

SFI Certified Forest Destruction

Forest certification should help consumers choose wood and paper products from forests managed to exemplary environmental and social standards. However, a certification system is only as good as the forest practices it approves. The American Forest & Paper Association's *Sustainable Forestry Initiative* claims to guarantee well-managed forests – but often certifies forest destruction. SFI certified companies such as Weyerhaeuser, Pacific Lumber, and Sierra Pacific Industries destroy forests by using practices like:

- *Logging or buying wood from old growth forests, endangered species' habitats, or other endangered forests;*
- *Logging or buying wood from some of the America's last unprotected wilderness;*
- *Replacing natural forests with ecologically-barren tree plantations or subdivisions; or*
- *Using gigantic clearcuts, toxic herbicide spraying, or other harmful logging practices.*

WEYERHAEUSER CO. ⊕ Clearcutting habitat for threatened coho salmon and spotted owls in Oregon.¹ ⊕ Clearcutting endangered mountain caribou habitat in Canada.² ⊕ Widespread short rotation plantations fail to produce important habitats and mature trees, lack diversity, and use intensive, repeated chemical applications.³ ⊕ Replacing forests with subdivisions in Washington and the Southern US.⁴ ⊕ Involved with genetically modified tree research.⁵ ⊕ Used illegal tactics to force out competitors in the alder market.⁶

PLUM CREEK TIMBER CO. ⊕ Clearcutting/logging old growth forests and other wild, unlogged forests in Washington and Montana.⁷ ⊕ Eliminating grizzly bear, spotted owl, and other endangered species' habitats.⁸ ⊕ Violating wildlife and forestry rules in Maine.⁹ ⊕ Replacing forests with subdivisions and other nonforest land uses in Washington, Montana, and Maine.¹⁰ ⊕ Plans to sell-off 1.4 million acres for development.¹¹ ⊕ Opening forestlands to coalbed methane mining.¹²

SIERRA PACIFIC INDUSTRIES ⊕ Replacing 70% of 1.4 million acre forest ownership with plantations via excessive clearcutting and toxic chemicals.¹³ ⊕ Logging old growth and roadless areas, including on National Forests.¹⁴ ⊕ Eliminating habitat for imperiled and threatened species on its lands and National Forests.¹⁵ ⊕ Largest purchaser of National Forest timber sales in California.¹⁶ ⊕ Guilty of past timber theft.¹⁷

PACIFIC LUMBER CO. (MAXXAM) ⊕ Logging old growth in California, including old growth redwood.¹⁸ ⊕ Eliminating endangered species' habitats, including for highly imperiled marbled murrelet.¹⁹ ⊕ Repeated violations of the Endangered Species Act and state forestry rules.²⁰ ⊕ Looted its employee pension fund.²¹ ⊕ Being sued for submitting fraudulent documents to California regulators.²²

POPE & TALBOT INC. ⊕ Clearcutting in endangered mountain caribou habitat and the last habitat for endangered Granby grizzly bears in Canada.²³ ⊕ Replacing forests in Washington with residential sprawl and other nonforest land uses.²⁴

SIMPSON RESOURCE CO. ⊕ Eliminating habitat for spotted owl and other imperiled and threatened species in California.²⁵ ⊕ Habitat for species requiring mature forests completely eliminated on Olympic Peninsula timberlands.²⁶

TIMBERWEST ⊕ Clearcutting old growth on Vancouver Island, BC.²⁷ ⊕ Eliminating habitat for highly endangered Vancouver Island marmot.²⁸

CANADIAN FOREST PRODUCTS LTD. ⊕ Clearcutting old growth in Canada. ⊕ Logging in habitat for endangered mountain caribou and other imperiled species.²⁹ ⊕ Using herbicides toxic to food sources for First Nation peoples and other fish and plants.

