



# Defending Forests, Defending Freedoms

# GREENPEACE

Since 1971, Greenpeace has been a leading voice of the environmental movement. Greenpeace works around the world to protect oceans and ancient forests, and to fight toxic pollution, genetic engineering, global warming and nuclear threats. Without compromise, Greenpeace takes on powerful political and corporate opposition to protect the future of our planet.

The Greenpeace Forest Campaign works to protect our national forests from the Bush administration's clearcut policies that favor the timber industry over the preservation of public lands and civil liberties. Greenpeace is working to rescue critical ancient forests on our public lands that deserve to be protected for future generations.

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## Protecting our Heritage

Our national forests provide us with essential needs like clean air and water, soil production, flood control and climate stability. They also offer scenic beauty, recreational activities and related jobs and wildlife habitat. America's forests play a critical role in providing large expanses of undisturbed terrain for plants and animals, housing 17 percent of the 1,200 listed threatened and endangered species.

Most Americans assume that our government is protecting our national forests, rich with vital ecological functions. Sadly, our hard earned tax dollars are instead being used to fund logging, road building and other extractive industries in our forests.

For over 100 years, our national forests have been destructively mismanaged, primarily for timber. Not only have these practices been ruinous to the forest ecosystem, they have continually wasted the American people's money, providing few benefits in return. Only two percent of the wood products used in the United States come from public forests.

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have been entrusted to conserve our forests. However, despite the conservation intent behind their creation, these government agencies have neglected to safeguard our public lands. Due to the failures of these bureaus, dating back many years, we are now faced with having only five percent of our ancient forests left intact.

## The Forest Service: Negligent in its Duty to Protect Our Ancient Forests

The Forest Service is charged with managing 191 million acres of forest and rangeland, an area equal to the size of Texas and 8.5 percent of the total U.S. land area. By law and at every level of planning, the Forest Service must ensure the social and economic benefits of its forest management for all Americans. This means before it begins any timber sale program it must conduct a cost benefit analysis that accounts for the full monetary and social value of the standing forest and assess those values against those gained by the sale of the timber, as well as an environmental impact analysis.

The Forest Service consistently ignores this type of analysis while steadfastly pursuing its timber sale program. This is a breach of both the law and its responsibility to the American people who have entrusted and funded this agency to protect our forests. In fiscal year 1997, taxpayers provided over \$1

billion to subsidize private logging companies that destroy our forests while the Forest Service spends millions of dollars for road building and other timber extraction processes. The Forest Service has been unable to provide data on the cost of its timber programs since 1998. At that time, the agency reported a \$126 million loss, but an independent analysis found losses to be three times that amount.

Our tax dollars would be far better spent on the ecological and recreational resources that forests provide, creating both economic gain and keeping the forest ecosystem thriving. According to the Forest Service's own data, recreation in national forests accounts for over 30 times both the amount of revenue and jobs created than those from timber sales. Annually, timber produces roughly \$4 billion per year while recreation, fish and wildlife, clean water and roadless areas provide a combined total of \$224 billion to the American economy each year. If the Forest Service were a company, it would have gone bankrupt long ago.

This summer, the Forest Service and BLM are planning to extensively log some of the last remaining ancient forests across the United States, including forests in Oregon, Alaska and Virginia. In the Pacific Northwest alone, 188 sales totaling almost 89,000 acres of old-growth forest are slated for the chopping block. In the Siskiyou National Forest, an unprecedented 370 million board feet of timber is scheduled to be cut. This is the largest timber sale in modern U.S. history.

### **Bureau of Land Management: Our Ancient Forests under the Freewheeling Axe**

The Bureau of Land Management is responsible for managing 262 million acres of public land, located primarily in 12 western states including Alaska. BLM is notorious for liquidating the natural resources under its jurisdiction for the benefit of private interests. An 18-month study of the agency's timber sales by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) shows widespread mismanagement of the BLM's Public Domain forestry program. This mismanagement includes widespread noncompliance by BLM employees to follow the agencies own policies and regulations.

Like the Forest Service, the BLM is also fiscally irresponsible, and chooses to operate its timber



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program at an economic loss. According to Green Scissors, the BLM agency fails to return 20 percent of its timber revenues to the federal treasury to cover the timber sale administration costs, as required by law.

The threats to ancient forests are primarily due to the agency's complete lack of policy for protecting old-growth on public forests. The agency attempts to sidestep its responsibility by denying there are any old-growth forests on BLM land, a huge fallacy when one looks at its holdings in Oregon. A review of over 30 BLM timber sales by PEER found that BLM districts in Idaho, Montana, Washington, Oregon and California violated NEPA and other federal requirements for timber sales. This summer, over 18,000 acres of ancient forests in Oregon are threatened by the BLM's axe.

### **Join Greenpeace in Rescuing and Restoring our Ancient Forests**

These public lands belong to us, not the timber industry. Help protect our American heritage by telling your representatives to stop using Americans' money to cut down our forests. Join Greenpeace in calling for permanent protection of our last remaining ancient forests and an immediate end to all commercial logging in public forests.