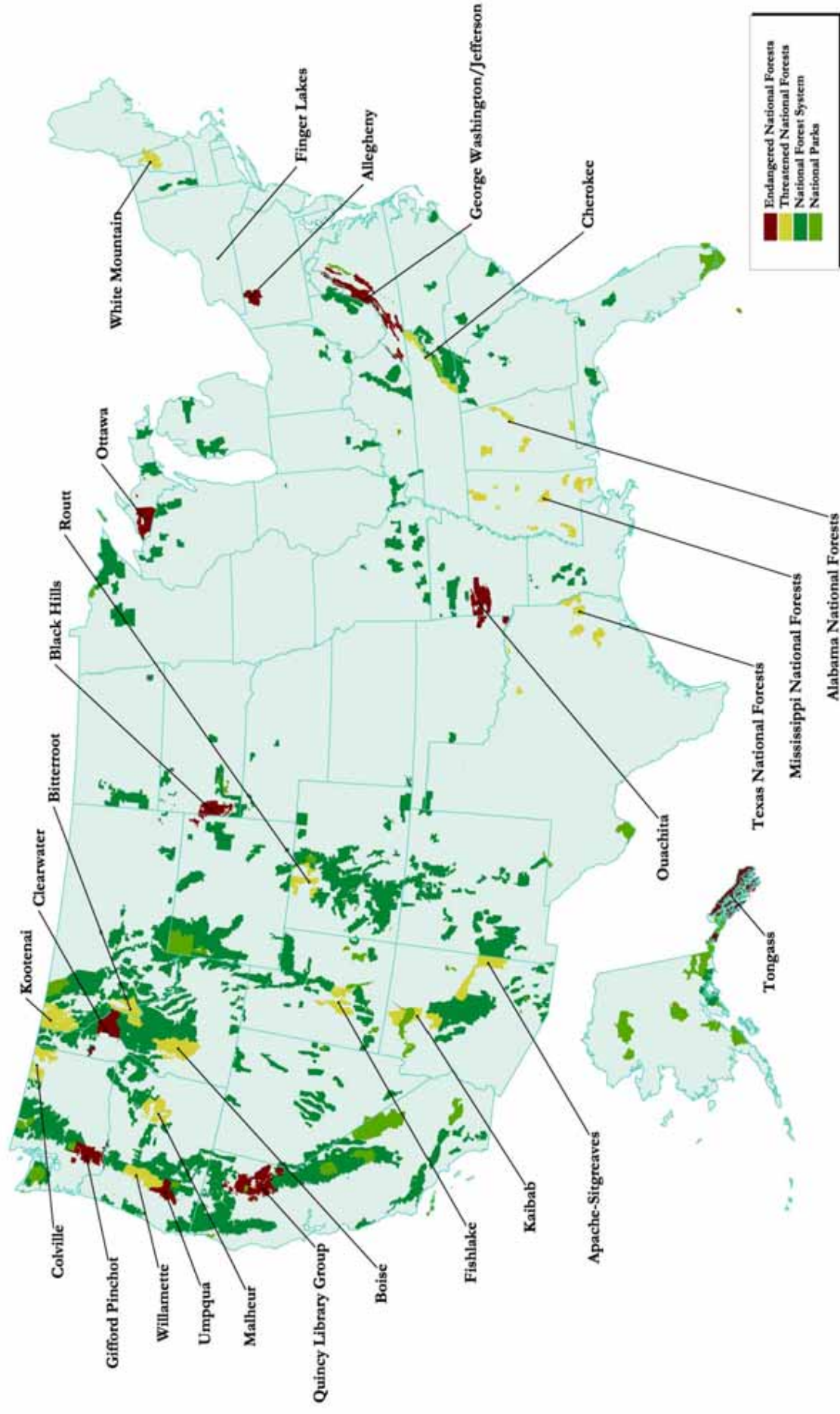
Redwood National Park, Kings Canyon National Park, North Cascades National Park, the Wilderness Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund—all Brower victories, all opposed by the U.S. Forest Service. To those working towards the day when the Forest Service actually serves the forests and the taxpaying public—and not the timber barons—don't forget that these victories were also once thought impossible.

This report provides a sobering snapshot of some of America's most endangered and threatened forests. All 155 forests in the national forest system are under assault from commercial extractive industries. And every one of them is full of treasures, like David's special spring, that once lost, will be lost forever.

David Brower, friend of the forests, savior of the Grand Canyon, mountaineer, troublemaker and friend, rest in peace, knowing that we will not rest until the destruction of our beloved national forests has ended.

Mikhail Davis, Assistant to David Brower 1998-2000

AMERICA'S 10 MOST ENDANGERED AND THREATENED NATIONAL FORESTS



About the NATIONAL FOREST PROTECTION ALLIANCE

*“We who would
defend the Earth
must look in the
mirror.
We are endangered.
Time is running
out.”
David R. Brower*



Protest rally in Missoula, MT. Photo by NFPA



Logged old growth on the Umpqua National Forest. Photo by NFPA

The National Forest Protection Alliance (NFPA) was founded in 1999 by grassroots activists and groups from every region of the U.S. NFPA is dedicated to organizing a power base strong enough to achieve positive, lasting social and environmental change. Our mission is to end all forms of commercial exploitation on America's public lands, beginning with the federal timber sale program, and to initiate a scientifically-driven, job-creating restoration program to undo the damage caused by 100 years of resource extraction.

In just two and a half years, NFPA's national network has grown to over 300 member groups and businesses. In our short history, we've made significant headway in shifting the terms of federal forest policy debate away from the production of commodities and towards the maintenance of clean air, clean water, wilderness, wildlife habitat and compatible recreation and tourism opportunities.

Most Americans are shocked to learn that each year the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) subsidizes the timber industry to log and thin roughly 750,000 acres of our national forests, at a net loss to U.S. taxpayers of over \$1.3 billion annually. Mining, grazing and oil and gas development are also heavily subsidized in our national forests. When polled, a full two thirds of Americans stand opposed to these corporate welfare programs.

When viewed cumulatively and within a national context, the impacts of the federal timber sale program are staggering: costly floods and deadly mudslides from logging roads and clearcuts, destruction of critical wildlife habitat, the decline of fisheries, the degradation of our air, drinking water and soil, and the loss of nearly all of our remaining old growth forests. From an ecological standpoint, healthy, standing forests are essential for the long-term survival of the planet. From a socioeconomic standpoint, we are killing the goose that laid the golden egg by destroying the forests' ability to provide recreation, tourism and other nonindustrial uses—economic activities that generate 38 times more jobs and 31 times more income than the federal logging program.

NFPA is working with a growing alliance of environmental organizations, citizen activists and nontraditional constituencies to build public support for the national campaign to protect our public lands. NFPA's publications include our newsletter (the *Forest Advocate*), a forest restoration primer, issue fact sheets, and now this in-depth report focused on America's "10 Most Endangered National Forests." Our board consists of some of the most prominent forest activists in the nation, with our staff of five based out of an executive office in Washington, D.C. and field offices in Missoula, MT, Charlottesville, VA and Asheville, NC.



America's 10 Most Endangered National Forests Report

“Taxpayers and consumers everywhere are being bled by the lumber barons...because true costing, not to mention the cost to the Earth, is not invoked by industry economists.” David R. Brower

Imagine Congress using your federal tax dollars to allow developers to raze the Washington Monument so they could sell off the marble blocks to make a quick buck. It would never happen. Yet every day, our national forests—America’s living monuments, where millions of us go to recreate and replenish our souls—are being cut down, just to line the pockets of the timber industry.

To help bring this situation to light, NFPA is pleased to unveil our groundbreaking report, “America’s 10 Most Endangered National Forests.” The purpose of this report is to provide Congress, the media and the American public with an accurate, on-the-ground depiction of the current state of the national forest system. As you will read in this enlightening expose of the US Forest Service (USFS), the legacy of 50 years of industrial forestry and other resource-extractive activities, like mining, grazing and oil and gas drilling, has left countless ecosystems, watersheds and, indeed, adjacent human communities in terrible shape.

This report highlights key issues, including the federal timber sale program, the Roadless Initiative, fire suppression and salvage logging, USFS land exchanges, and of course, immediate threats posed to ten particularly endangered forests in the U.S. Each of the ten profiles in this report illustrates the risks posed to that particular forest’s resource base, and documents the impacts the aforementioned commodity programs are having from a social, economic and environmental perspective.

What makes the report so unique is the information was compiled and written by grassroots forest activists on the front lines of their local forest battles—the people with the best view. Forest activists and groups submitted specific forest nominations, which included detailed responses to nine scientific and economic criteria posed by NFPA’s nominating committee. Weighing these criteria, the committee selected the ten “most endangered.” In addition to the ten forests chosen, the report also includes 17 “threatened” forests, which we felt deserved special mention. These profiles provide a snapshot of an entire national forest system under assault.

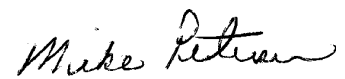
Given the weight of the scientific and economic information presented in this report, it is clear that a new management direction for the USFS is desperately needed. We challenge the Bush Administration and the leadership of the USFS to set aside their pro-corporate agenda and do what is in the best interest of all Americans: protect these endangered forest ecosystems! The late, great David Brower—to whom this report is dedicated—put it best when he said we need a Forest Service, not a Timber Service.

We hope this report will inspire you to become more active by educating your family, friends and local elected officials about the imperiled state of our national forest system. We also hope you will contact us to learn about how you can get more involved in our national campaign. With your help, we are confident there will soon come a day when the sounds of chainsaws and logging trucks no longer shatter the tranquil peace of our national forestlands.

Thank you,



Tom Weis
Executive Director



Mike Petersen
Board President



Looking Back at our National Forests



Gifford Pinchot (second from left) observing a working erosion model. Pennsylvania Forestry Association Convention, Pittsburgh 1921. Photo by F. C. Cress 1921 (USDA Forest Service). Above: Forest Service Sign, USDA Forest Service.

The history of the United States national forest system, and its management by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), is a case study in altruism and greed. It is bureaucratic politics at its best and worst, and an embodiment of the nation's "conservation wars" that began in the 19th century and continue to this day.

The forest debate began over 130 years ago when a handful of concerned scientists, federal officials and members of Congress recognized the need to stop deforestation brought about by the unregulated cutting of eastern forests from insatiable timber and railroad companies. These conservation pioneers had seen the results of this deforestation—massive erosion, catastrophic flooding and huge, killer wildfires. This eventually prompted a number of influential newspapers to endorse the concept of a national forest system, and public support steadily grew, despite heavy pressure from the timber industry.

FOREST RESERVES & STEWARDSHIP

After several legislative setbacks in Congress, President Benjamin Harrison finally signed the landmark Forest Reserve Act into law in 1891, authorizing the president to create forest reserves from federal lands. Apart from the earlier designation of Yellowstone and Yosemite as national parks, these reserves represented the country's first real progress towards forest preservation and protection of the public domain. The initial purpose behind the creation of these forest reserves was to protect water sources for urban and agricultural uses, and the original Act allowed no trees to be cut or sold. Then in 1897, Congress passed the Organic Act, containing a congressional rider that allowed for the cutting

of individually marked, older trees, known today as "selection cutting."

When President Teddy Roosevelt took office at the turn of the century, he used these laws to create the bulk of what we now know as the national forest system. He created an astounding 132 million acres of national forestlands, elevated the U.S. Forest Service to formal agency status (under the Department of Agriculture) and appointed Gifford Pinchot as the agency's first chief. Pinchot, one of the country's first professionally trained foresters, advocated what was at the time the "best practices" known in forestry. He was a populist who promoted a conservation ethic for the new national forest system of "the highest and best use for the most people."

The first three decades of the USFS were characterized by a great degree of stewardship on the forest system. Forest rangers and other agency personnel acquired a reputation for being among the most respected civil servants



Forest officer looking at an alpine fir tree, Lolo National Forest. Photo by Henry Eide 1965 (USDA Forest Service).



Transplant crew, 1932, USDA Forest Service.

employed by the federal government. The agency spearheaded efforts to coordinate fire fighting, establish tree nurseries, distribute seedlings for reforestation and improve forest management on private lands (particularly on industry-owned forests, but also on state and county forests through a cooperative forestry extension service). During the Dust Bowl era, the USFS even played a key role in mitigating soil erosion and promoting land conservation, while during the Great Depression, the agency administered the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration. Work crews, acting under the supervision of forest rangers, planted trees and revegetated grasslands. They built roads and trails, established and maintained campgrounds and generally helped create the spectacular public lands system we enjoy today. The Forest Service earned its “white hat” reputation by being honest and hardworking and by taking courageous stands to protect the public’s interest over that of the timber industry.

POST WORLD WAR II & LOGGING

After World War II, everything changed. The postwar housing boom increased demand for wood products beyond what private industry could provide. Rather than seeing the national forest system as a system of reserves (as they had before WWII), industry now started lobbying heavily for increased access to the public’s forests. In addition, a new model of forestry was taking hold, industrial forestry, which advocated that the

“best” forests were intensively managed tree plantations. Both industry and federal foresters bought into this utilitarian approach, so that the vast majority of forest professionals were of one mind, regardless of whether they worked for a timber company or the USFS.

Industry wanted timber and the USFS thought it was good to convert old growth forests into tree plantations. Congress was only too happy to provide jobs to their constituents and subsidies to the politically powerful timber industry. This led to a drastic increase in industrial style logging (i.e. clearcutting and road building) in the national forests. It also led to a dramatic increase in ecological problems, like habitat destruction, soil erosion and watershed degradation. As a result, public concern began to grow.



Casche Creek Timber Sale, Gallatin National Forest.
Photo by Philip G. Schlamp 1962 USDA Forest Service.

CONGRESS, USFS, & THE PUBLIC

Congress reacted to citizen concern by attempting to reform the Forest Service with the Multiple Use & Sustained Yield Act (MUSY) of 1960. While this law gave the agency great discretion in interpreting the law, it did codify that all other resources in the forest (wildlife, recreation, water, soils, etc.) were as important as timber. Unfortunately, this did little to rein in the pro-timber agenda of the USFS. The agency continued to clearcut and build roads at a rapid rate. Two key events finally galvanized citizen opposition to the agency’s pro-timber bias. These following events altered the public’s perception to the point that the USFS lost its “white hat” reputation as protector of the forests and the public interest.

The first event occurred on the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana. In a mistaken effort to improve reforestation of tree plantations, the agency allowed the timber industry not only to clearcut huge swaths of forest, but also to bulldoze terraces into the steep hillsides. This resulted in a scathing report by Arnold Bolle, dean of the University of Montana School of Forestry, on the Forest Service’s reliance on clearcutting, which sent shock waves through Congress.



Road construction on Kaniksu National Forest.
Photo by W. E. Steuerwald 1953 USDA Forest Service.

