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[Log Exports] [Loose]

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Christian Marsh
David Cottingham
Office of Environmental Policy
Room 360
Old Executive Office Bldg
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Marsh,

Enclosed is the information I spoke to you about on the issue of log exports.

This part of the equation of timber supply is consistently ignored. In addition to the huge volume of private log exports, we also have about one billion board feet per year going offshore from the public lands in the form of cants - slabbed logs (500 million bd ft) and through the archaic "substitution" clause (another 500 million bd ft).

This public log volume could easily be recaptured without entering the murky waters of a private log ban, though I certainly see no reason not to take on private exports, as well.

Thank you for your efforts on this issue.

Sincerely,

Michael Donnelly
1109 Church St NE
Salem, OR 97301
(503) 581-2616

P.S. If you are ever in Oregon, please contact me and we can arrange a tour and a stay in the Ancient Forest at either Breitenbush Hot Springs or at Opal Creek.

WEYERHAEUSER'S PART OF THE LONGVIEW (WA) EXPORT DOCK.

Statesman Journal, Salem, Ore., Sunday, June 6, 1993

Editorials

New ideas are hope for timber industry

■ Construction jobs could ease the loss from harvest cutbacks.

The news leaking out of Washington, D.C., is bad for the timber industry but not unexpected. The industry hoped for better than an annual harvest of 1.5 billion to 2 billion board feet in Oregon and Washington federal forests, but it knew that the old days of 5 billion were gone.

Transitions to new ways of thinking and acting already are under way.

To keep raw logs available for our own mills, environmentalists and many timber workers are pushing for restrictions on the export of raw logs from private forests and of only partially processed logs from federal lands. The Clinton administration is believed to be ready to consider repealing an exemption that allows the export of cants — logs with two side slabs cut off — from federal lands. The cants loophole allows millions of board feet of prime federal timber to be exported.

Lawmakers are hesitant to ban private log exports; one concern is that private owners would not harvest their timber for the lower domestic price, especially after the deflation caused by the end of competition from foreign buyers.

However, an idea that will be considered would dedicate lumber from private timber supplies for use in a massive national low-income housing construction project. Private timber [illegible]llers who divert their logs to this project rather than to the export market would be subsidized for their loss of export profits.

The idea has a lot of question marks. But if it were carried out, it could create hundreds of thousands of U.S. mill and construction jobs and provide good housing for the low-income while still honoring the tradition of private enterprise and property rights.

President Clinton has been urged by secondary wood manufacturers in the Northwest to take an additional job-creating step: Encourage more wood manufacturing plants.

Here's the reason: A sawmill employs an average of three workers a year for every million board feet of timber it processes. Companies that make molding and other finished lumber employ 12 to 18 people for every million board feet. Furniture makers, however, employ 80. Other secondary manufacturers have equally good job-creating records.

Manufacturers who met recently with Clinton's forest conference representatives recommended that he discourage the exporting of unfinished wood products and encourage and support manufacturing.

The only leaks out of Washington so far have been bad news for the industry. There may be more in Clinton's final plan for the Northwest forests than what we've heard. We hope that the other ideas include ways to turn the Northwest from a third-world exporter of raw materials into a top-rank manufacturing center of everything the country and the world n[illegible]s in wood products.

FROM: MICHAEL DONNELLY
DATE: June 1993

RE: Log Exports and Timber Supply

I am a former mill worker, former Forest Service employee and former business manager of a forest resort and, currently, a business owner specializing in housing renovation in Salem, OR.

I have served on the boards of a number of conservation groups, primarily the Oregon Natural Resources Council (ONRC) and am a member of Congressman Mike Kopetski's conservation advisory group.

I have been active in the Ancient Forest issue as a conservationist since 1977, when I first filed a challenge to a USFS decision to allow uranium mining in a wilderness area. I became very active in 1984 when logging threatened the resort that I managed. The books *Showdown at Opal Creek* by David Seideman, Carroll and Graf Publishing and *Fragile Majesty* by Keith Ervin, the Mountaineers, detail our efforts on the Detroit Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest.

I have written extensively on the Ancient Forest and have had over 60 articles published in the last decade. I wrote the script for the *Opal Creek: Ancient Forest Endangered* multi-media presentation and consulted on the PrimeTime Live show *Chainsaw Massacre* and the TBS show *Rage Over Trees*.