WELDWOOD ⊕ Clearcutting old growth in Alberta, Canada.³⁰ ⊕ Eliminating habitat for endangered caribou, and impacting grizzly bear, wolf, lynx, fisher, and other imperiled species.³¹ (*Not SFI certified, but claims to be SFI compliant, and is controlled by SFI certified International Paper.*)

Dis-Honorable Mention:

INTERNATIONAL PAPER CO. – SOUTHEAST US ⊕ Perpetuating the conversion of N. Carolina's Green Swamp to plantations.³² ⊕ Purchasing wood from landowners that clearcut forests for wood chips or convert them to plantations and mining sites.³³ ⊕ Replacing forests with subdivisions and other nonforest uses.³⁴

BOISE ⊕ Logging old growth on National Forests and Washington State Forests.³⁵ ⊕ Member of industry group working to overturn protections for imperiled species and old growth forests on public forests.³⁶
⊕ Genetically modified tree research.³⁷

INTERNATIONAL FOREST PRODUCTS LTD. ⊕ Clearcutting old growth forests in Clayoquot Sound in Canada.³⁸ ⊕ Logging in habitat for endangered mountain caribou and marbled murrelets.³⁹ ⊕ Using herbicides toxic to food sources for First Nation peoples and other fish and plants.⁴⁰

STIMSON LUMBER CO. ⊕ Pressuring the Forest Service to build a road through the Southfork Mountain roadless area, destroying its wilderness character.⁴¹ ⊕ Logging old growth forests and other wild, pristine forests.⁴² ⊕ Logging habitat for grizzly bear, bull trout, mountain caribou, and other endangered species.⁴³

JM HUBER CORP. ⊕ Clearcutting endangered Southeastern forests on the Cumberland Plateau and replacing them with plantations.

References:

- ¹ Beak Consultants, 1994, "Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Issuance of a Permit for Incidental Take of the Northern Spotted Owl, Millicoma Tree Farm, Weyerhaeuser Co.," Beak Consultants, Kirkland, WA. The company's stream buffers also do not significantly exceed those required by the Oregon forest practice rules; the rules allow significant harm to salmon habitat. According to several federal agencies "the evidence is... overwhelming that forest practices on private lands in Oregon contribute to widespread stream temperature problems and degraded salmon habitat conditions." (NMFS et al, February 28, 2001, "Letter to Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality and Oregon Dept. of Forestry," National Marine Fisheries Service, US Environmental Protection Agency, & US Fish & Wildlife Service.) See also: Goldman, P., February, 2002, "Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief, Pacific Rivers Council et al v. James Brown, Oregon Department of Forestry," filed in the US District Court, District of Oregon. FPAC, 2000, "Report of the FPAC on Salmon and Watersheds to the Oregon Board of Forestry," Forest Practices Advisory Committee on Salmon and Watersheds, State Board of Forestry, Salem, OR. IMST, 1999, "Recovery of Wild Salmonids in Western Oregon Forests: Oregon Forest Practice Act Rules and the Measures in the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, Technical Report 1999-1," Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team, Governor's Natural Resources Office, Salem, OR. Beschta et al, 1995, "Cumulative Effects of Forest Practices in Oregon: Literature and Synthesis," Robert Beschta et al, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR.
- ² MCP et al, 2004, "Mountain Caribou: Conserving a Canadian Icon," Mountain Caribou Project, Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, East Kootenay Environmental Society, & Forest Ethics.
- ³ Weyerhaeuser has acknowledged plans to use rotations as short as 40 to 45 years in the Pacific Northwest, meaning the average age of its timber stands will be only 20 to 22.5 years. (Jacket, B, 2001, "Two Titans Vie for Greenest Title," *The Portland Tribune*, June 15, 2001.) Rotations this short will fail to provide habitat for species that depend upon habitats associated with mature forests. Research in Oregon's Coast Range is also finding an unexpectedly low presence of some early successional birds on industry lands, despite the high proportion of early successional stands in these forests. There are also concerns that repeated herbicide applications may eliminate early successional plants over time.
- ⁴ WSJ, 2004, "Homes for Sale: Wooded Lots, Great Views, Logging Optional," *The Wall Street Journal*, June 16, 2004. Dudley, B, 1998, "Weyerhaeuser's Bid for Tax-Exempt Bonds Questioned," *The Seattle Times*, July 14, 1998. Seabrook, C, 2004, "Forest Sales Could Cost Georgia Wildlife Areas," *Rocky Mount Telegram*, May 3, 2004. "Mini-Tree Farms Combine Housing, Small-Scale Timber Harvest," *The Olympian*. "Redmond Ridge Passes Legal Test," *Seattle Times, Eastside Bureau*. Jacket (2001). See also www.endgame.org/weyer-realestate.html.
- ⁵ NFN, "From Native Forests to Franken-Trees: The Global Threat of Genetically Engineered Trees," Native Forest Network, Burlington, VT.
- ⁶ Rivera, D., 2003, "Weyerhaeuser Loses Lawsuit," *The Oregonian*, April 19, 2003.
- ⁷ Raines, C., Cascade Checkerboard Project, Seattle, WA, personal communication, May, 2003. Montgomery, A., Friends of Wild Swan, Swan Lake, MT, personal communication, May, 2003. 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. (Raedeke Associates, 1996, "Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Issuance of a Permit to Allow Incidental Take of Threatened and Endangered Species, Plum Creek Timber Company LP Lands in the I-90 Corridor," Raedeke Associates, Seattle, WA.) See also: http://www.hoovers.com/plum-creek-timber/--ID_11196--/free-co-factsheet.xhtml.
- ⁸ Raedeke Associates (1996). Montgomery (2003). See also: Jamison, M., "Forest Woes Become Real: Politicians Promises Couldn't Sustain Logging Realities," *The Missoulian*. ICL, 1997, "Plum Creek Caught Violating Forest Practices Act," Press Release, Idaho Conservation League, Coeur d'Alene. Austin, P., 2002, "Plum Creek: Finding Gold in Maine," *Maine Environmental News*, www.meepe.org, June 12, 2002. MWA, 1996, "MWA Asks Government to Cancel Swan Grizzly Agreement: Group Cites Plum Creek Plans to Sell Timberlands," February 6, 1996, Montana Wilderness Association. Matthews, M., 1996, "Development Plan Breaks Consensus on Grizzlies," *High Country News*, June 24, 1996. Francis Eatherington, Umpqua Watersheds, Roseburg, OR, personal communication, December, 2002.
- ⁹ Austin, P., 2002, "The View from Kokadjo: Plum Creek Gets Mixed Marks After Three Years," *Northern Sky News*, June, 2002. Johnson, C., Natural Resources Council of Maine, personal communication, March, 2004.
- ¹⁰ Mann, D., 2002, "Land Sale Raises Concerns for Grizzlies," *The Kalispell Daily Interlake*, March 3, 2002. Stomnes, J., 2002, "Plum Creek to Sell Part of Swan Holdings," *The Missoulian*, February 24, 2002. Austin (2002). Erb, G., 2001, "Plum Creek Sets Agenda for Growth," *Puget Sound Business Journal*, September 14, 2001. Engleman, E., 2004, "Money Well Spent for Plum Creek," *Puget Sound Business Journal*, March 15, 2004, Seattle, WA. Johnson (2004). Austin (2002). See also: "Ordinance #2000-0178," March, 2000, Utilities & Technology Committee, King County Council,