The second event occurred on the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia. A clearcut precipitated a flood that wiped out an influential U.S. Senator's hometown. This led to a successful citizen lawsuit that temporarily outlawed clearcutting on national forests and eventually led to a second Congressional effort to rein in the agency—the 1976 National Forest Management Act. Again, this Act gave wide discretion to the agency to interpret the law, but it added more protections than ever before. Although it legalized clearcutting, restrictions were applied. Nevertheless, the USFS continued to disregard this law, as well as MUSY and other environmental laws passed in the late 1960's and 1970's, like the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

During this same time, the agency began implementing the Nixon Administration's pro-timber plan to 1) increase timber production by 50% over the next ten years, 2) double the 198,000 miles of permanent roads on the national forests and 3) permit the logging of the last substantial areas of old growth forests in the U.S. The USFS under President Reagan was even more zealous in selling timber off the national forests, reaching a high cut of 12.6 billion board feet in 1989 (or approximately 2,520,000 filled logging trucks). This clear disregard of congressional intent and citizen concern gave birth to the American ecology movement and helped trigger the explosion of environmental activism we see today.

TAXPAYER LOSSES

Another key factor prompting public outcry over the agency's management of our national forests has been the rising costs of the timber sale program, which has resulted in staggering financial

losses to taxpayers. Each year, taxpayers are forced to pay over \$1.3 billion to subsidize commercial logging in national forests. Equally important has been new economic information highlighting the value of healthy, standing forests. Throughout the nation, an explosion of recreation and tourism on national forests has generated substantial income. This socioeconomic phenomena is bringing to light major policy and management contradictions within the agency. While the USFS's philosophy, mission and goals are becoming more "green," their core management activities remain as destructive as ever.

In the past ten years, the public terms of the national forest debate have revolved less around how much and where we should cut, to:

- 1) "Should we be cutting on the national forest system *at all*?"
- 2) "Is the agency maximizing net public benefits for a majority of Americans from its timber sale program?"
- 3) "Why does the U.S. government continue to subsidize large forest products and other resource-extractive industries to log, mine, graze and drill on public lands?"
- 4) "What changes to the political system need to occur to ensure that our national forests are truly managed in the public trust?"

These questions are just as relevant to American citizens today as they were 100 years ago, when the USFS and the national forest system were first conceived.



Sheep grazing on the Nez Perce National Forest, 1925, USDA Forest Service.



Historical photo of girl scout troop enjoying an old growth forest, USDA Forest Service.



"Sleeping child" fire, Bitterroot National Forest. Photo by W. E. Steuerwald 1961 USDA Forest Service.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

There is hope, however. Today, the U.S. economy looks far different than it did even 25 years ago. The timber industry, while still a significant political and economic force, is no longer one of the elite industrial giants. A robust economy, rising disposable income and an ever-sprawling population over the past 50 years have created new attitudes towards the purpose of our national forests. Recreational visits to national forests are now at an all-time high. In the past decade alone, a remarkable socioeconomic transformation has occurred in the West and other rural regions. Today, recreation, hunting and fishing now generate 31 times more revenue and 38 times more jobs than the timber sale program.

Considering that less than 3% of our wood and paper products come from national forests, new market forces are beginning to change consumer preferences and industry practices. From a technological standpoint,

more and more non-wood alternatives for pulp and paper production and building materials are being developed. USFS research labs have also made great strides in maximizing wood utilization, increasing the use of recycled fiber, and improving productivity of forests on private and state lands. The agency is even starting to promote the need for wood conservation in this country. Yet much work remains to be done in all of these areas along with reducing our society's unsustainable level of consumption.

All of the aforementioned trends have altered the public perception of our national forests to the point that a clear majority of Americans no longer view national forests as a factory amongst the trees. Unfortunately for the public, the USFS still can't see the forests for the trees. Many of the agency's central assumptions and core resource programs do not reflect the will of the public who owns these forests. The USFS continues to promote forest product harvest and resource extraction as the "best use" of these dwindling public treasures. It is time for the nation to adopt a noncommercial federal forest logging policy in the 21st Century that reflects the true value and "best use" of our public lands. As a nation our focus should be preserving and restoring these last refuges of biological diversity as havens for disappearing wildlife, as sources of clean water and air, and as the last, best places for recreation and renewal of our spirits in the primeval forests of our ancestors.



Loaded logging truck on completed road on Flathead National Forest. Photo by W. E. Steuerwald 1953 USDA Forest Service.

SPECIAL ISSUES

There are many issues that affect the management of our National Forests. This report summarizes five of those issues: Fire, the Roadless Initiative, Land Exchanges, the Northwest Forest Plan, and the Sierra Nevada Framework Plan.

FIRE

As the national forest system enters the 21st century, fire has emerged as the dominant management issue for the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Aggressive fire suppression policies, created 90 years ago and perpetuated by the agency's infamous icon "Smokey the Bear" are finally being reexamined. However, many Americans are justifiably confused about the ecological benefits of wildfires. This is due to the USFS's misguided policy and to widespread anti-wildfire propaganda spread by the timber industry and reinforced by the media.

Aside from fire suppression, commercial logging and grazing are also contributing to the severity and frequency of wildfires now occurring on both public and private forestlands. Industrial forestry has changed the age classes and the composition of tree species resulting in younger, less diverse forests that are more vulnerable to fire. Grazing, combined with fire suppression, has resulted in a proliferation of younger seedlings growing and surviving as the grasses are grazed and fire is excluded. This is particularly true for the Black Hills National Forest in South Dakota and Wyoming and the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest in Arizona.

A great example of the contradictions between what scientists are recommending and what the industry, federal land managers and politicians are proposing is the wildfires of 2000. Despite plenty of excellent research from fire ecologists showing that these wildfires, while large, burned within natural fire patterns and burned the hottest in previously roaded and logged areas, the agency is using them to precipitate another phony forest health crisis.

According to the USFS, between 1916-1999, an average of 13.9 million acres burned annually in the U.S., while in 2000, 7.4 million acres burned. Less than one-third of the acreage burned was on national forest land.

Dr. Timothy Ingalsbee, of the Western Fire Ecology Project in Eugene, Oregon, summarizes the USFS's preoccupation with logging projects designed to fireproof our forests. "Instead of evaporating, the forest health hoax of the 1990s has metamorphosed into a fire hazard hysteria. Logging proposals are no longer presented truthfully as commercial timber sales, but instead are being portrayed dishonestly as fuels reduction for fire protection projects."

In the fall of 2000, Congress mandated the implementation of a National Fire Plan (NFP) allocating \$2.9 billion to the USFS and the Dept. of Interior for FY 2001. Simultaneously, the agency and the timber industry started to play on the public's fear of fire by launching a public relation's campaign to sell massive commercial thinning and post-fire "salvage log-

ging" proposals. Montana's Bitterroot National Forest and the Black Hills National Forest are the best illustrations of the USFS offering huge volumes of salvaged timber for sale while disguising them as fuels reduction.

Unfortunately, NFP funds are being misused. Instead of using NFP's resources to improve home protection, to help communities effectively adapt to wildfires, and to start restoring wildfire into fire-dependent forests, NFP efforts are going towards increasing fire suppression capabilities and to developing risky and unproven logging projects. Scientists agree that both of these activities have increased wildfire intensity and severity. Management activities and policies that rely on fire suppression beyond the wildlands-urban interface or on commercial logging, thinning or grazing should be eliminated.



Smokey the Bear Photo background scene. Photo by USDA Forest Service

THE ROADLESS INITIATIVE

National forest roadless areas are among our country's most prized wildlands, representing social and ecological values that are increasingly scarce today. Roadless areas provide sources of clean drinking water, and large undisturbed landscapes critical to biodiversity and the long-term survival of many threatened and endangered species. In addition, they offer the best opportunities for primitive recreation, serve as barriers to the spread of invasive nonnative plant species, and provide study and research areas. Recognizing this, the USFS issued the Roadless Area Conservation Rule in January 2001. The rule protects nearly 60 million acres of national forest land, including 9.3 million acres of Alaska's Tongass National Forest, from most roadbuilding and commercial logging.

Two decades of deliberation and three years of unprecedented public participation preceded the rule. The USFS began identifying roadless areas for wilderness consideration in 1972. In 1979, the agency completed RARE II, an extensive roadless area inventory that was used by most national forests to assess their current roadless area inventory. In early 1998, Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck suspended road construction

and reconstruction in most inventoried roadless areas for 18 months, pending development of a long-term forest roads policy. In October 1999, President Clinton directed the Forest Service to establish regulations providing appropriate long-term protection for inventoried roadless areas. Over 1.6 million Americans took part in this process, more than any previous federal rulemaking, and they overwhelmingly supported the strongest possible roadless area protection.

The Roadless Area Conservation Rule protects public access and recreational opportunities in the most pristine parts of the national forest system, as well as access to cultural sites and private properties. It safeguards critical habitat for thousands of threatened, endangered, or sensitive species, and allows active local management to restore ecological processes, preserve wildlife habitat, and prevent catastrophic wildfire. The Rule applies only to inventoried roadless areas 5,000 acres or larger, which provide prime fish and wildlife habitat, the cleanest sources of drinking water for 60 million Americans, and less than 2% of the national forest system's commercial timber base.

The Bush administration has purposefully delayed implementation of the roadless policy and announced its intention to amend the rule, essentially ensuring that the fox is guarding the hen house. Indications are that Bush aims to weaken the policy by returning roadless area management decisions to the discretion of each National Forest. The Roadless Rule was reopened for public comment on July 6, 2001 and remains an important tool for protecting roadless areas from road construction, reconstruction, and commercial logging. Without decisive action, development activities will adversely affect watershed and ecosystem health, expand the road maintenance backlog and increase associated costs, and exacerbate taxpayer losses to commercial logging. Adoption of the rule ensures that inventoried roadless areas will be managed in a way that aims to sustain their value now and for



Cut old growth tree on public lands. Photo by NEPA

future generations. Comments in support of roadless protection are needed, and are currently being accepted. Mail comments to USDA Forest Service—CAT, Roadless ANPR Comments, PO Box 221090, Salt Lake City, UT 84122, or email roadless_anpr@fs.fed.us.

LAND EXCHANGE

For decades, the Forest Service has been exchanging land with private landowners and corporations, ostensibly to ease management on lands where ownership is mixed. Until recently, there has been little awareness of federal land trades and the significant threat these deals can pose to our public lands. Too often, land exchanges give forested public lands, including old growth, to logging companies in return for cutover industry lands, roads, devastated streams, and “rocks and ice.” Timber, mining, and development interests have seized on land trades as a stealthy way to gain control over intact national forest land and timber.

Endangered national forests (NF) are further imperiled by the impacts of past and future land trades. In Idaho's Clearwater NF, the USFS is preparing to trade the *very last* remaining old growth in the Beaver Creek watershed to Potlatch Timber. In the Gifford Pinchot NF in Washington, conservation groups have had to raise millions of dollars to buy back rare ancient forest traded to Plum Creek Timber in the Interstate 90 Land Exchange. On the Umpqua NF in western Oregon,

an alliance of timber companies, public relations firms and Oregon State University scientists have teamed up to engineer land trades that could cover 675,000 acres, trading the companies' off-limits riparian areas for upland public forest they can clearcut with impunity. The Soper-Wheeler exchange in California's Plumas NF would trade cultural sites as well as goshawk, spotted owl, and red-legged frog habitat to Sierra Pacific Industries.

Land trades are a reality for eastern and southern national forests as well. In the George Washington/Jefferson NF, citizens of Catawba, Virginia fought off a trade that would have given away prized forest, however development through exchanges still threatens this forest. Arkansas' Ouachita NF land exchange of 1996 was one of the most harmful trades ever completed. This exchange gave Weyerhaeuser control of almost 50,000 acres of rich pinelands in exchange for mainly cutover lands and plantations. The deal was sealed with no environmental analysis, no public input, no appraisal of timber values, and no recourse for citizens to challenge the trade.

Land exchanges are a very real threat, as worthy of scrutiny as any timber sale or road project. Rarely the benevolent, “impact-neutral” projects the agency would have us believe; these deals can have far-reaching, long-term impacts on our national forests. For more information on the issue, please visit www.westlx.org.

SPECIAL ISSUES cont..

THE NORTHWEST FOREST PLAN

In 1993, President Bill Clinton came to Portland, Oregon to end the war between environmentalists and the timber industry over the fate of the northern spotted owl. Though he failed to unify the region, Clinton directed the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and other federal agencies to develop a comprehensive plan that would conserve the spotted owl and provide a sustainable timber supply to regional mills.

In June of 1993, the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP or Plan) was born. The Plan allocates different areas of federal lands for various purposes. Logging may occur in the "Matrix," but not in "Riparian Reserves," "Late Successional Reserves" (designed to promote the development of old growth forests), or wilderness areas. The reserve system is intended to protect habitat corridors for at-risk terrestrial and aquatic species. As "mitigation" for logging's adverse effects, the NFP mandates that agencies gather biological and ecological data to protect habitat for identified species. It also implements an Aquatic Conservation Strategy, establishing stream buffers and prohibiting degradation of waterways that are important for drinking water, salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.

Implementation of the NFP has proven difficult for the Forest Service and BLM due to their strong affinity for logging old growth. During its initial stages, the agencies were foregoing many species surveys required by the Plan. In 1999, a coalition of conservation organizations filed suit in Washington federal court, winning an injunction on logging until the surveys were completed. Also in 1999, conservationists sued in federal court to require that agencies comply with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy. The court issued another injunction, and the case is on appeal in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Though the NFP has reduced logging by 80% in the spotted owl region of Washington, Oregon, and northern California, much old growth has been cut and much is still vulnerable to logging. The integrity of the reserve system is often infringed upon under the guise of "forest health" concerns. As a result, Pacific Northwest forests again face the threat of clearcutting. Although ongoing litigation has stalled logging, the agencies have a backlog of timber sales ready to be implemented. Now that injunctions issued in early Northwest Forest Plan lawsuits have expired, the sales they protected are again available for logging. The national forests in the Pacific Northwest are at a critical junction, and the future is far from certain.

One of the most beneficial and overlooked aspects of the Plan centered on the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative (NEAI) program. This socioeconomic program offers financial assistance to workers and communities impacted by logging reductions. Designed to retrain and reemploy displaced timber workers in the field of watershed and forest restoration, the program has been moderately successful, and continues to grow.

THE SIERRA NEVADA FOREST PLAN

An Experiment in "Fuels Reduction"

The Sierra Nevada Forest Plan (SNFP) was recently finalized after nearly a decade of contentious debate over the impacts of logging on native fauna, primarily the California Spotted Owl (CASPO). The SNFP applies to the region's eleven national forests. Through the NEPA process over 47,000 public and agency comments were submitted on the Plan. Most were strongly supportive of increased conservation and protection for the Sierra Nevada.