I have done extensive research into the issue of unfinished wood exports and have found some interesting conclusions, foremost of which is that over the past decade over half of all the trees cut in the West were exported unfinished — one as a round log and one as either a chip, pulp, veneer or a slabbed log. At the same time this was going on and record cuts were occurring on public lands, wood products jobs were in decline.

To me, the solution to the whole issue:

1) protects all the remaining public Ancient and Native Forest ecosystems (for all the reasons we all know to be valid);
2) eliminates the export of unprocessed logs — fully half of all the tress cut in the six Western timber states in the last decade have been exported unfinished;
3) restores damaged ecosystems throughout the country;
4) provides real federal transition assistance to timber-dependent mill towns; and 5) sets up a series of commissions to study the issue — a Salmon Commission, a National Fiber Commission, a Watersheds Commission, etc.

It seems to me that the missing link in an export ban is always; "How can we justify hurting the small woodlot owner" who can get $1500 per thousand board feet for good quality logs on the export market and only $800 per thousand domestically? (My family owns forest land in Washington State and not a month goes by that I don't get a call from Japanese brokers wishing to buy our trees.)

What if we propose a ban coupled with a government program assuring that all domestically-finished wood products then used in a massive low-income housing construction and renovation program would generate an export market price subsidy right back through to the original tree owner? (Over 1 million houses that could be renovated are destroyed in the U.S. annually.)

In a bold stroke, the president could claim that our remaining ancient forests are too precious to cut (for all the reasons we fully well know) and that wood is too valuable a resource to wantonly export AND that we have a housing shortage in our own country that needs addressing which, incidentally, creates a large amount of construction jobs and stimulates the economy.

This answers the charge that a ban is anti-private property rights. Instead, it's pro-environment, pro-housing and pro-jobs.

It's possible that we could build a coalition with the Home Builders Associations, the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, the construction industry, and wood products workers......

What do you think? Is it politically impossible? A wild idea? We pay farmers not to grow wheat. Why not pay tree farmers to keep their logs home?

80% of all the trees ever cut on public lands have been cut in the last 25 years. By any definition, the heyday is over.

What if the biggest environmental concern was where to site new mills?

At a minimuim, we must adopt provisions of the Stark/DeFazio Bill (H.R. 1997) that call for the elimination of the Foreign Sales Corporation (FSC) tax credit to export. And, awards Capital Gains Tax incentives to tree growers who sell on the domestic market.

LOG EXPORT TABLES

Volume of softwood log exports from Seattle and Columbia-Snake Customs Districts 1982 - 1991
(in million board feet, Scribner scale)

Year	Douglas fir	Western hemlock	Other softwoods	Total in BBF
1982	1428	997	132	2.568
1983	1418	1011	154	2.592
1984	1569	996	147	2.722
1985	1750	1112	130	3.044
1986	1611	1033	124	2.780
1987	1845	1151	160	3.168
1988	2279	1164	221	3.682
1989	2034	1351	217	3.614
1990	1863	942	193	3.008
1991	1575	818	150	2.542
AVG	**1737**	**1057**	**163**	**2.968**

Seattle Customs District includes all coastal and inland ports in the State of Washington, except Longview and Vancouver.

Columbia-Snake Customs District includes all Oregon ports and Longview and Vancouver, Washington

SOURCE: Production, Prices, Employment, and Trade in Northwest Forest Industries
Pacific Northwest Research Station Author - Debra Warren
Research Bulletin PNW-RB-194

NOTE: Table only includes round logs.

FAST FACT: a typical Santiam Canyon mill uses between 65 and 70 million board feet per year
This volume alone would supply 40 - 45 of such mills per year!

Compiled March 1993 by Michael Donnelly (503) 581-2616

CHIP EXPORT TABLES

Total Volume of chip exports from Seattle, Columbia-Snake, Anchorage, and San Francisco Customs Districts 1982 - 1991

(Volume in short tons, on a dry-weight basis)

