

Conversion of Forests to Sprawl and Other Non-Forest Conditions

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

The Plum Creek Timber Co. has been converting forestlands in Montana and Washington to residential and recreational development, including in important bull trout and grizzly bear habitat in Montana's Swan Valley, in contravention of the Swan Valley Grizzly Bear Conservation Agreement.ⁱ Plum Creek may also be purchasing forestlands for the express purpose of converting them to development.ⁱⁱ Weyerhaeuser has also been converting thousands of acres of forestland to residential development in Washington, Florida, Missouri, North Carolina, and Arkansas, including through its real estate subsidiary, Quadrant.ⁱⁱⁱ Sierra Pacific Industries' new real estate program is also converting hundreds of acres of forestland to residential sprawl and industrial parks near Truckee, Red Bluff, Redding, Sonora, and Graeagle, California, including a 680 acre residential project in forests near Lake Tahoe.^{iv}

International Paper (IP) is connected with nearly 115,000 acres of recent and ongoing conversion in the Southeastern U.S., both through its International Paper Realty Corp., and through its acquisition of Union Camp Corp. While Union Camp's subsidiary, the Branigar Organization, had already initiated some of this development, IP has continued with Union Camp's plans.^v The Bowater Co., has also converted some forest areas in the South to residential uses.^{vi} Pope & Talbot has also been converting much of its Washington forestlands to residential development.^{vii}

ⁱ *The Kalispell Daily Interlake*, "Land Sale Raises Concerns for Grizzlies," (March 3, 2002); *Puget Sound Business Journal* (September 14, 2001).

ⁱⁱ *Wild Forest Review* (January, 1996).

ⁱⁱⁱ *Seattle Times* (June 4, 1992); and www.endgame.org/weyer-realestate.html.

^{iv} Mooers, Tom, Sierra Watch, Nevada City, CA, personal communication, August, 2003. SPI's real estate development program is described briefly on SPI's website at www.spi-ind.com/Sales/Real_Estate.htm.

^v Wilson, N. 2001. International Paper: Agents of Sprawl. Dogwood Alliance, Asheville, NC.

^{vi} *The Chattanooga Times Free Press*, "Softwood Harvests on the Decline: New Development Cited for Increase, Federal Report Says," January 21, 2003.

^{vii} *The New York Times* (October 16, 1994).