The SNFP takes a more restorative approach to forest management, setting all but the smallest diameter trees off-limits to harvest. There is a 20" diameter cut limit, 50% minimum canopy retention, and limits on overall canopy reduction. Planned logging levels are half of current levels, whereas it stands to double under the Quincy Library Group (QLG, see Plumas National Forest profile). Fisher, goshawks, willow flycatcher, spotted owl, Riparian Conservation areas, and critical aquatic habitats all receive added protection.

The SNFP claims to respond to and be consistent with the congressionally funded Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) Report of 1996. However, the SNEP report recommended other strategies besides the use of commercial thinning to reduce "fuel loads". The SNFP is based on the premise that thinning can reduce the risk of "wildfire" while not endangering wildlife. It has provoked a vigorous debate over whether existing forest conditions represent an adverse fire risk with ecologists drawing differing conclusions.

The SNFP attempts to balance the needs of protecting human life and property while providing for the ecological sustainability of old growth forests and key species. Based on a selective use of science, the Plan falls especially short in "defense zones," the area extending approximately 1/4 mile out from high residential density (1 structure/5 acres). CA spotted owl protection is reduced in the "defense zone" from what it was in the CASPO Interim Guidelines. With the owl's population declining between 7-11% per year throughout the Sierra Nevada, it is imperative that its entire habitat be protected. In addition, 90% of currently planned firebreaks, or roughly 34,000 acres, will go through under the SNFP.

Implementing the SNFP will be an improvement over the interim CASPO rules that the USFS has been using in the Sierra Nevada, but represents an incomplete step in the right direction. Success of the SNFP will depend on a cooperative climate, adequate funding, and adherence to the Plan guidelines at the individual forest level. It will be up to local and regional activists to closely monitor each timber sale and service contract for adherence to the plan's goals.

Improvements under the SNFP include increasing underburns, concentrating thinning operations on small diameter trees (under 12"), and creating "owl core areas" ranging from 600-2,400 acres, greatly enlarging owl protection zones. Lakes, meadows, bogs, fens, wetlands, vernal pools and springs all receive 300-foot buffers.

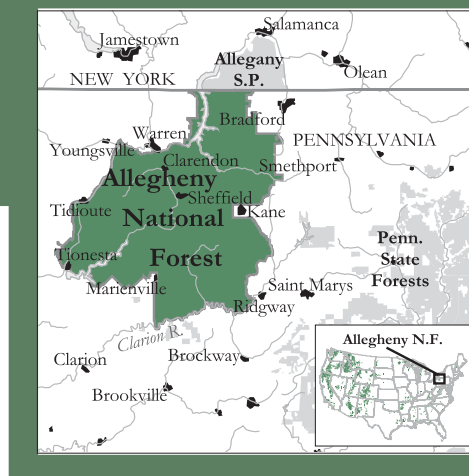
ALLEGHENY

National Forest Pennsylvania

Threats: Logging, Oil & Gas Development



Old growth stand within the Tionesta RNA. Photo by Kirk Johnson



SUMMARY

Prior to 1998, the 513,121-acre Allegheny National Forest (ANF) was the heaviest cut national forest per acre in the east due to preferential management for commercially-prized black cherry. Long a stronghold for the timber industry, the ANF has emerged as one of the country's major battlegrounds in the national forest debate.

Currently the East Side Project, the largest timber sale in the eastern U.S., proposes to cut 64 million board feet from 8,571 acres, which includes over 3,000 acres of clearcuts. This sale alone exceeds the annual volume cut from many Pacific Northwest national forests. It also demonstrates the new threats posed to maturing forests recovering from the last logging boom a century ago.

Oil and gas wells are major sources of pollution on the ANF. With the Bush Administration's stated intentions to open our federal public lands to drilling, oil and gas exploration are likely to increase in the Allegheny National Forest.

THE FOREST

Located in northwestern Pennsylvania, the Allegheny National Forest is bordered to the north by New York's 67,000-acre Allegheny State Park. Twenty miles to the east is a 1.2 million-acre block of state forests. The Allegheny lies on the highest, unglaciated portion of the Appalachian Plateau, a geological province that has been deeply carved over time by hundreds of streams and rivers. Consequently, the topography ranges from fairly flat country to rolling hillsides and steep ridges. The soils are naturally thin and more acidic than surrounding areas, however, acid rain resulting from sulfur dioxide emissions is magnifying these characteristics.

Lying in a transition zone between northern hardwood and southern mixed mesophytic forests, the natural tree composi-

tion on the Allegheny was primarily beech-hemlock-maple with significant stands of white pine and birch. Currently, the forests are dominated by black cherry, maple, oak, and American beech the direct result of preferential management for lucrative black cherry timber. Foresters refer to this artificial forest blend as the "Allegheny Hardwood Forest Type."

There are two wilderness areas within the ANF, the Hickory Creek Wilderness (8,630 acres) and the Allegheny River Islands Wilderness (374 acres). Cumulatively, these areas only amount to 1.74% of the forest. In addition, the Tionesta Natural Scenic Area & Research Natural Area (RNA) are protected and contain 4,100 acres of old-growth forest.



Tionesta Natural Scenic Area. Photo by Kirk Johnson

THE FOREST continued..

The primary watershed for the Allegheny is the Allegheny River Basin, which includes a 90-mile section designated as Wild & Scenic. This area is home to one of only two known reproducing populations of the northern riffleshell mussel as well as the clubshell mussel. Two smaller watersheds, the Clarion River and Tionesta Creek, provide important habitat for aquatic species, supply a number of communities with their municipal drinking water, and support several recreational outfitters.

SPECIES CONCERNS

Logging has altered the ecosystems within the Allegheny to the point that many species are in jeopardy. Those species listed under the Endangered Species Act include the Indiana bat, northern riffleshell mussel and clubshell mussel. Among those listed as threatened are the small whorled pogonia plant and the bald eagle. However, species that thrive in early-successional habitat and that don't require large tracts of undisturbed forests have unnaturally increased in population from logging practices. Examples include the white-tailed deer, ruffed grouse, bobwhite quail, American woodcock, brown-headed cowbird and some species of rabbits and hares. In addition, logging practices have discouraged beech to grow. Beech had become the major food source for species such as deer and turkey after the extinction of American chestnut. Combined with hunting pressure, the removal of dense forest cover and growth of low quality forage (the result of clearcuts), lead some critics to believe that these species will decline.



The Mother/Beaver Timber Sale, cut with "protective measures" for endangered species. Photo by Rachel Martin

THE Risk: LOGGING

Apart from the Tionesta RNA and Heart's Content Scenic Area, nearly all of the ANF has been logged. Seventy-five percent of the ANF is managed under an even-aged regime, relying primarily on shelterwood cutting, clearcutting and herbicide spraying to promote black cherry.

Black cherry timber is used to make expensive furniture, paneling, veneer, and other specialty wood products. It has a high commercial value, selling for more than \$2,000 per thousand board feet (MBF). Hemlock and beech, the two naturally occurring climax species, sell for \$100 per MBF, and maple less than \$500 per MBF. Approximately 33 percent of the world's consumption of black cherry timber comes from the ANF, allowing the Forest to be one of five national forests to actually turn a profit. Unlike western national forests, there is no export ban; so much of the wood is sold overseas in Europe and Japan.

During the last 30 years, the ANF has been the heaviest cut per acre national forest in the eastern region. Annually, under the current forest plan, nearly 94 million board feet (MMBF) of logging is permitted. Currently the largest timber sale among the eastern national forests, the East Side timber sale, calls for 64 MMBF of logging on the

ANF. Under the guise of restoring forest health, the East Side sale plans to log 8,600 total acres, including 3,000 acres of clearcuts, 3,600 acres of herbicide application, 125 miles of road construction and reconstruction, and 1,293 acres of fertilizer application. One of the proposed cutting units in the East Side project is adjacent to the Tionesta RNA old-growth boundary.



Photo by Kirk Johnson

Duck Sheriff Timber Sale

This sale plans to cut right along the North Country National Scenic Trail.



Photo by Jim Kleissler

East Side Timber Sale Project

The cutting of this wetland will violate Forest Plan guidelines to protect poorly-drained soils from even-aged management.

THE RISK: OIL & GAS EXTRACTION

Due to the difficult nature of constructing and maintaining derricks, oil and gas extraction on the Allegheny has significantly impacted forest health and water quality. A report from the 1987 Oil Spill Conference in Baltimore characterizes the problem in this region stating,

"In 1985 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency declared northwestern Pennsylvania to have a major oil spill with multiple sources. This oil spill is unusual in that, rather than being one large concentrated spill, it consists of small discharges from thousands of individual wells, tanks, and ponds, which contribute to a major environmental problem and make discovery, containment, and enforcement a difficult and complicated task."

Currently, it is estimated that there are 10,000 active wells and 100,000 inactive wells on the Allegheny. In 1998 alone, 199 wells were drilled, 140 acres were cleared, and 53 miles of roads and pipelines were built. In 2000, 345 new wells were drilled. According to the Forest Service, there are currently 156 oil and gas wells located within the 2,000 acre Tionesta Scenic Area.



Oil derrick along Rocky Gap ATV trail. Photo by Tiffany Kinney

WHAT CAN BE DONE

1. **Cancel the Eastside Timber Sale:** Please write to Regional Forester, Robert Jacobs (USDA Forest Service, Eastern Region, 310 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53203), and to your Congressional Representatives and Senators. Ask them to pressure the Forest Service to withdraw the East Side timber sale.
2. **Ban oil & gas drilling:** Write to the Allegheny National Forest Supervisor, Kevin Elliott, (PO Box 847, Warren, PA 16365). Ask him to withdraw federally-owned leases and to purchase mineral rights, as required by the Fish & Wildlife Service to conserve endangered species in the upcoming Forest Plan revision. In addition, priority should be placed on removing wells located in sensitive areas such as the National Recreation Areas, the Tionesta Natural Scenic Area, and remaining roadless areas. Write to your state's congressional delegation. Ask them to stop the Bush Administration's push to increase oil and gas production on national forests and other federal public lands.
3. **Promote renewable energy alternatives over petroleum:** Write to President Bush, ask him to restore and increase funding for renewable energy sources like solar and wind. Request the elimination of public subsidies for fossil fuel exploration on federal public lands.
4. **Stop clearcutting & herbicide use to promote Black Cherry:** Write to the Forest Service Supervisor, Kevin Elliott, requesting a ban on herbicide applications and clearcutting in the Allegheny as well as throughout the national forest system.



Photo by Jim Kleissler



Cut Black Cherry Tree. Photo by Jim Kleissler

**For More
Information Contact:
The Allegheny Defense Project**
P.O. Box 245
Clarion, PA 16214
814-223-4996
www.alleghenydefense.org

OUACHITA

National Forest

Arkansas & Oklahoma

Threats: Logging, Roads, & Watershed Degradation



Little Missouri River, draining the Novaculite Uplift.

Photo by Vernon Bates



A small undisturbed stream, a rarity on the Ouachita National Forest.

Photo by Vernon Bates



SUMMARY

Complex geology, varied topography and unique plant communities provide habitat for a diverse mosaic of life forms on the Ouachita National Forest (ONF). The east-west mountain range and its numerous rivers support a large number of endemic and disjunct species. The Forest Service has not adequately researched many of the native plant and animal communities, imperiled by intensive resource extraction. The Ouachita is among the most heavily logged forests in the national forest system. From 1987-2000, 1.36 billion board feet was logged from the ONF. Last year's cut volume was 122 million board feet (MMBF). The ONF is a good illustration of the federal timber sale program's current shift from logging western national forests to eastern ones.

THE FOREST

The 1.76 million-acre ONF is the south's oldest and largest national forest. Situated in the Ouachita Mountains, the ONF is a ribbon of land 250 miles long by 75 miles wide in the highlands of west central Arkansas and southeastern Oklahoma.

THE FOREST

The humid, subtropical climate (short, mild winters and long, hot summers) naturally supports a dense forest of oaks, hickories, shortleaf pine, and hundreds of shrubs. There are 38 designated Research Natural Areas on the ONF, but only 66,000 acres of designated wilderness (just 4%).

The ONF's complex landforms and geological substrates have created specialized habitats, supporting numerous endemic and disjunct plant species. Being somewhat isolated, the forest is considered a center of species endemism for the mid-south; yet its rural location deters extensive research. The Ouachita Mountains have been a focal point for biological inventories documenting species new to science. Since the 1940's, nearly a dozen new plant species have been described.

SPECIES CONCERNS

Rare herbaceous plants discovered in the Ouachita include harperella, a federally endangered species of the parsley family, federally threatened sandgrass, twistflower, dwarf pipewort, Brownes' waterleaf, Cossatot leafcup, and Arkansas alumroot. Over ninety sensitive plant species, occupying 16 different plant communities, occur on the ONF. Conversion of native mixed forests to pine plantations has limited opportunities to comprehensively research the ONF's endemic plant communities.

The endangered southern bald eagle overwinters near a number of lakes and rivers on the ONF. Red-cockaded woodpeckers have been reintroduced and mountain lions have recently been reported at several locations. A diverse array of

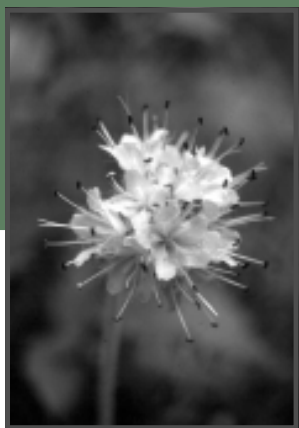


Photo by Vernon Bates

Hydrophyllum brownii, one of many new discoveries in the last decade.

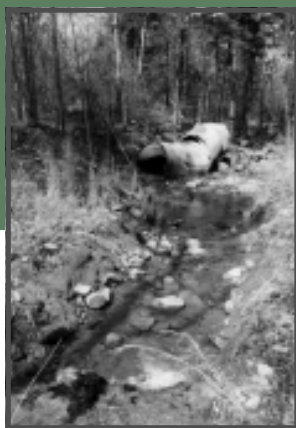


Photo by Vernon Bates

Downstream from a 1980's clearcut.



Photo by Vernon Bates

A prescribed burn, 100,000 acres have been burned in the last several years.



Photo by Vernon Bates

Prescribed burning used on a young plantation to further suppress the regeneration of hardwoods.

SPECIES CONCERNS continued..

sensitive species, including the imperiled leopard darter, pale-backed darter, Arkansas fatmucket mussel, and numerous salamanders inhabit the ONF's streams and wetlands.

Species such as bobwhite quail, eastern wild turkey, gray and fox squirrels, pileated woodpecker and gray fox are used as indicators by the Forest Service to monitor management activities. However, all except the pileated woodpecker are common, and have adapted to habitat changes brought on by logging, burning and forest conversion.