Year	Seattle District Volume	Col-Snake District Volume	Anch District Volume	San Francisco District Volume	TOTAL Tonnage	Board Foot Equivalent in BBF
1982	328374	1914439	74164	196292	2513269	2.513269
1983	247935	1668971	6645	350587	2274138	2.274138
1984	216089	1632815	16525	331257	2196686	2.196686
1985	276054	1626490	0	302147	2204691	2.204691
1986	446226	1577739	0	256981	2280946	2.280946
1987	464426	1852920	252	208247	2525845	2.525845
1988	681811	2015988	11505	282497	2991801	2.991801
1989	800563	2252282	85866	339158	3477869	3.477869
1990	744397	2081199	28283	412625	3266504	3.266504
1991	681161	2141958	101397	462808	3387324	3.387324
AVG	**488704**	**1876480**	**32464**	**314260**	**2711907**	**2.7119073**

Seattle Customs District includes all coastal and inland ports in the State of Washington, except Longview and Vancouver.
Columbia-Snake Customs District includes all Oregon ports and Longview and Vancouver, WA
Anchorage Customs District is the State of Alaska
San Francisco Customs District includes Monterey and all California ports north of Monterey, CA

NOTE: 1.102 short tons equals 1 Metric Ton
NOTE: Ballpark conversion is 1000 board feet per short ton of chips

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce
SOURCE: Production, Prices, Employment, and Trade in Northwest Forest Industries
Pacific Northwest Research Station Author - Debra Warren
Research Bulletin PNW-RB-194

Compiled March 1993 by Michael Donnelly (503) 581-2616

PULP EXPORT TABLES

Volume of pulp exports from Seattle, Columbia-Snake, Anchorage, and San Francisco Customs Districts 1982 - 1991

(Volume in thousand short tons)

Year	Seattle District Dissolving Grade	Seattle District Paper grades	Columbia-Snake District Dissolving Grade	Columbia-Snake District Paper grades	Anchorage District Dissolving Grade	Anchorage District Paper grades	San Francisco District Dissolving Grade	San Francisco District Paper grades	TOTAL Tonnage (x 1000) All Grades	Board Foot Equivalent in billion board feet
1982	119	279	15	40	199	11	2	312	977	2.9316
1983	118	350	20	88	238	5	8	272	1098	3.2943
1984	107	349	25	97	177	34	15	316	1120	3.3609
1985	106	359	16	80	193	7	15	280	1055	3.1659
1986	153	469	6	80	221	8	3	350	1288	3.8643
1987	148	460	11	94	253	27	3	325	1320	3.9594
1988	199	509	15	101	275	31	1	366	1496	4.4892
1989	166	636	1	136	281	22	1	373	1616	4.8477
1990	137	410	0	132	275	44	0	356	1354	4.0626
1991	121	425	4	175	276	17	10	354	1382	4.1454
AVG	**137**	**425**	**11**	**102**	**239**	**20**	**6**	**330**	**1271**	**3.81213**

Seattle Customs District includes all coastal and inland ports in the State of Washington, except Longview and Vancouver.
Columbia-Snake Customs District includes all Oregon ports and Longview and Vancouver, Washington
Anchorage Customs District is the State of Alaska
San Francisco Customs District includes Monterey and all California ports north of Monterey, CA

NOTE: 1.102 short tons equals 1 Metric Ton
NOTE: Ballpark conversion is 3000 board feet per ton of pulp
NOTE: Dissolving Grade primarily Spruce; Paper Grades primarily old-growth fir and hemlock

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce
SOURCE: Production, Prices, Employment, and Trade in Northwest Forest Industries
Pacific Northwest Research Station Author - Debra Warren
Research Bulletin PNW-RB-194

Compiled March 1993 by Michael Donnelly (503) 581-2616

FREE TRADE: NOT!
RESOURCE COLONIALISM
The Takeover of the North American Timber Industry

by
Michael Donnelly

Free Trade is a lot like motherhood: hard to vote against, but very costly if not restrained. How costly? Weyerhaeuser reports that it gets three jobs (down from 4.5 in 1980 due to automation) out of cutting and hauling the raw-material equivalent of one million board feet of timber to the export dock. But, the Japanese report that they get eighty value-added jobs from the same million board feet producing finished goods.

Parenthetically, this stunning illumination sheds some light on the rightful target of the timber industry's misplaced ire. While industry is quick to blame environmentalists and, preposterously, an undersized owl, for mill closures, job losses and despondent workers; the deserving winner of their discontent is, well, themselves.

According to figures from the United States Forest Service (USFS) Pacific Northwest Research Station and the U.S. Department of Commerce, nearly half of all the trees cut in six Western timber States (AK, WA, OR, MT, ID, CA) in the last ten years were exported unfinished. One in four logs was exported as a round log; another went out as chips, pulp or veneer. Further, to side-step the ban on federal raw-log exports, industry exported slabbed-logs called cants or merches. Ninety percent of this export volume ended up in Japan, primarily in the mills of Osaka.