Washington, calling for the annexation of Plum Creek land into the Covington Water District Service Area to allow its development.

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¹² Engleman (2004). Erb (2001).

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- ³⁴ International Paper 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. (Wilson, N., 2001, "International Paper: Agents of Sprawl," Dogwood Alliance, Asheville, NC.)

³⁵ Boise Cascade has been logging old growth in the Colville National Forest, the Umpqua National Forest, the Medford BLM District, and Washington State Forests. While Boise's new vow to protect endangered forests may change its old growth practices, Boise was SFI certified prior to making this commitment. (Kettle Range Conservation Group, Spokane, WA, personal communication, May, 2003. Umpqua Watersheds, Roseburg, OR, personal communication, May, 2003. Jasmine Minibashian, personal communication, May, 2003.)

³⁶ Along with a number of other SFI companies, Boise is a member of the American Forest Resources Council. The AFRC has played a leading role in efforts to overturn protections for imperiled species, aquatic resources, and old growth forests on federal public lands in the Pacific Northwest, and to reverse the listing of Northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets under the Endangered Species Act. (EJLDF, 2003, "Documents Expose Timber Industry Control of Northwest Forest Plan Rollbacks," press release, Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, Seattle, WA. Goldman, P., Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, Seattle, WA, personal communication, June, 2003.) When Boise Cascade was certified, the company had filed the principle lawsuits seeking to reverse rules protecting roadless areas on U.S. National Forests, and was seeking to log primary old growth forests in Chile and North America. (Rainforest Action Network factsheet, October, 2000. Rainforest Action Network, San Francisco, CA.)

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³⁸ At the time Interfor was certified in British Columbia, the company was logging primary old growth forests in Clayoquot Sound, the Great Bear Rainforest, the proposed Stoltmann National Park Preserve, and the homelands of several First Nations (tribal) peoples; today, Interfor continues to log pristine forests in Clayoquot Sound. (Friends of Clayoquot Sound, personal communication, September, 2003. Friends of Clayoquot Sound, www.ancientrainforest.org. See also: www.endgame.org.)

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