THE Risk: LOGGING

At times, annual cutting levels on the ONF have surpassed the combined total for Alaska's national forests. Management prescriptions illustrate well the bias toward timber production. Intensive, timber-focused management on the ONF destroys the botanical diversity of native forest stands. Combining selective tree removal, herbicide application, and especially prescribed burning, the USFS eliminates commercially undesirable hardwood species in favor of shortleaf pine. Nearly half the forest, including streamside zones and all slope aspects, has been subjected to prescribed burning since the mid 1980s. The Forest Service's use of prescribed burning departs significantly from the frequency and intensity of the ONF's natural fire regimes. The long-term impacts of repeated prescribed burning has not been fully researched.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

In addition to requesting congressional support for the National Forest Protection & Restoration Act, attend a Ouachita Watch League (OWL) meeting to learn how you can become involved in forest planning. Sign on to OWL's mailing list to monitor Forest Service activities, www.ouachitawatchleague.org.

Participate in OWL's "Eyes of the Forest" program that helps citizens report their observations on forest management issues such as logging, pesticide use and unnatural levels of prescribed burning. OWL conducts classes and field trips on USFS project scoping, "forest speak", planning regulations, appeal regulations, how to write appeals, forest management laws, forest monitoring, and more.

Help monitor land exchanges (see special issue Land Exchanges), such as the recent deal with Weyerhaeuser, to ensure the Forest Service is following its own laws in regards to public involvement.

The ONF has commenced salvage logging under the guise of emergency fuel reduction on nearly 35,000 acres of trees damaged by an ice storm. Despite concerns about the cumulative effects of intensified logging and differences of opinion over the extent of the "emergency," the USFS has circumvented the National Environmental Policy Act. Using the approval of the Council of Environmental Quality, the agency has denied all appeals, effectively locking the

public out of the process.

THE Risk: ROADS

Designated and undesignated roads proliferate on the ONF, amounting to 5,694 miles of roads. Only 22.5% are properly maintained and the ONF's annual road maintenance budget faces a three million dollar shortfall. Poor road maintenance exacerbates typical environmental impacts of roads, contributing to increased erosion and siltation. The Forest Service's inability to properly maintain the existing road system highlights the importance of protecting the ONF's remaining 35,000 roadless acres. All-terrain vehicle (ATV) use, another serious issue on the ONF, has adversely impacted 142 miles of streams from unrestricted use.

THE Risk:

WATERSHED CONTAMINATION

The Ouachita is located within 12 different watersheds and contains 3,977 stream miles. Thousands of pounds of herbicides have been applied on more than 225,000 acres from 1987-2000. Given the expansion of the ONF's herbicide-reliant timber program, contamination will continue to be a risk in most of these watersheds.

For More Information Contact:

Ouachita Watch League

501-767-2274

www.ouachitawatchleague.org

BLACK HILLS

National Forest

South Dakota & Wyoming

Threats: Logging, 'Salvage,' & Roadbuilding



Photo by Lori Hammer

View from Harney Peak in the Black Elk Wilderness, the highest point east of the Rockies and the center of the world for the Sioux tribes.



Photo by NFPA

Less than 2% of the Black Hills National Forest remains in an old growth condition.



SUMMARY

The 1.2 million-acre Black Hills National Forest (BHNF) is a remarkable island ecosystem, home to rare plant and animal communities found nowhere else in the world. Regrettably, the BHNF is also among the most heavily developed national forests in the country. Logging, irresponsible off-road vehicle use, livestock grazing and mining have fragmented the landscape and have facilitated noxious weed infestations. Less than 1% of the Forest is protected as wilderness.

As a traditional barometer for federal forest management, the Black Hills provide a unique opportunity to debunk the myth that commercial logging is beneficial.

THE FOREST

The BHNF is a mixing zone where relict plant communities from boreal, eastern and western forests merge. This mountain range is known as the "Island in the Plains," because of its geographical isolation. Surrounded by a sea of prairie, its remoteness from other forests has led to speciation in some wildlife and plant populations. Dominated by ponderosa pine, the

THE FOREST continued..

BHNF also includes dense pockets of spruce and stands of aspen, birch and oak. It is home to several biologically unique plant communities, such as fens and wetlands, and rare montane grasslands which occur nowhere else in the world.

SPECIES CONCERNS

Virtually no large predators remain within the BHNF. Mountain lions, once plentiful, are now rarely seen. Mule deer are common in the forest with elk encountered less often. At risk are native fish, endemic land snails and northern goshawks, with only 10-15 pairs nesting in the forest. Nonnative species are a problem on nearly every acre and native plants are threatened by noxious weed infestations.

THE Risk: LOGGING

Gifford Pinchot, the first Forest Service Chief, used the BHNF as a proving ground for commercial forest management models and multiple use principles. In 1899-1900, "Case #1," the very first commercial timber sale on federal lands, was logged on the BHNF. This sale set the precedent for government-regulated timber harvest on public lands. Early mining operations, homesteading and ranching also subjected the region to highgrading the biggest trees.

Logging is the BHNF's biggest commercial program, making it the largest timber producer in the Rocky Mountain Region. The ecological reality is severe damage to native ponderosa pine ecosystems and to numerous endangered species.

Ecologically diverse old-growth stands have been replaced



"Hazard tree removal" in the Jasper Fire area near Jewel Cave National Monument. Photo by Brian Brademeyer

THE Risk: LOGGING continued..

by tree farms of pine monocultures. "Uneconomical" species, such as native hardwoods, have diminished due to fire suppression, grazing and pine-promotion. Commercial logging has left the BHNF in a young, fire-prone and disease-prone condition. Nearly every acre of the Forest has been logged at least once with most areas logged multiple times. Less than 2% of the BHNF remains in an old growth condition. This highly-fragmented landscape is undoubtedly the most manicured forest in the entire national forest system.

THE Risk:

'SALVAGE' LOGGING

Post-fire salvage sales, a Forest Service/timber industry tactic, are a means of manipulating fire events into a rationale for logging (see Special Issues). An example is the Jasper Fire Salvage Sale. The Jasper Fire was set by arsonists and burned 83,500 acres in the southwestern section of the BHNF and 1,300 acres of the Jewel Cave National Monument. Now the Forest Service is offering a massive salvage sale, calling for 56 MMBF to be cut from over 9,500 acres. Cutting of the first 23.7 MMBF from 4,462 acres will begin this summer. The USFS estimates that 25 MMBF will come from "hazard tree removal" along 186 miles of roads and 10 MMBF from cutting burned trees in approved (pre-fire) timber sales. Biodiversity Associates and Sierra Club appealed this decision; their appeal was denied.



Typical ponderosa pine forest circa 1891. Photo by H. S. Graves, U.S. Geological Survey.

LAKOTA NATION

Commercial exploitation on the BHNF is strongly opposed by the Lakota Nation, who still claim the Black Hills under 19th century treaties. Sacred to the Lakota, the Black Hills or Paha Sapa, contains many native cultural resources & spiritual sites, including medicinal plants and burial grounds. The Black Hills were unlawfully taken after the Custer expedition and, since then, billion of dollars of timber, mineral and other resources have been pillaged. The Lakota people still survive on their reservations in some of the most impoverished counties in the U.S.

Concerned with the ongoing degradation of the Black Hills, the Lakota have rejected repeated federal attempts at monetary settlement of native land claims. Instead, they are pressing for restoration of their ancestral lands and issuing calls to manage much of the Forest as wilderness. Commercial-free ecological restoration of the BHNF will respect the cultural values of the Lakota Nation.

THE Risk: ROADBUILDING

The BHNF has the highest road density of any National Forest in the West, and is among the most densely roaded in the country. Over 8,000 miles of inventoried roads and ORV trails crisscross the landscape. This amounts to 27.1 miles of roads for every mile of hiking trail, leaving few roadless areas. According to Forest Service estimates, less than 2 percent of the forest is in a roadless condition. The BHNF's 1996 revised forest plan identified only three roadless areas, totaling 16,447 acres. Two of these areas have been leased for resource extraction.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

Write to South Dakota Senator and Majority Leader Tom Daschle (U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510) who has strongly supported extractive management on the BHNF. Ask him to end all resource extraction on the BHNF.

Write to Forest Supervisor John Twiss (BHNF, 25041 N. Hwy 16, Custer, SD 57730). Request that the Jasper Fire area be managed to provide a "bison sanctuary" for future wild bison and elk herds and that it be managed jointly with the Sioux Nation Treaty Council for spiritual and cultural purposes.

The USFS will be amending the Revised Forest Plan to establish Research Natural Areas. Citizens should write in support of multiple designations to protect and preserve biological diversity.

Support alternatives to tree fiber such as industrial hemp. Last year the Lakota Nation was prohibited from growing hemp on their reservation, hindering their economic growth.

For More Information Contact:

Biodiversity Associates
307-742-7978
www.biodiversityassociates.org

Sierra Club Black Hills Group
605-348-8404

TONGASS

National Forest Alaska

Threats: Logging, Roads, & the Gateway Veneer Mill



Nossuk Bay with Heceta Island in the distance, Tongass National Forest.
Photo by Amy Guilick

SUMMARY

The Tongass National Forest (TNF) is the nation's biggest National Forest, containing the largest tract of coastal temperate rainforest in the U.S. Historically, the Tongass was the most heavily logged forest in the system, creating dense patchworks of roads and thousands of clearcuts in formerly prime fish and wildlife habitat. If the roadless policy is successfully derailed, the Forest Service could sell a staggering 800 million board feet (MMBF) of old growth trees in the next three years.

THE FOREST

The Tongass harbors some of the world's last reserves of coastal temperate rainforest. Stretching 500 miles along the southeastern coast of Alaska, the 17 million-acre TNF is the size of Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. Over 1000 mist-shrouded islands and narrow inlets punctuate its 11,000 miles of coastline. The forests of the TNF contain majestic Sitka spruce, western hemlock, red cedar and yellow cedar. These trees often grow 200 feet tall and live longer than 1,000 years.

THE FOREST continued..

The Tongass is set against a stunning backdrop of coastal mountains towering up to 18,000 feet. It is home to diverse towns and communities that depend on the forest's resources for their survival. Commercial fishing and tourism are mainstays of the local economy. The bounty of the land and sea continues to feed most rural families who still lead a traditional subsistence way of life.

SPECIES CONCERNS

The highest density of grizzly bears in North America thrives in the vast wild reaches of the Tongass. Ancient runs of all five species of Pacific salmon return to the TNF each year, nurturing the forest and its wildlife. The salmon also provide

unexcelled commercial, sport, and subsistence fishing opportunities. The Queen Charlotte goshawk, currently under consideration for federal endangered species protection, lives in the ancient forests of the TNF. Killer whales, humpback whales, porpoises, and river and sea otters all thrive in the forest's nutrient rich waters. The TNF has healthy populations of Steller sea lions and marbled murrelets; both are listed as federally threatened outside of southeast Alaska.

THE Risk: LOGGING

Until 1997, two large pulp companies, Ketchikan Pulp Company (KPC) and the Japanese-owned Alaska Pulp Corporation (APC), enjoyed exclusive 50 year contracts to log the TNF.



Old growth tree in Sitka, Alaska. Photo by Richard Carstenson



Extensive road network on the TNF. Photo by Alaska Rainforest Campaign

THE Risk: LOGGING continued..

Due to a long-term decline in world pulp prices and increasing public outcry, the mills were finally closed and the agreements cancelled. At the height of large-scale logging in the 1980's, annual cuts were as high as 420 million board feet. With the mills gone and timber demand greatly reduced, the economic pressure to log has changed dramatically.

Annual logging on the TNF still exceeds 100 MMBF, and all logging occurs in old growth forests. Clearcutting is the dominant logging method. Approximately 70% of the "highest volume" of old growth stands have been logged on the TNF. This is due to their accessibility and low elevation along Southeast Alaska's island waterways. The result is loss of critical fisheries and wildlife habitat.

THE Risk: ROADS and SALMON

"Salmon grow on trees," is a popular saying among native southeastern Alaskans. All five Pacific salmon species spawn in the TNF's wild, pristine watersheds. However, past roadbuilding has severely damaged many of the best salmon streams and the remainder are threatened by plans for new logging roads.

Over 4,650 miles of roads exist on the TNF, built primarily for logging access. A recent report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game surveyed Class I and Class II streams having road culverts. Over half of the Class I streams and

WHAT CAN BE DONE

For over 10 years, the Alaska Rainforest Campaign (ARC) has been working to permanently protect the remaining wild portions of the TNF. Join the fight to save the nation's largest national forest by:

- 1) Supporting the Roadless Area Protection Policy. Testify at a public hearing or send a letter to the Forest Service.
- 2) Boycott forest products containing old growth. All wood from the TNF is old growth!
- 3) Visit ARC's website, www.akrain.org, to join the Alaska Forest Defense Network or to send a free fax or email on the most current Tongass issue.

nearly four-fifths of the Class II streams surveyed failed to meet standards for the passing of juvenile fish. Therefore, spawning salmon are unable to reach hundreds of miles of streams vital to their survival. Continued roadbuilding will further imperil these fragile populations of Alaskan salmon.

THE Risk: TAXPAYER LOSSES

Industrial scale logging in the TNF has cost American taxpayers over \$500 million since 1992. Last year the TNF lost over \$17 million cutting 147 MMBF, making it the third biggest money loser in the National Forest System. Accord-

ing to government reports, the TNF is the most expensive place to log in America due to its remoteness. Without large tax subsidies, the majority of TNF logging operations would be financially impossible. The Bush administration has made moves to revitalize logging on the Tongass, which entails a corresponding increase in taxpayer subsidies to large timber companies.

THE Risk:

The GATEWAY VENEER MILL

After the Ketchikan pulp mill closed, several of the mill's former managers proposed to build the Gateway veneer mill. Financed with federal and state grants and loans, the mill was constructed and began operating in January 2001. At full capacity, the mill has the potential to devour over 100 MMBF of old growth forest from the TNF annually.

Despite poor management, declining veneer prices and a recent bankruptcy filing, the plant is reorganizing using additional taxpayer-funded government subsidies. With the help of Alaska's powerful congressional delegation, the Gateway veneer mill will remain a threat to the remaining wild forests of the Tongass.