As the Clinton Administration crafts a solution to the Northwest forest crisis, and conservationists struggle to define the Ancient Forest issue in ecological terms while timber workers speak out for consideration of the "human equation", it is helpful to remember that beyond the flurry of green and brown sound bites, raw economics drives the issue.

AN HISTORICAL VIEW

In North America, the wood products industry model has been one of giant timber-based conglomerates, which include timber, pulp and paper, sawnwood and plywood industries. The Weyerhaeuser Co. and Georgia-Pacific Corp. are typical examples of this type of conglomerate. These giants, through a series of late 19th century Federal subsidies like the Railroad Land Grants of 1866 (3.7 million acres in the NW alone) and the Timber and Stone Act of 1878 (10 million acres), have gained possession of abundant forest resources at public expense.

These vast holdings, along with automation, have allowed them to remain competitive in the international market. Having such huge tracts of timber enabled thee conglomerates to cut at levels in excess of domestic consumption and they have shifted more of their activities exclusively to the export market. Ironically, at the April 2nd Clinton Forest Summit in Portland, after hearing tale upon woeful tale of how protection of public ecosystems was creating hardship for timber workers, Charles Bingham, vice-president of Weyerhaeuser, proudly proclaimed that the 28% of his company's production that is exported as raw logs was "about the right mix."

WHO PROFITS?

The country that profits most from the United States' irrational log export policy is Japan which today is the world's second largest producer and consumer of pulp and paper, led only by the United Sates. Unwilling to cut its own timber resource, Japan has aggressively become the world leader in wood imports, accounting for 80% of world trade, with North America supplying the majority of the volume. Japan imports annually over 5 million tons of wood chips from North America alone. One company, Ishiman Corp. holds a monopoly on all West coast timber exports to Japan.

Under a series of notorious 1950's agreements with the U.S. Forest Service, a consortium of Japanese firms, including Daishowa Paper Mfg. was given exclusive 50-year rights to cut trees for pulp on large tracts of Alaska's Tongass National Forest. Publicly-owned six-hundred-year-old trees are being liquidated for the ludicrous price of $2 each.

Daishowa also has exclusive contracts in British Columbia and has sited a pulp mill there despite fierce opposition from the Lubicon Lake Indian Nation. As a result, Daishowa is subject to an ongoing consumer boycott in Canada. Another Japanese firm, Honshu Paper Co. has opened a mill (ALPAC) in Alberta.

In Alaska, Daishowa and a Mill City, Oregon firm, Young and Morgan Timber Co., have begun a joint venture to cut federal and Native Alaskan-owned timber for export with an eventual siting of a mill near Kenai, AK. In Washington state, Daishowa has opened a new state-of-the-art highly automated sawmill on the Olympic Peninsula near Port Angeles while nearby domestic mills have closed due to lack of raw material supply. In Oregon, Young and Morgan recently sold large amounts of top-grade cants (slabbed logs) cut from publicly-owned old-growth to Japanese purchasers for the incredible sum of three thousand dollars per thousand board feet, over twice the historical price. The rabidly anti-union Young and Morgan purchased the same timber from the USFS and paid the U.S. Treasury less than five hundred dollars per thousand board foot.

In 1975, Young and Morgan pleaded guilty to bid-rigging on federal timber sales in a case that cost the taxpayers over $27 million. They received a $25 thousand fine. Recently, in April 1993, Young and Morgan settled out of court for $1.7 million for their involvement in a scaling fraud scheme that U.S. Attorneys claim cost the taxpayers around $36 million.

Beyond staggering losses of natural resources and taxpayer dollars, this adds up to is a takeover of the North American timber industry by Japanese interests not unlike that which occurred in television and other electronics manufacturing and which is occurring in the high tech and automobile industries.

This takeover is being abetted by politicians spouting the tired rhetoric of "Free" Trade when the entire world knows by now that Japan clearly does not practice anything close to Free Trade. The practice of a monopoly controlling the entire export trade would violate U.S. antitrust laws, and Japanese markets are closed to a host of U.S.-made consumer products such as rice and beef to name but two examples of Japanese non-free trade.

