

Logging Old Growth Forests

Excerpts from “A Review of the American Forest & Paper Association’s Sustainable Forestry Initiative,” American Lands Alliance, November, 2003.

A number of SFI companies continue to log old growth on their own lands in the U.S. Pacific Lumber (Maxxam), for example, continues to log almost 6,000 acres of intact old growth redwoods and Douglas fir, as well as 15,000 acres with residual old growth trees in California, outside of the portions of the Headwaters Forest purchased by the public.ⁱ Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) has also been liquidating hundreds of acres of old growth and late successional forest stands and trees in Trinity County, in the Yuba River Watershed, in inholdings in the proposed Mill Creek Wilderness in the Lassen National Forest, along the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, and elsewhere in California.ⁱⁱ SPI also continues to operate an old growth sawmill on the California Coast. Plum Creek Timber is logging old growth in Montana’s Swan Valley, including on former National Forest lands.ⁱⁱⁱ Plum Creek, West Fork Timber, and International Paper are also likely to be logging additional old growth and late successional stands, under federal permits allowing them to log habitats for threatened and endangered species dependent upon late successional forests.^{iv} Stimson Lumber and the Timber Products Co have also been logging some old growth.^v

Some SFI companies continue to log old growth on public forests in the U.S. Sierra Pacific Industries, for example, has been purchasing timber sales that would log old growth and other mature forests, harm imperiled species, and permanently impact roadless areas in the Plumas National Forest, the El Dorado National Forest, and the Tahoe National Forest.^{vi} Boise Cascade is logging old growth in the Colville National Forest, the Umpqua National Forest, the Medford BLM District, and Washington State Forests.^{vii} While Boise’s new vow to protect endangered forests may change its old growth practices, Boise was SFI certified prior to making this commitment. Hampton Resources recently purchased a timber sale containing some of the last mature and late successional forest stands in Oregon’s Tillamook and Clatsop State Forest.^{viii} Hampton has also been logging old growth in the Mt. Hood National Forest, and is expected to log more in the future.^{ix} Rosboro Lumber has also been involved with logging old growth on the Mt. Hood National Forest and other federal public forests in the U.S.^x

Some Canadian SFI companies continue to clearcut old growth forests at substantial levels. The Hinton division of Weldwood (an International Paper subsidiary) has been logging 15,000 acres (6,000 ha) of mature and old growth forests per year in Alberta.^{xi} TimberWest continues to log old growth on Vancouver Island.^{xii} Interfor continues to log 4,777 acres (1,934 ha) of pristine old growth in British Columbia’s endangered Clayoquot Sound.^{xiii}

ⁱ EPIC et al. 2003. “Court Rules Against Pacific Lumber’s Headwaters Permits: Over 600 Acres of Ancient Forest Logged Using Illegal Permits.” Press Release, May 20, 2003. Environmental Protection Information Center, Garberville, CA; Sierra Club, Sacramento, CA; & United Steelworkers of America. Available at www.wildcalifornia.org/press_releases. Environmental Protection Information Center, personal communication, May, 2003. American Lands. 1998. Letter to the US Fish & Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, Arcata, CA: Comments on the Pacific Lumber Company’s Proposed Incidental Take Permit, Habitat Conservation Plan, Implementation Agreement, and Environmental Impact Statement (Permits PRT-828950 and 1157). November 13, 1998. Forest Biodiversity Program, American Lands, Portland, OR.

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- ⁱⁱ Joseph Bower, Citizens for Better Forestry, Hayfork, CA, personal communication, June, 2002. Anthony Ambrose, Environmental Protection Information Center, Garberville, CA, personal communication, June, 2002. Evans, S. 2000. "Sierra Pacific Logs Potential Mill Creek Wilderness," *Wilderness Record*. Spring, 2000. California Wilderness Coalition, Davis, CA. NCFC. _____. New Analysis Reveals that Sierra Pacific Industries Plans Massive Cutting in Local Watershed: Summary Report. Nevada County Forest Coalition, Nevada City, CA. Sierra Club. 2002. Press Release: Sierra Pacific Industries Sets Its Sights on Cutting Ancient Forest Along Renowned Pacific Crest National Scenic Hiking Trail. August, 2002. Sierra Club/Sierra Club Nevada Group.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Arlene Montgomery, Friends of Wild Swan, Swan Lake, MT, personal communication, May, 2003.
- ^{iv} Plum Creek's Take Permit for the company's Washington Cascades lands allows 23,000 acres of spotted owl habitat to be logged, some of which is likely to be late successional forest. (Hall, D. 1997. Using Habitat Conservation Plans to Implement the Endangered Species Act in Pacific Coast Forests: Common Problems and Promising Precedents. *Environmental Law*, 27;3.) West Fork Timber has likely been logging 5,000 acres of habitat for Northern spotted owl, including 665 acres of primary old growth and 2,834 acres of stands over 100 years old. (Beak Consultants. 1993. Habitat Conservation Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl on Timberlands Owned by the Murray Pacific Corporation. Beak Consultants, Ltd, Kirkland, WA.) International Paper has likely recently logged much of the last few old growth longleaf pine patches associated with 3,200 acres of occupied red cockaded woodpecker habitat and 50,000 acres of additional habitat of varying quality on its lands in eight Southern states. (USFWS. 1999. Incidental Take Permit Issued to International Paper Co for Lands in AL, AR, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, and TX. US Fish & Wildlife Service, Southeast Region. IP. 1997. Habitat Conservation Plan to Create a Private Mitigation Bank for Red-Cockaded Woodpeckers on International Paper Land. International Paper, Dallas, TX.)
- ^v Washington Forest Law Center, Seattle, WA, personal communication, May, 2003. Klamath Forest Alliance, Etna, CA, personal communication.
- ^{vi} Chad Hanson, John Muir Project, Cedar Ridge, CA, personal communication, May, 2003.
- ^{vii} Kettle Range Conservation Group, Spokane, WA, personal communication, May, 2003. Umpqua Watersheds, Roseburg, OR, personal communication, May, 2003. Jasmine Minibashian, personal communication, May, 2003.
- ^{viii} *The Daily Astorian*, July 16, 2003.
- ^{ix} BARK, Portland, OR, personal communication, May, 2003. Jasmine Minibashian, personal communication, May, 2000.
- ^x BARK, Portland, OR, personal communication, May, 2003. ForestEthics, personal communication, May, 2003.
- ^{xi} Tan (2003).
- ^{xii} Tan (2003).
- ^{xiii} Friends of Clayoquot Sound. Personal communication, September, 2003.