For More Information Contact:
Alaska Rainforest Campaign
907-747-8292
www.akrain.org

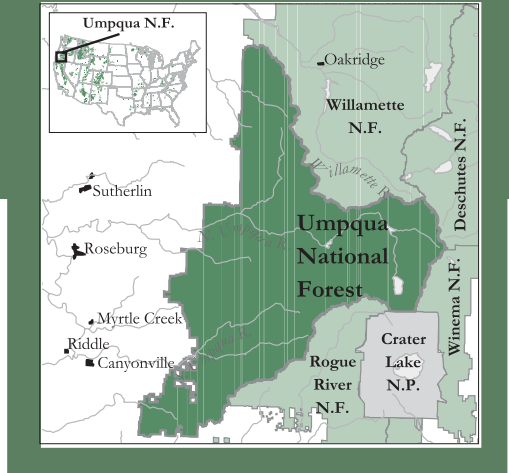
UMPQUA

National Forest Oregon

Threats: Logging and Watershed Degradation



Dog Prairie Creek traveling through an old growth forest.
Photo by Kurt Jensen



SUMMARY

Established in 1905, the 984,000-acre Umpqua National Forest (UNF) boasts some of the finest remaining old growth forest in Oregon. The UNF has historically ranked among the 10 largest producers of federal timber in the country. This forest is the major sourcing area for Roseburg Forest Products, the largest purchaser of federal timber sale volume in the Pacific Northwest Region from 1993 to 1998. Salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout, wolverine, and lynx, as well as numerous other species, face an ever-declining habitat base as more and more timber is offered for sale. The UNF is a primary battleground between the public and the timber industry, and thus provides a good indication of the federal timber sale program's future.

THE FOREST

Southwest Oregon's UNF lies in a transition zone linking the Klamath/Siskiyou and high Oregon Cascades ecoregions and is characterized by diverse and productive coniferous forests. The Umpqua harbors some of the largest amounts of old growth Douglas fir/western hemlock forest in Oregon. The combina-

THE FOREST continued..

tion of a mild climate, low elevations and volcanic soils produces a high level of biomass and large trees coveted by the timber industry. Hardwood trees are present as well as a wide variety of shrubs, grasses and forbs. Lodgepole pine, mountain hemlock, and true firs dominate higher-elevation stands.

The UNF's landscape is a dramatic expanse of razorback ridges and lush temperate rain forest. The forest encompasses a diverse topography within the Oregon Cascades composed of rugged peaks (a legacy of explosive geologic events), deep canyons, high rolling meadows, and sparkling rivers and lakes. The headwaters of the Wild & Scenic North Umpqua, South Umpqua and the Row rivers all begin in the UNF. From the snowfields of the higher Cascades to its renowned salmon and

trout streams, water has formed the UNF's diverse natural environments, structure, and ecology.

SPECIES CONCERNS

Over 250 animals are found on the UNF including an array of endangered, threatened and sensitive species. Northern spotted owl populations are declining by 4%-8% per year. Pacific fisher, wolverine and lynx, among the rarest mammals in the Northwest, have all been documented inside or near the UNF. Ancient runs of threatened and endangered fish, including Chinook salmon and steelhead, spawn in the waters of the Umpqua. Other struggling species include the bald eagle and peregrine falcon. The recent delisting of the Umpqua sea-run cutthroat trout, at the behest of timber industry supporters, is



Old growth Douglas-fir trees threatened by a proposed timber sale.
Photo by Kurt Jensen

SPECIES CONCERNS *continued..*

an ongoing political battle. Some scientists believe delisting could lead to extinction if not reversed. Substantial internal conflicts have begun to arise between biologists and timber officials due to the cumulative effects of the timber program on habitat.

THE Risk: LOGGING

Historically, the UNF's timber harvest levels were enormous with over 500 MMBF harvested in 1987 and in 1989. Though cut levels have dropped since the late 1980's, plummeting to 21 MMBF in 2000, timber harvest practices have not changed. Clearcutting of old growth forests remains the main timber harvest strategy, including towering stands of Douglas fir over 800 years old. For example, between 1985 and 1995, the Forest Service allowed more than 100,000 acres of prime old growth forests to be logged, most of which was clearcut.

Even-age management remains the standard, converting to date approximately 305,000 acres to plantations. Roadless area logging also presents a serious issue for the Umpqua, as nearly 60,000 acres of inventoried roadless areas have been lost since 1984. Significant roadless acreage continues to be destroyed, since current timber volume on the UNF mainly comes from non-inventoried roadless areas under 5,000 acres. The Bush administration's policy to increase logging will only accelerate the loss of old growth forests and roadless areas. A current timber sale, the Lemolo project, will exceed last year's cut volume for the entire forest.



Girdling to recreate snags after logging. Photo by Kurt Jensen

THE Risk: WATERSHED DEGRADATION

Most of the larger watersheds on the UNF have unusually high sediment loads. This is due to historical logging practices, 5,000 miles of inventoried roads and current logging and road-building projects, which have increased natural sediment loads fourfold. As of 1990, total sediment delivery on the UNF was estimated at 125,000 tons/year.

Temperature increases resulting from forest canopy removal have further endangered fish habitat, especially in lower elevation stream reaches. The plight of the Umpqua River watershed triggered a December 2000 injunction to protect listed salmonoid species. These injunctions were imposed on more than 170 federal timber sales throughout the Pacific Northwest.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

Boycott Umpqua Bank in Western Oregon, an affiliate of Roseburg Forest Products.

Write Governor Kitzhaber (State Capitol Building, 900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301). Ask him to help protect the place where he grew up. Ask him to support ending commercial logging on national forests. Write or lobby Rep. Peter DeFazio (2134

Rayburn H.O.B., Washington D.C., 20515) and Senator Ron Wyden (516 Hart S.O.B., Washington D.C., 20510). Ask them to cancel the Warm Springs, Upper North, Lemolo, and Fish Creek timber sale projects. Suggest that these areas be designated a National Recreation Area that could adjoin Crater Lake National Park.



Typical clearcut-broadcast burn under the Northwest Forest Plan for every sale on the Umpqua National Forest.

Photo by Kurt Jensen

For More Information Contact:
Cascadia Ecosystems Advocates
541-726-6154
email-cascecos@efn.org

Umpqua Watersheds, Inc.
www.umpqua-watersheds.org

CLEARWATER

National Forest Idaho

Threats: Logging for Elk & Off-Road Vehicles



Photo by Chuck Pezeshki

Kelly Creek Hoodoos in the Kelly Creek/Hoodoo Roadless Area.



Photo by Chuck Pezeshki

Fish Creek, draining the North Lochsa Slope Roadless Area site of a controversial timber sale, the North Lochsa Face Ecosystem Management Project.

SUMMARY

With 16 inventoried roadless areas totaling close to one million acres, northern Idaho's Clearwater National Forest (CNF) retains much of the same wild character as when Lewis & Clark first traversed the area 200 years ago. The CNF's many low-elevation roadless areas and old growth forests are a rarity among national forests. Despite this pristine landscape, high elevation logging and roadbuilding have impaired water quality and fisheries on more than a third of the Forest. Furthermore two large timber sales, the North Lochsa Face sale and the Middle Black sale, threaten many of the CNF's roadless areas. Combined they rank as the two largest timber sales in the lower 48, amounting to a staggering 175 MMBF.

THE FOREST

The 1.8 million-acre CNF sits at the northern end of the Idaho Batholith, a granitic intrusion in the Earth's crust exposed by millions of years of erosion and weathering. The topography is characterized by steep canyons, glacial basins and big rivers. Several diverse forest types are found on the CNF,

THE FOREST continued..

making it unique among northern Rockies ecosystems. They include low elevation cedar and rare white pine, old growth larch and ponderosa pine, and dense pockets of lodgepole pine and fir, all prized by the timber industry. Unique to the region are several coastal disjuncts, or plant species typical of coastal temperate rainforests. Relics of bygone millennia, this vegetation remains from a time when coastal forests stretched far inland.

Drier vegetation dominates south-facing aspects and ridges burned during the Great Burn of 1910. Large wildfires from the early 20th century greatly influenced the age and composition of vegetation on the CNF, creating a mosaic of deciduous brush fields and regenerating forests. Today, these areas pro-

vide valuable information about the history and succession of fire in the Northern Rockies.

The CNF is home to many pristine rivers and streams. As its name implies, the CNF is world-renowned for blue ribbon fisheries, kayaking, and rafting. Sections of the Lochsa and North Fork rivers within the CNF remain wild drainages, contributing to exceptional water quality. Because of the forest's thin and fragile soils, logging and roadbuilding have damaged several rivers, especially the Palouse and Potlatch.

SPECIES CONCERNS

The CNF's pristine rivers and streams provide important spawning habitat for westslope cutthroat, bull trout, steelhead



Grizzly bear. Photo by Alliance for the Wild Rockies

The Bush Administration is planning to abandon an inadequate grizzly recovery plan, initiated during the Clinton presidency, that encompassed all the CNF and the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness for a do nothing approach. Neither option is desirable. Conservationists support the Conservation Biology Alternative that gives full Endangered Species Act protection and safeguards grizzly habitat. Because of credible sightings, conservationists are also conducting scientific DNA surveys in an attempt to verify grizzly presence in central Idaho's Big Wild.

SPECIES CONCERNS continued..

and Chinook salmon. All four have either been listed as threatened, endangered or are being petitioned for listing. Past logging and road construction are causing landslides which have decimated fish populations in some drainages. The CNF's wildlands provide important habitat for gray wolf, bald eagle, lynx, and possibly grizzly bear. A recovery plan for grizzlies in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife is pending (see insert).

THE Risk: LOGGING

Although logging levels have declined over the last decade, timber management practices have routinely proven excessive. Clearcuts frequently surpass 40 acres, the current size limit, due to exemptions from the regional office. The USFS has also failed to maintain a mini-

mum of 10% old growth forest on the CNF. A recent lawsuit succeeded in proving the agency was not meeting this standard.

CNF timber sales offered under the guise of "forest health" can be misleading. "Elk habitat improvement" has become a familiar version of this euphemism for large-scale logging. The Middle Black timber sale is the largest of these proposed "logging for elk" sales. This sale will initially remove over 100 MMBF in and around the Pot Mountain Roadless Area. Timber sale planners are working on another sale, the 75 MMBF North Lochsa Face timber sale.

In the winter of 1996-1997, following a heavy snowpack, several landslides occurred on the CNF that originated on logging sites and roads. When heavy rains occur on the CNF's steep slopes and highly erosive soils, routine landslides are common.

THE Risk: OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

While the CNF is unusual in its proportion of roadless areas, its roaded portions contain high road densities. The CNF does not have an updated travel plan and ORVs are allowed in roadless areas, including agency proposed wilderness areas in



Landslide into Isabella Creek, CNF North Fork District. Landslide initiated in a 100 acre clearcut above the creek. Photo by Gerry Snyder

the forest plan. Motorized vehicle use fragments habitat, affects water quality, diminishes roadless area qualities, and threatens wolverine and lynx populations, which are sensitive to snowmobiles.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

The State of Idaho is ground zero in the fight against the roadless initiative. Direct letters to Larry Dawson, Clearwater Forest Supervisor (12730 Highway 12, Orofino, ID 83544), requesting that alternatives be included to protect roadless areas and end commercial logging in the upcoming forest plan revision. Also request that the North Lochsa and Middle Back timber sales be cancelled.

Help ensure that the Grizzly Recovery Plan becomes a reality. Write to Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services, U.S. Fish & Wildlife (P.O. Box 25486 DFC, Denver, CO 80225) requesting that the Conservation Biology Alternative for the Grizzly Recovery Plan be implemented.

For More Information Contact:
Friends of the Clearwater
208-882-9755
www.wildrockies.org/foc



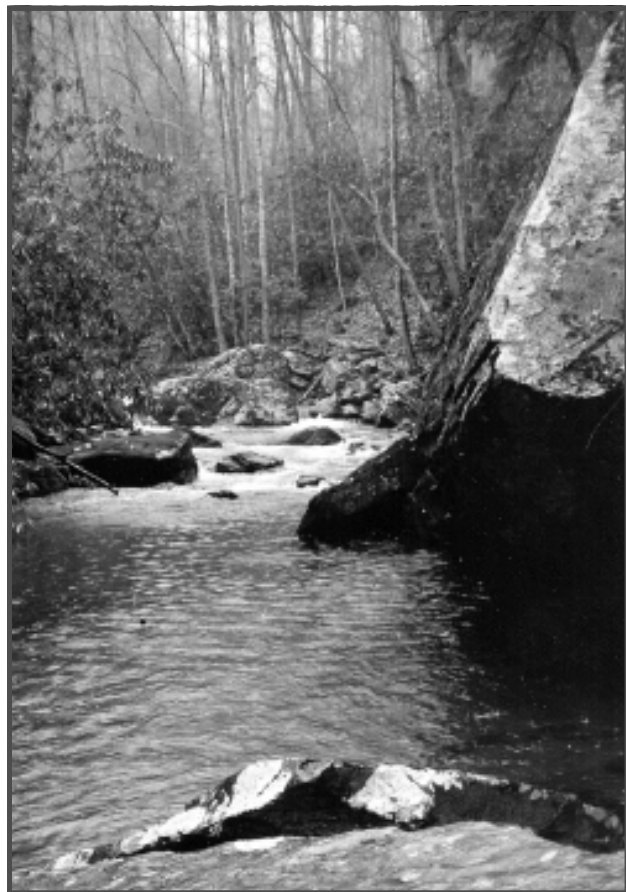
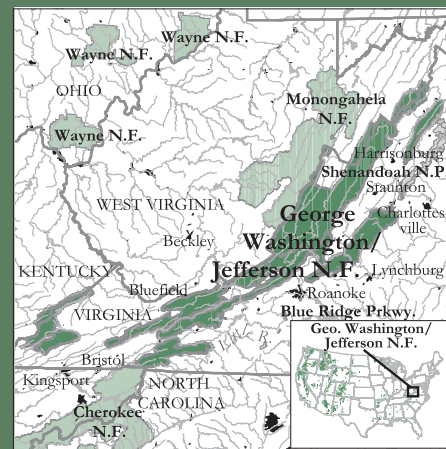
Parachute & Papoose Creek drainages adjacent to the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Area (on left). Photo by Chuck Pezeshki

GEORGE WASHINGTON & JEFFERSON

National Forests

Virginia, West Virginia, & Kentucky

Threats: Logging, Roads, & Watershed Degradation



Like many beautiful streams on the GW/JNF, the aquatic life is threatened by acid rain and sedimentation from timber sales. Photo by NFPA

SUMMARY

Located primarily in western Virginia, and within a day's drive of 27 million Americans, the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests (GW/JNF) are heavily impacted by industrial logging, air pollution and water pollution. Home to more endangered species than any other National Forest, the GW/JNF also contain a substantial amount of unprotected roadless area. If not stopped, a host of controversial timber sales will encroach into roadless areas, sensitive watersheds, and key biological areas harboring endangered species habitat. In particular, the Bark Camp and the Powell Mt. II sales are certain to degrade this green gem of the central Appalachians.

THE FOREST

Established separately in the 1920's, the GW/JNF were combined in 1995 and now totals 1.79 million acres. The two national forests follow Virginia's mountainous western border for over 300 miles, extending into portions of Kentucky and West Virginia. They represent the best chance in the east to preserve

THE FOREST continued..

large tracts of unfragmented forest and contain an estimated 219,000 acres of old growth. Nearly one million acres is considered remote and undeveloped, another 90,000 acres are protected as wilderness, and 689,000 acres remain suitable for logging.