Japan's takeover of timber is matched by efforts in other resource areas, as well. Over half of all the grazing permits for cattle on Public Lands in the West are owned by foreign corporations, primarily Japanese, Dutch and British. American-owned beef producers are shut out of Japan's markets, so Japanese firms buy U.S. ranches, graze cows on public lands at a subsidized price and then package the beef here in plants like Kyotaru's Salem, Oregon plant for sale to restaurants in Japan at $22 a kilo. (Kyotaru also benefits from the overharvesting of immature Pacific whiting, a fish which is packaged for export as imitation crab (Kibun) at the same Salem facility.)

HOW DO THEY DO IT?

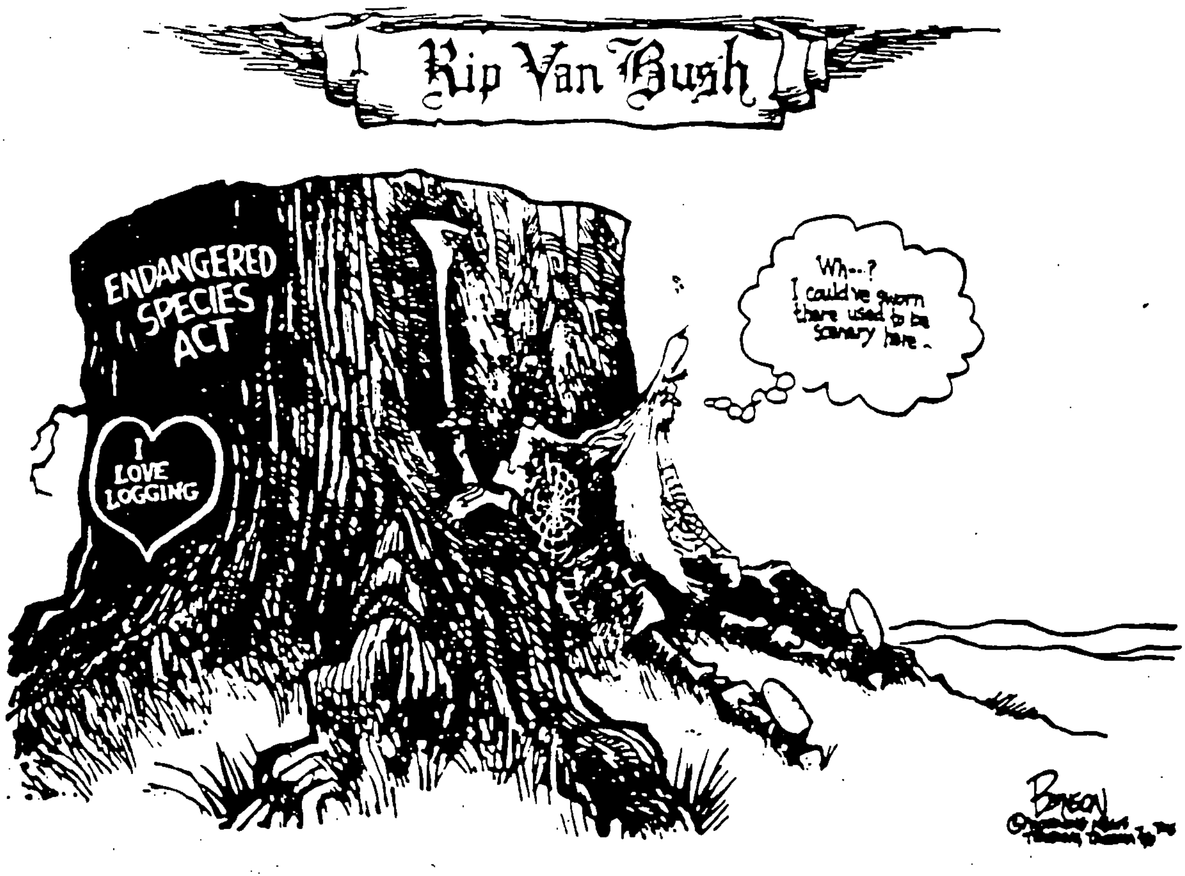
Japan maintains a $1 billion per year lobby effort in the United States and employs a number of well-connected Americans to advance their agenda, such as Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former Oregon Governor, Vic Atiyeh. Over one-half of the Reagan/Bush-era U.S. Trade Representatives who once worked for U.S. national interests in negotiations on timber trade, now work as lobbyists for the Japanese. Until this practice is exposed and stopped, Americans will continue to be sidetracked into battles over fragments of the once vast ecosystem. And America, will continue to be transformed into a resource colony.