Spanning four distinct geological provinces, the GW/JNF is home to over 100 tree species, of which 80% deciduous hardwood. Some of the oldest and most biologically diverse deciduous forest ecosystems in the world are found on the GW/JNF. The dominant forest types are oak-hickory or oak-pine; neighbors include pockets of cove forest with tuliptree and black gum and old growth riparian hardwood communities. Above 5,000 feet, stands of red spruce and rare Fraser fir dot the land-

scape.

More miles of the Appalachian Trail cross Virginia than any other state with the bulk of the trail meandering through the GW/JNF. The Blue Ridge Parkway runs through the GW/JNF providing an important source of tourist dollars for Virginia.

SPECIES CONCERNS

The GW/JNF contain a wealth of biodiversity, providing habitat for approximately 70 amphibians and reptiles, 55 mammals, and countless neotropical migratory birds. Unfortunately, more endangered species are found here than on any other national forest. Twenty-seven plant and animal species are listed as threatened or endangered, including 14 endangered freshwater mussels.



Logging equipment in the Hematite old growth sale. Photo by NFPA



Clearcutting on the GW/JNF. Photo by Greg Lipscomb

SPECIES CONCERNS continued..

The Clinch River harbors more threatened fish and mussel species than any other watershed in the United States, mainly due to sedimentation from logging. The endangered Indiana bat can be found here and sightings of fishers and cougars are increasing.

THE Risk: LOGGING

For the last five years, the GW/JNF has averaged between 40-50 MMBF annually. According to The Wilderness Society, the GW/JNF's timber sale program operated at a deficit of \$447,000 in 1998. However, the program continues with remote sections of the Jefferson facing imminent threats from logging and roadbuilding. In 2000 alone, 27.5 MMBF were logged from 2,400 acres across the Jefferson.

A pressing issue for the GW/JNF is the Bark Camp timber sale, which plans to log over 700 acres in prime forest adjacent to the Clinch River. Further siltation from this sale will threaten the survival of several endangered mussels and spawning grounds for brook and rainbow trout, and the yellowfin madtom. In addition, logging for ruffed grouse is a new forest service tactic, and involves creating several connected 15 acre clearcuts. Such logging manipulates the landscape to create more hunting opportunities in early successional forest. However, the habitats of numerous endemic and endangered species are threatened by such logging practices.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

1. Support a forest protection organization in your area.

Contact Shenandoah Ecosystem Defense Group, Southern Appalachian Biodiversity Project, or Virginia Forest Watch to find out how to get involved in efforts to stop timber sales. Write letters, attend public meetings, go on hikes into proposed timber sales or take part in other fun activities.

2. Get involved with the GW/JNF Forest Plan Revision!

Support alternatives that promote ending commercial logging, roadless area, old growth, and watershed protection. Contact congressional representative Rick Boucher (2187 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515) and ask him to sponsor a comprehensive wilderness bill that will protect the GW/JNF's roadless areas.

THE Risk: ROADS

The GW/JNF contains more unprotected roadless areas than any eastern national forest. Nearly 22% of the forest, or 403,300 acres, is roadless. Due to lack of protection, timber sales threaten 136,467 acres. For example, both the 7,130 acre Terrapin Mountain and the 5,165 acre Wilson Mountain areas are being logged.

Roads have had a severe impact within those lands actively managed for timber production. Road density on the GW/JNF is approximately 2.9 miles of road per square mile, or 3,000 miles of roads on 1,100 square miles. An equivalent num-

ber of closed and temporary roads, including "linear wildlife openings," crisscross the forest.

THE Risk:

WATERSHED DEGRADATION

Large portions of the GW/JNF serve as the headwaters for major river systems including the Potomac, the James, the Upper Tennessee River Basin, and the New River. Several Wild & Scenic rivers have been proposed, including the Calpasture River and the Russell Fork, one of the most challenging whitewater rivers in the east.

Current management practices are degrading water quality and diminishing the integrity of aquatic ecosystems. Even the USDA Inspector General has recognized the GW/JNF's failure to apply mitigation measures to protect water quality. Planned timber sales such as the Chestnut Ridge #2 and Bark Camp will log in sensitive riparian areas, further threatening the health of rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds.

For More Information Contact:

Shenandoah Ecosystem
Defense Group
804-971-1553

Southern Appalachian
Biodiversity Project
828-258-2667
www.sabp.net

Virginia Forest Watch
804-971-1552
www.virginiaforestwatch.org

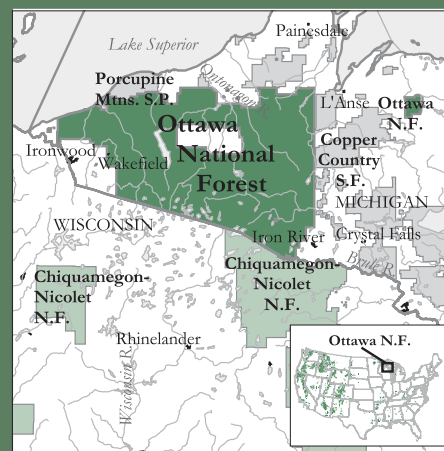
OTTAWA

National Forest Michigan

Threats: Logging, Roads, & Watershed Degradation



Autumn in the Trap Hills. © 2001, Back Yard Graphix & Henry W. Peters



SUMMARY

The Ottawa National Forest (ONF) lies in the western Upper Peninsula (UP) of Michigan, between the shores of Lake Superior and the Wisconsin border. The Ottawa, laced with lakes, rivers, and streams, represents one of the most biologically diverse areas of publicly-owned land in the Great Lakes. This region supports a host of rare and endangered plants and animals. Timber wolf, moose, black bear, Canada lynx, fisher, and pine marten all make their home in the wild ONF.

A century ago, 50 million acres of prime pine and hardwood forests were clearcut in the Great Lakes. With an annual cut averaging 70 MMBF, logging has returned as the dominant extractive activity on the ONF's maturing hardwood forests. Sadly, much of the wood is cut for pulp. Today, logging threatens all six of the ONF's Wild & Scenic Rivers, its few remaining roadless areas, notably the "Trap Hills," and a growing local tourism industry.

THE FOREST

The ONF is a part of a 3 million acre wildland complex, all publicly owned that creates a rich repository of biodiversity. The one million acre ONF is located in a transition zone between northern hardwoods and boreal forests. The ONF contains boreal forests of stunted black spruce, wetlands of tamarack trees near Lake Superior, and aspen-dominated clay plains interspersed with conifers. Upland forests, comprising nearly half of the ONF, harbor mostly hardwood species. Over the decades, conifers have declined significantly due to logging, particularly eastern hemlock, cedar and white pine. Three wilderness areas, Sylvania, McCormick, and Sturgeon River Gorge, contain the majority of virgin forest left in the ONF, approximately 25,000 acres.

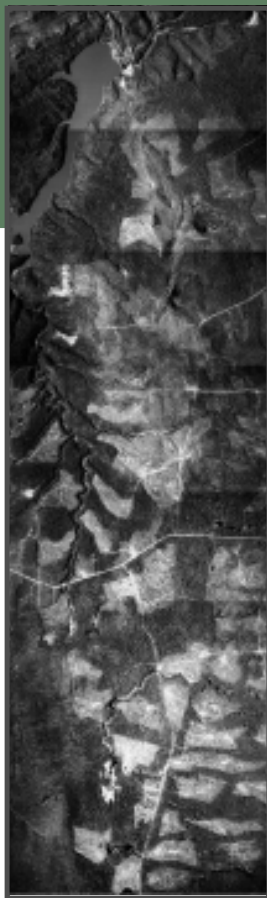
With over 500 named lakes and 2,000 miles of rivers and streams, aquatic and wetland habitats abound on the ONF. This forest contains major headwaters that flow into Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, and the Wisconsin River. The ONF's six Wild & Scenic rivers are prime destinations for canoeists and anglers.

SPECIES CONCERNS

The ONF is noted for its diverse flora, including disjunct species whose primary ranges are northern Canada and the western U.S. Hills, cliffs, and wetlands support species absent in other parts of the upper Midwest. Dozens of species in the ONF are listed as endangered, threatened, or sensitive. A diverse array of animals occurs here, including 50 mammal species and 179 bird species. Black bear, fisher, pine marten, north-



Gray Timber Wolf tracks. © 2001, Back Yard Graphix & Henry W. Peters



Aerial view of clearcuts on the ONF. © 2001, Back Yard Graphix & Henry W. Peters



Pierson Creek clearcut, an example of an "even-aged stand modification." © 2001, Back Yard Graphix & Henry W. Peters

SPECIES CONCERNS continued..

ern goshawk and bald eagle all reside in the ONF, and timber wolves, once extirpated from the region, are making a successful comeback. Canada lynx, listed as federally threatened, was found along the ONF's southern border.

THE Risk: LOGGING

Logging and copper mining began in the mid-1800's on the ONF. By the early 1900's, these extractive industries had exhausted available timber, iron, and copper reserves, leaving an impoverished economy and ravaged ecosystems. Sufficient time has lapsed for second growth forests to restore some integrity to the region's ecosystems, but once again logging threatens the area.

ONF logging levels have risen significantly since 1986 with an annual cut averaging 66.6 MMBF between 1986 and 2000, or approximately 12,200 acres logged each year. The cumulative impacts have led to younger and younger forests and consequently the simplification of native ecosystems. An urgent need exists on the ONF to protect older forests.

Plantations of red pine and Jack pine, established in the 1930's, comprise nearly 10% of the ONF. When clearcut, these areas are replanted as tree farms. In the past 20 years, approximately 83,000 acres of multi-species forests have been clearcut and converted to aspen monocultures favored by the pulp and paper industry. Northern hardwoods are being cut well over the average set by the Forest Service. In some cases, the cut is 64% above the al-

lowable average.

THE Risk: ROADS

Road density increases each year on the ONF even though the USFS fails to maintain existing roads. Precise road density is almost impossible to calculate due to an agency shell game which adds overgrown roads and skid trails to the open road system. Just as logging pays for new road construction and old road reconstruction, it also funds the "supposed" closure of roads which nature has restored through decades of regrowth at no financial cost.

Only one area in the ONF, the 4,800 acre Norwich Plains, was included in the USFS's Roadless Initiative. Lands connected to larger core areas such as Wilderness Areas and Wild and Scenic Rivers were not considered. Many vital roadless areas like the 4,400 acre Trap Hills and Northeast Ridge remain unprotected.

THE Risk:

WATERSHED DEGRADATION

Due to the extensive road system on the ONF, many streams and rivers are choked with sediment. Larger and faster-flowing rivers, such as the Presque Isle, Black, Paint and Ontonagon, maintain enough velocity to keep longer stretches free of sediment. However, their upper portions are embedded with sand. Planned timber-cutting within the six Wild and Scenic River corridors further threatens the integrity of the ONF's free-flowing waters.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

1. Write letters to Ottawa's Forest Supervisor Phyllis Green (ONF, E6248 US 2, Ironwood, MI 49938) and to your Representative and Senator. Request that the Old M-64 Hardwoods sale be cancelled, and that the Trap Hills be assessed for Wilderness designation. Also ask that the Northeast Ridge timber sale be cancelled.
2. Write your congressperson and ask for an investigation into the massive logging being planned and implemented in Michigan's 6 Wild and Scenic River corridors.

For More Information Contact:
Northwoods Wilderness Recovery
906-225-1938
www.northwoodswild.org

Superior Wilderness Action Network
320-245-6800
www.superiorwild.org

GIFFORD PINCHOT

National Forest

Washington

Threats: Logging, Watershed Degradation, & Roads



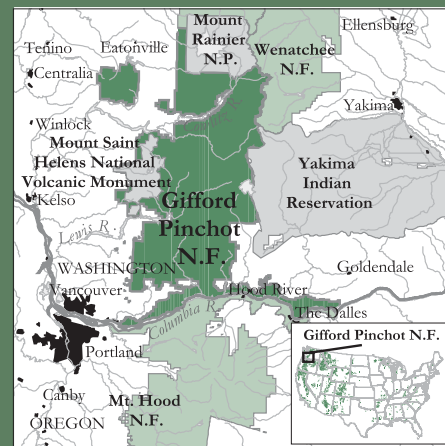
Photo by NFPA

The 12,276-foot high Mt. Adams, or Pahto, Mt. Adams Wilderness.



Photo by NFPA

Meadow with old growth trees.



SUMMARY

Majestic old growth Douglas fir, western hemlock, and Pacific silver fir characterize the moist forest environment of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest (GPNF). The Forest provides habitat for lynx, wolves, spotted owls, and bald eagles; its rivers and streams support ancient runs of salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Commercial logging is a pressing issue on the Gifford Pinchot, the namesake of the first chief of the Forest Service. Over the next three years, the GPNF will offer more than 200 million board feet (MMBF) for sale. The Forest's timber program is almost entirely oriented towards logging old growth, with virtually all proposed sales taking place within inventoried and non-inventoried roadless areas.

THE FOREST

Originally named the Columbia National Forest, it was renamed the Gifford Pinchot in 1949 to immortalize the modern day father of American forestry. At 1,372,000 acres in size, the GPNF represents a classic temperate rainforest. Sitting on the west side of the Cascades and lying on rich, volcanic soils, groves

THE FOREST continued..

of ancient coniferous forests are still found in wilderness areas, in inventoried and non-inventoried roadless areas, and in fragmented pockets of uncut forest within the existing road system.

The Forest is home to the 110,000-acre Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, the Big Lava Beds, seven designated wilderness areas (totaling over 300,000 acres), 1200 miles of hiking trails, numerous caves, and hundreds of waterfalls. Native American berry fields and archaeological remains can be found on the GPNF. Archaeological investigations on the GPNF continue to discover new information about the lives of these first Americans.

SPECIES CONCERNS

A multitude of endangered, threatened and sensitive species reside on the GPNF including gray wolf, lynx, marten, northern spotted owl, northern goshawk, bald eagle, bull trout, Larch Mountain salamander, four species of bats, two species of frogs, the Mardon Skipper butterfly, and rare plants like pale blue-eyed grass, candystick and water howellia. Just as important to the forest ecosystem are a number of lesser known fungi, lichens, and insects that are also impacted by resource extraction.

THE Risk: LOGGING

Gifford Pinchot's philosophy that the forests should be managed for "the greatest good of the greatest number in the



Old growth trees in jeopardy from the Goose Egg Timber Sale. Photo by NFPA



Cipus Clearcut. Photo by NFPA



Clearcutting on steep slopes in the Gifford Pinchot. Photo by NFPA

THE Risk: LOGGING continued.. long run” has not applied on the Forest that bears his name.

Shortsighted Forest Service policies oriented towards industrial timber management have resulted in a clearcut landscape and sediment-choked streams. The agency routinely fails to consider cumulative impacts, resulting in timber sales often planned adjoining former clearcuts. Despite these problems, clearcutting, now termed “regeneration harvest,” remains among the most common harvest practices. The GPNF has no standards for management of old growth forest, and consequently over 2500 acres were logged in the past 4 years alone. Timber sales have encroached into 38 roadless areas since 1994.

Timber sales developed in 1998 to log 1500 acres of old growth have been held up by recent legislation and

Logging has declined dramatically since the 400 MMBF per year average of the 1980’s, and the 600 MMBF cut during 1970. Nonetheless, the GPNF’s history of unsustainable logging highlights the need to end commercial timber sales as more logging only further damages this heavily impacted rainforest ecosystem. Although local timber mills no longer depend on federal logging to sustain them, timber extraction is still viewed as the dominant economic activity.

THE Risk: **WATERSHED DEGRADATION**

The USFS has no data regarding the number of impaired streams within the forest or the percentage of streams impaired. They do admit, however, that all drainages on the GPNF have experienced high turbidity associated with road failures, slope failures, and logging, yet riparian area logging continues to occur. At least one proposed timber sale will occur in a “Tier 1 Key Watershed” (a Northwest Forest Plan designation), posing serious threats to bull trout, salmon, and steelhead runs. All watersheds within the forest exceed the recommended road density.

THE Risk: ROADS

With over 4,000 miles of logging roads crisscrossing the GPNF, building new logging roads in roadless areas is irresponsible at best. Average road density on the GPNF exceeds the recommended density by over one mile per square mile. Logging roads are routinely constructed in inventoried and non-inventoried roadless areas,

through deer and elk winter range, across streams providing habitat for salmon and endangered bull trout, through spotted owl critical habitat, and into groves of ancient forest.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

There are 23 other old growth timber sales like the Swell about to be cut in the GPNF. Write to Forest Supervisor Claire Lavendel (10600 N.E. 51st Circle, Vancouver, WA 98682) and request that the sales be cancelled. Also write to the Washington delegation:

Senator Patty Murray, 173 Russell S.O.B., Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Maria Cantwell, 717 Hart S.O.B., Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Brian Baird, 1721 Longworth Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

Ask them to protect ancient forests on public lands by ending commercial logging and supporting future wilderness additions to the GPNF. Request an immediate ban on old growth logging and any further encroachment into roadless areas and Research Natural Areas inside the GPNF.

For More Information Contact:
Pacific Crest Biodiversity Project
206-545-3734
www.pcbp.org

Clearcut. Photo by NFPA

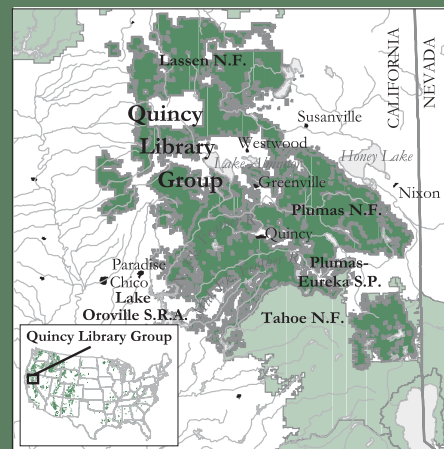


amendments to the Northwest Forest Plan (see special issues). One of the more controversial sales was the Swell Timber sale, a clearcut, which planned to destroy 200 acres of suitable habitat for the Northern spotted owl, rare ancient forest bordering the Pacific Crest Trail, the Steamboat RNA and several meadow and wetland complexes.

PLUMAS

Lassen & Tahoe National Forests California

Threats: The Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery & Economic Stability Act



Old growth trees on the Plumas National Forest. Photos by NFPA.

SUMMARY

In late 1998, the controversial Quincy Library Group Forest Recovery and Economic Stability Act passed due to persistent “special interests” living in and around the Plumas, Lassen and the Sierraville district of the Tahoe national forests. Referred to as the Quincy Library Group (QLG), the process was publicized as the epitome of environmental corporate collaboration but has proven to be a farce. This five-year pilot project proposes to log, thin and cut firebreaks, supposedly to reduce fire risk and to improve forest health in the northern Sierras.

The QLG was signed into law and has been partially funded. Meanwhile, after eight years of research and planning, most forests in northern California received improved environmental protections under the new Sierra Nevada Forest Plan (SNFP, see special issues). The USFS continues to prioritize the QLG agenda in its management decisions on the Lassen, Plumas and Tahoe. With full QLG funding, logging and commercial thinning on these forests will more than double, further degrading habitat for numerous sensitive wildlife species.

THE FOREST

Characterized by rugged canyons, rolling hills and alpine meadows teeming with lakes, the QLG forests function as a critical biological corridor between the central Sierra Nevada and Siskiyou/southern Cascade ecoregions. The forests border the Modoc Plateau to the north and the high desert of the Great Basin to the east, consequently supporting a high degree of biodiversity. Spanning elevations from 1,300 to over 10,000 feet, the forests lie in a climatic zone with a west-east gradient ranging from moist mixed conifer forests to drier Jeffrey pine and pinyon-juniper forests.

Over 200 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, one of the first two National Scenic Trails in the United States, cross the QLG area, joining hundreds of miles of other trails. The most prominent

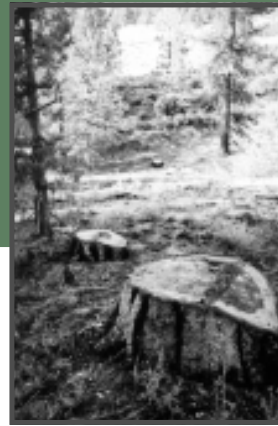
river system in the QLG area is the Plumas National Forest’s (PNF) North, Middle and South Forks of the Feather River. This region is characterized by deep, picturesque canyons, numerous large boulders, excellent fishing, outstanding whitewater recreation, and the third-highest waterfall in the U.S. Lassen National Forest surrounds the 106,000 acre Lassen Volcanic National Park, where all four of the known types of volcanoes in the world occur.

SPECIES CONCERNS

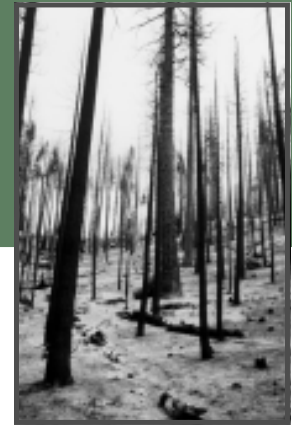
Over-logging, grazing, and excessive road construction have severely damaged habitat for the California spotted owl, federally endangered northern spotted owl, willow flycatcher, and other bird species. The Lassen National Forest owl demo-



Siegfried Project in progress under the Quincy Library Group forest health project. Photo by NFPA



Ponderosa pines stumps cut under QLQ forest health project.



An example of QLQ style thinning that still resulted in the stand replacement Stream fire.

Photo by NFPA

Photo by NFPA

SPECIES CONCERNS continued..

graphic study is showing a 9.3% annual decline in California spotted owl populations over the last 10 years. Both the owl and the Pacific fisher have been petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act. According to data from the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP), a congressionally mandated three-year study, habitat for large and medium-sized carnivores such as the fisher is fragmented, inhibiting migration and reproduction and threatening remaining populations with isolation and extinction.

Risks on the PLUMAS NF

The PNF is ground zero in the ongoing debate over the QLQ program, and comprises about half the program's total acreage. Most of the area's highest-quality California spotted owl habitat, 74 nest areas within 160,618 acres, occurs on the Plumas. According to data from the SNEP, only 25,000 acres (<2%) are classified as high-volume old growth. The PNF contains the highest road density (2.6 miles per sq. mile) of any national forest in the Sierra Nevada. There are almost 6,000 miles of inventoried roads on the PNF. Actual road density could be far higher, since the latest data is from 1986.

The PNF's 4,700 miles of streams experience heavy sedimentation from roads, logging, and past mining activities. QLQ's emphasis on thinning, combined with past clearcutting, diminishes an already reduced level of canopy closure, which in turn contributes to higher stream temperatures that harm fish and amphibians.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

Boycott the products of Sierra Pacific Industries, a major purchaser of federal timber from the QLQ area. Contact Governor Gray Davis (Governor's Office, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814 ph: 916-445-2841), who has received large campaign donations from SPI.

Write Dave Tinney (USDA 217-E, Jamie L. Whitten Bldg., 1400 Independence Ave., SW Washington, D.C. 20250-0108), Undersecretary for Forests, stating that failure to end the QLQ program will lead to multiple listings, waste tens of millions of taxpayers dollars, and create a major public issue for the Bush administration in California.

Support listings for the California spotted owl & the Pacific fisher under the Endangered Species Act. Contact USFWS, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825.

A recent American Rivers report selected the PNF's Feather River as one of the nation's most endangered rivers due to dams. Watershed impacts from poor forest management are likely to further harm the river's salmon and steelhead runs.

THE QUINCY LIBRARY GROUP

Supporters bill the QLQ as a model of collaboration between industry and environmentalists, though virtually all forest activists in the region oppose the QLQ plan. Citing the urgent need for restoration of forest ecosystems and the stabili-

zation of small town economies, the QLQ sacrifices the former for the latter. Cut levels under full QLQ funding and implementation would more than double from approximately 136 to 286 MMBF.

QLQ treatments often exceed their stated fuels reduction objectives, allowing cutting and degrading of suitable habitat for the spotted owl, fisher, marten and other at-risk species. Despite the best available science regarding spotted owl ecology, QLQ is demanding continued logging under the old California Spotted Owl Interim Guidelines. Under these outdated guidelines, canopy cover in owl nesting habitat can be reduced to 40%, which is considered marginally suitable for foraging and insufficient for nesting.

While QLQ proponents continue to try and derail SNFP, the Regional Forester has proposed an administrative study that will investigate how owls and their habitats respond to silvicultural treatments. This risky proposal covers 40-70,000 acres in 11 watersheds, calling for up to 4,000 acres of group selection cuts annually in California spotted owl habitat for an indefinite time period. Not even the QLQ program in its current form allows for this level of habitat destruction. If implemented, the study's potential negative impacts will be staggering, both for owls and general ecosystem health.

For More Information Contact:

American Lands Alliance

503-265-3506

www.americanlands.org

or email: sierrawatch@hotmail.com

AMERICA'S THREATENED FORESTS

"Primeval forests represent the treasure troves of biodiversity and time. That is what makes them irreplaceable. You will never see again what we cut now; you will see nothing like it or the non-human community it nurtures." David R. Brower

ALABAMA NATIONAL FORESTS

There are four National Forests in Alabama, Bankhead, Talladega, Conecuh and Tuskegee, comprising 665,000 acres. Until 1995, these forests were managed almost exclusively as tree farms. As a result, tens-of-thousands of acres of native forests were wiped out. Thanks to legal actions by NFPA member groups Wild Alabama and WildLaw, the days of destructive logging on ANFs are over. However, threats do remain, oil and gas drilling on the Conecuh and coal strip mining on the Bankhead. Contact Wild Alabama at www.wildalabama.org or 256-974-6166.

MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL FORESTS

There are six National Forests in Mississippi, De Soto, Bienville, Delta, Homochitto, Holly Springs and Tombigbee, comprising 1.2 million acres. For years, MNFs were one of the largest producers of lumber in the NF system, regularly producing 300 MMBF a year. Legal work by WildLaw has led to better management and reduced the cut volume to <100 MMBF annually. Still, logging remains; this year the Homochitto proposed 8,000 acres of logging. Other threats include oil and gas drilling in the Homochitto and the De Soto and demands from Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott that the USFS get the cut out in his home state. Contact Wildlaw at www.wildlaw.org or 334-265-6529.

APACHE-SITGREAVES NATIONAL FOREST

The Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF) in Arizona was one of the Southwest's top timber producers. In addition to being heavily grazed, ninety eight percent of the two million-acre ASNF has been logged leaving virtually no old growth ponderosa pine. Litigation over endangered species has dropped the cutting volume. However, the USFS is still attempting to log the 31 MMBF Baca timber sale. The ASNF is also proposing several controversial landscape-level restoration projects ranging up to 100,000 acres. Called the Flagstaff "pre-settlement" model, it plans to remove a large number of trees and relies on mechanical treatments. Contact the Center for Biological Diversity at www.biologicaldiversity.org or 520-623-5252.

FINGER LAKES NATIONAL FOREST

The Finger Lakes National Forest (FLNF) is the only National Forest in New York State and the newest in the nation. Around 16,000 acres, it is currently threatened by a proposal to open up the entire forest to oil and gas drilling. In order to drill, clearings for well pads, roads, and pipelines must be constructed, further destroying this already fragmented forest. Contact The Finger Lakes Forest Watch Congress at www.flfwc.org or 607-220-4222.

FISHLAKE NATIONAL FOREST

The Fishlake National Forest (FNF) is widely considered the most biologically diverse of Utah's NFs. The FNF is the only forest in Utah with no designated wilderness protection. Future wilderness designation is critical if the FNF's remaining biodiversity is to be preserved. During the 1990's, logging tripled on the FNF. Other threats include Grazing and an explosion in ATV use on the Forest, jeopardizing sensitive plant species and diminishing water quality. Contact Utah Environmental Congress at www.uec-utah.org or 801-466-4055.



Clearcuts on the Willamette National Forest. Photo by NFPA

WILLAMETTE NATIONAL FOREST

Willamette National Forest (WNF) in Oregon, best known for its old growth forests, contains more biomass per acre than any other terrestrial ecosystem. The WNF also logs more old growth trees than any other NF. Half have been clearcut accompanied by 8,000 miles of roads. Currently, more than 22 timber sales plan to log over 3,500 acres of old growth forest. Losing the most money of any NF last year, the WNF remains the center of controversy about NF management in the Pacific Northwest. For more information contact the Cascadia Wildlands Project www.cascwild.org or 541-434-1463.

KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST

The Kaibab National Forest (KNF) in Arizona provides a critical biological link in the Southwest. It is home to the highest remaining density of ancient ponderosa pines. Because 95% of the Southwest's original old growth forests have been cut, the National Biological Survey declared the Southwest's ponderosa pine forests among the most endangered ecosystems in the nation. The KNF also contains the largest population of goshawks in the Southwest. However, management guidelines designed to protect the goshawk are being used to justify the continued decimation of ponderosa pine forests. Under goshawk management 55,446 old growth trees were logged in just six timber sales. Contact the Southwest Forest Alliance at www.swfa.org or (928) 774-6514.

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

The Kootenai National Forest (KNF), in Montana, harbors the biggest, wettest and most diverse forest in the state. Mining and logging plague the KNF, with timber extraction often exceeding that of all other Region 1 forests combined. Currently the proposed Rock Creek Mine is the biggest threat to the KNF. This mine plans to tunnel three miles beneath the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness and discharge up to three million gallons of wastewater daily into the lower Clark Fork River. Contact the Ecology Center at www.wildrockies.org/tec or 406-728-5733.

TEXAS NATIONAL FORESTS

The National Forests of Texas, Davey Crockett, Sabine, Angelina, and Sam Houston, are among the nation's most heavily roaded and are being converted to pine plantations. Allegedly to protect the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker, logging and burning are being used to change diverse ecosystems into pure pine stands. Although natural fire was historically frequent in some places, fire within hardwood-pine stands was rare. Current management prescribes heavy thinning of mature pines, hardwood removal, burning every 3-5 years, and herbicide application if burning fails to do the job. Contact Sierra Club-Texas/Arkansas Field Office at 512-472-9094.

MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

The Malheur National Forest (MNF) in Oregon is home to one of the last unobstructed anadromous fish runs in the Pacific Northwest. Cattle grazing and logging are the dominant economic activities on the MNF, severely impacting riparian areas and water quality. The MNF has sustained significant damage to its biodiversity under the guise of 'forest health', 'restoration', and 'salvage' logging. Clearcutting and old growth logging on the MNF virtually ceased a decade ago, but both practices are being resurrected with several new timber sales. Contact Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project HCR-82, Fossil, Oregon 97830.



Burned area of the Bitterroot National Forest. Photo by NFPA

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

The Bitterroot National Forest (BNF) in Montana was the site of the nation's largest wildfire for 2000. Now the BNF proposes to log 280 MMBF of timber in the burned areas. The proposed post-fire logging is intended for roadless areas and sensitive forests that are well into the natural recovery process. BNF officials claim post-fire salvage logging will help prevent a "reburn," reducing the risk of wildfire. However, BNF officials publicly admit that there is no scientific evidence that supports the "reburn" theory. The BNF expects to make a decision on their proposal in fall 2001. Contact the Native Forest Network at (406) 542-7343 or www.nativeforest.org.

ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST

The Routt National Forest (RNF) in Colorado, boasts a diversity of ecosystems in a vertical mile of elevation range. In October 1997, a windstorm blew down over 13,000 acres of trees. The USFS, fearing fire and spruce bark beetle out-

breaks, has mounted an aggressive campaign to salvage the blown down timber. Two roadless areas have been entered for 'blowdown' salvage sales with plans to enter more. Road construction and logging in roadless areas remain the major threats. Contact Colorado Wild! at www.coloradowild.org or 303-839-5900.

BOISE NATIONAL FOREST

At 2.3 million acres, the Boise National Forest (BNF) contains 1.1 million roadless acres and some of the largest remaining tracks of old growth ponderosa pine forests in the Northern Rockies. Past logging, failing roads, and 'salvage' sales have caused stream siltation, endangering salmon runs. The current threat is the revised forest plan that permits old growth logging on the fragile, steep slopes of the South Fork of the Salmon River. Already heavily impacted, this drainage shelters ponderosa pine stands and provides Idaho's best Chinook salmon habitat. With 64,000 acres of designated wilderness, BNF officials are only recommending 184,000 roadless acres for future wilderness protection. Contact Idaho Sporting Congress at 208-336-7222 or iscsdd@rmci.net.

SUPERIOR NATIONAL FOREST

Over 445,000 acres of the Superior National Forest (SNF) in Minnesota is surface water. The SNF is home to the most heavily used wilderness in the country, the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW). The BWCAW is approximately one million acres in size and visited by over 200,000 people per year. Salvage logging, roadbuilding, land trades, and ORV use are the biggest threats to the Superior National Forest. Contact the Superior Wilderness Action Network www.superiorwild.org or 320-245-6800.

CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

The Cherokee National Forest (CNF) in Tennessee sees significant impacts from logging and associated roadbuilding. Regional chip mill capacity and production are increasing, resulting in air and water pollution that threaten species. The CNF supports a staggering array of life where the flora and fauna have evolved almost uninterrupted for more than 200 million years. Of the 124 state and federally listed plant and animal species found in the CNF, 81% are associated with riparian habitat, pond, and other wet areas. Contact Cherokee Forest Voices at www.kornet.org/cfvoices or 540-475-5054.

WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

The 783,671 acre White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) hosts a diverse blend of plant and wildlife species. Home to Mt. Washington, the WMNF is the largest concentrated area of National Forest in New England, yet just one small stand of virgin forest remains. Commercial logging is the primary threat, averaging 20 MMBF and 350 acres of clearcutting annually. Extensive ORV, snowmobile, and an industry-driven local political climate, intensify the problem. For further information, contact Native Forest Network at www.nativeforest.org or 802-863-0571.

COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST

The Colville National Forest (CNF) in Washington has been considered the stepchild of the Pacific Northwest Region for the last decade. When timber volumes and road construction slowed on Northwest forests, the CNF continued to log and build roads at a frantic pace. Timber sales and road construction continue in caribou recovery habitat, threatening the only population of woodland caribou in the nation. The same goes for the threatened Canadian lynx that still roams the CNF. Contact The Lands Council at www.landscouncil.org or 509-838-4912.

Conclusion

Given the overwhelming amount of scientific and economic evidence presented in this report, it's clear that our federal forest policy is on a collision course with public opinion. For far too long, the American Forest & Paper Association, the industrial trade association for the timber industry in Washington, D.C., has wielded extraordinary power in Congress and within the Executive Branch. This political influence has reaped billions of dollars in profits from public resources for an industry that owns millions of acres of the most productive private forestlands in the U.S. Adding insult to injury, the public is paying the environmental and socio-economic costs of this "legalized" exploitation through numerous restoration programs, while the corporate timber lords laugh all the way to the bank.

On your next trip to a national forest, take some time to get beyond the visitor's center or the popular campgrounds and look for signs of the timber industry's presence. Walk up to a mountain ridge or high point and count the number of clearcuts. Inspect your favorite trout stream for sources of sedimentation. Or explore the places you cherish to see if they are still there. Be of strong mind and energetic body for the USFS does not make it easy for the public owners who want to scrutinize federal forest management. Many of the

USFS's logging roads are gated, supposedly to protect wildlife, but they serve to help hide the devastation from 50 plus years of plundering our national forests. Time will heal many of the scars found throughout the national forest system, but, without a law banning commercial logging, Congress, the President and particularly the Forest Service will continue to reflect a pro-logging bias. As more and more Americans have experienced the natural treasures found in their national forests, an active base of citizens has emerged to seize the political moment. Their efforts and yours can make the permanent protection and the ecological restoration of the national forest system a reality.

The National Forest Protection Alliance encourages you, your organization and your community to use this report to become more engaged in this pivotal public lands issue. Your involvement will determine whether our national forests remain the domain of the chainsaw and the bulldozer or whether they are truly for the, "...the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run."

Jake Kreilick
Campaign Coordinator

Glossary

Annual volume: a value or measurement used by the USFS for the total quantity of trees that can be cut from a National Forest in one year.

Clearcut/Regeneration harvest: a forestry term signifying that all of the trees in an area are cut leading to the establishment of a new forest.

Disjunct: a population of plants or animals that is separated geographically from others like it and often more susceptible to adverse change.

Ecoregion: a geographic area delineated by similar biological and environmental composition.

Ecosystem: a complex of organisms and their non-living environment all interacting through the flow of energy and materials.

Endangered: a species that is in imminent danger of extinction or disappearing forever throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Endemic: a localized distribution of an organism, usually indicating that it is unique to a restricted geographic area and found nowhere else.

Even-aged management: an interchangeable forestry term for clearcut; cutting all of the trees in an area.

Forest plan: the document that legally directs the management of a National Forest for 10-15 years, developed through scientific analyses and public input.

Group selection: a forestry term indicating the complete removal of a small stand or number of trees within a larger intact forest; a small clearcut.

Highgrading: a forestry term for removing the most valuable trees from a forest while leaving the trees of lesser value.

Inventoried: an item that has been surveyed or catalogued, for example an

"inventoried roadless area" is an area free of roads that has been surveyed and is part of an official USFS catalogue or list.

MBF: a measurement of wood volume indicating one thousand board feet.

MMBF: a measurement of wood volume indicating a million board feet equal to approximately 200 log trucks full of trees.

Monoculture: growing only one species of tree or plant in an area, usually intensively for commercial purposes, often requiring fertilizers and pesticides.

Plantation: an area that is being used for the agricultural production of trees usually for commercial purposes often requiring fertilizers and pesticides.

Prescribed burn: a fire that is either intentionally started or a natural wildfire that is intentionally allowed to burn for management purposes.

Sensitive: a category used by the USFS for a species that is of concern because of its vulnerability to the adverse impacts of land management.

Shelterwood cut: a term used by foresters signifying that some trees in an area to be cut will be left to provide shelter for the next generation of trees.

Speciation: any process by which new species of organisms form, for example a population of a plant species becomes isolated on an island and over time evolves into its own distinct species.

Threatened: a species that is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.

USFS: the United States Forest Service, an agency administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and responsible for the management of 192 million acres of federal, public lands.

Uninventoried or Noninventoried: an item that has not been surveyed or catalogued, for example an uninventoried roadless area is one that has not been surveyed or entered into an official USFS catalogue.

The National Forest Protection Alliance Member Groups

ALABAMA WILDERNESS ALLIANCE ♦ ALLEGHENY DEFENSE PROJECT ♦ ALTERNATIVES IN ACTION! ♦ APPALACHIAN RESTORATION CAMPAIGN ♦ APPALACHIAN VOICES ♦ B A R K ♦ BIG WILD ADVOCATES ♦ BIODIVERSITY ASSOCIATES ♦ BIODIVERSITY LEGAL FOUNDATION ♦ BLUE MOUNTAINS BIODIVERSITY PROJECT ♦ BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE ♦ BUCKEYE FOREST COUNCIL ♦ BUFFALO FIELD CAMPAIGN ♦ BUFFALO TRACE EARTH FIRST! ♦ CALIFORNIA WILDERNESS COALITION ♦ CASCADIA ECOSYSTEMS ASSOCIATES ♦ CASCADIA FIRE ECOLOGY PROJECT ♦ CASCADIA FOREST ALLIANCE ♦ CASCADIA'S ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION PROJECT ♦ CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING ♦ CENTRAL OREGON FOREST ISSUES COMMITTEE ♦ CITIZEN PUBLIC LANDS ♦ COLD MOUNTAIN, COLD RIVERS ♦ COLORADO UNIVERSITY - SINAPU ♦ COLORADO WILD! ♦ COLUMBIA GORGE AUDUBON SOCIETY ♦ CONSTITUTIONAL LAW FOUNDATION ♦ CORNELL GREENS ♦ COVE-MALLARD COALITION ♦ DEVIL'S FORK TRAIL CLUB ♦ DOGWOOD ALLIANCE ♦ ECO-CYCLE, INC. ♦ ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INFORMATION CENTER ♦ ESCALANTE WILDERNESS PROJECT ♦ FINGER LAKES FOREST WATCH CONGRESS ♦ FOREST CONSERVATION COUNCIL ♦ FOREST DEFENSE ♦ FOREST ECOLOGY NETWORK ♦ FOREST GUARDIANS ♦ FOREST WATCH ♦ FORESTS FOREVER ♦ FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER ♦ FRIENDS OF YOSEMITE VALLEY ♦ GLEN CANYON ACTION NETWORK ♦ GLOBAL EXCHANGE ♦ GLOBAL NETWORK AGAINST WEAPONS IN SPACE ♦ GRASSROOTS RECYCLING NETWORK ♦ HEARTWOOD ♦ HELLS CANYON PRESERVATION COUNCIL ♦ HOUSTON ANIMAL RIGHTS TEAM ♦ INDIANA FOREST ALLIANCE ♦ JOHNSTON COUNTY GREEN PARTY ♦ KATUAH EARTH FIRST! ♦ KENTUCKY HEARTWOOD ♦ KLAMATH SISKIYOU WILDLANDS CENTER ♦ LEAVENWORTH AUDUBON ADOPT-A-FOREST ♦ LIVE OAK ALLIANCE ♦ LIVING RIVERS ♦ LONE TREE COUNCIL ♦ MAGIC ♦ MAINE GREEN PARTY ♦ MARION COUNTY WATER WATCH ♦ MEMPHIS AUDUBON SOCIETY ♦ MENDOCINO ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER ♦ MISSOURI HEARTWOOD ♦ MONTANA WATER WATCH ♦ MOUTAINEER CHAPTER, TROUT UNLIMITED ♦ NATIVE FOREST NETWORK ♦ NEW ALLIANCE FOR THE FOREST ♦ NEW MEXICO GREEN PARTY ♦ NORTHERN FOREST ALLIANCE ♦ NORTHERN ROCKIES PRESERVATION PROJECT ♦ NORTHWOODS WILDERNESS RECOVERY ♦ OHIO UNIVERSITY CAMPUS GREENS ♦ OREGON PEACE WORKS ♦ OREGON WILDLIFE FEDERATION ♦ OUACHITA WATCH LEAGUE ♦ OZARK WATCH LEAGUE ♦ PACIFIC CREST BIODIVERSITY PROJECT ♦ PEACE ♦ PILCHUCK AUDUBON SOCIETY ♦ PROTECT OUR PUBLIC LANDS ♦ RADICAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY ♦ RAINFOREST ACTION GROUP - COLORADO UNIVERSITY ♦ RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK ♦ REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONCERNED ENVIRONMENTALISTS ♦ RESTORE: THE NORTH WOODS ♦ ROUGE INSTITUTE FOR ECOLOGY & ECONOMY ♦ SANTIAM WATERSHED GUARDIANS ♦ SHENANDOAH ECOSYSTEM DEFENSE GROUP ♦ SINAPU ♦ SISKIYOU PROJECT ♦ SOCIETY FOR NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION ♦ SOUTH EAST CENTER FOR ECOLOGICAL AWARENESS ♦ SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN BIODIVERSITY PROJECT ♦ SOUTHWEST FOREST ALLIANCE ♦ SOUTHWINGS ♦ STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COALITION ♦ STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE CENTER ♦ SUBLETTE RIDERS ASSOCIATION ♦ SUNMT ♦ SUPERIOR WILDERNESS ACTION NETWORK ♦ SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY PROJECT ♦ TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EARTH ♦ THE CLINCH COALITION ♦ THE ECOLOGY CENTER ♦ THE ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION ♦ THE LANDS COUNCIL ♦ THE LAST GREAT WILDERNESS PROJECT ♦ THE SUBURBAN PHILADELPHIA GREENS ♦ TRADELOCAL ♦ UMPQUA WATERSHEDS, INC ♦ UTAH ENVIRONMENTAL CONGRESS ♦ VIRGINIA FOREST WATCH ♦ VOICES FOR THE ANIMALS ♦ WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ALLIANCE ♦ WILD ALABAMA ♦ WILD ANGELS ♦ WILD WILDERNESS ♦ WILDERNESS STUDY GROUP ♦ WILDLaw ♦ WILLOW CREEK ECOLOGY ♦ YORK COUNTY GREEN PARTY

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