As is the case with domestic oil, gold, silver, and certain high tech products, the president must declare timber a "strategic resource" and ban further exporting of unfinished wood products. The elimination of the $150 million per year Foreign Sales Corporation tax incentive to export should, , probably occur. Yet, like the phony easily-sidestepped public log export ban, it would be little more than a hollow gesture since the amount is but a rounding error given the huge volume of exports. A flat out ban must be imposed.

There is no such thing as "Free Trade." Until that dinosaur theory is buried and an effort to establish Fair Trade (one of ours for one of yours) is imposed on our trading partners, America will continue to lose ecosystems and jobs and its status as a first rate economic power.

MICHAEL DONNELLY is a former lumber millworker who currently serves as President of Friends of the Breitenbush Cascades, a small, Salem, OR-based conservation group.

"QUICK! LOOK OVER THERE! IT'S THAT DANG *SPOTTED OWL* THAT MADE ME CLOSE YOUR *MILL!*"



Statesman Journal, Salem, Ore., Saturday, October 21, 1989

Editorials

One way to keep U.S. mills rolling

Ban private log exports

Congress has settled the Northwest's timber crisis for one year. It will mean an assured timber supply for our mills and new efforts to protect old-growth timber and to improve management of our forests.

The big question is, what we will do for the following year and in the years after that?

One big answer among the scores being considered has been largely overlooked because it's too controversial for even most environmentalists to suggest. And that's to ban the export of all logs.

We could reduce our annual harvest of trees by a big percentage and still have plenty of timber for our own mills if we refused to sell unprocessed logs overseas.

The United States certainly must ban exports from state and national forests. That step is supported by our congressional delegation, by most timber mill owners and by the public — Oregon voted 11-1 this spring to ban exports from state forests.

We also must consider an even stiffer action: ban or gradually reduce log exports from private lands.

This is a country that correctly puts great stock in the right of people to manage private property as they see fit. But public policy limits private property rights in land-use zoning and other situations, and we could do the same with logs.

Our big timber companies think nothing of shipping logs from their private lands to the Far East, then bidding for public timber to run their mills. It can be argued that the big timber companies are out of line to complain about environmentalists' attempts to salvage the last of our virgin forests when they themselves are responsible for more lost jobs than all the spotted owls in the Northwest.

Money is the big motive. The Japanese are paying three or four times more for these logs than the U.S. market can pay. It's big money in the pockets of timber exporters and shipping companies, but it's lost jobs for Oregon mill workers.

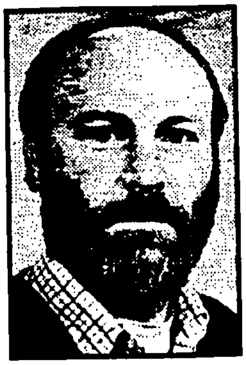
The profitable demand overseas helps explain why a quarter of all trees cut in Oregon and Washington in 1988 were exported, according to figures compiled by Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore. Some say exports are even higher, if we include partially processed logs and woodchips.

The raw-log industry and shipping companies refuse to acknowledge that they could make even more money by producing and shipping finished lumber.

Someone needs to begin the public debate that will help us decide how to balance our natural resources and jobs against private enterprise's laissez-faire.

Exports, not owls, are to blame

By now, all of America knows of the dispute about cutting the last of our nation's native, ancient forests in the Pacific Northwest. What most Americans still don't know is that the remaining 2 percent of our country's original, untouched forests is owned by the public and managed by the federal agencies.



Guest Opinion

Michael Donnelly

These National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands are the last refuge of a host of species that have evolved over eons in the complex web of our native forests — species that have been driven to the brink of extinction by our liquidation of this unique ecosystem.

The issue really is simple. Should we cut the remaining public forests for "jobs" and wood products now, or preserve them for a host of valid reasons — ranging from invaluable and necessary genetic reserves and interspecies and intergenerational equity to economic values that are enhanced by leaving the remaining trees standing? These values include important fisheries, municipal watersheds, recreation, tourism and other ways forests provide for a healthy, sustainable society.

The complicated part of the equation, unfortunately, is seldom addressed. However, President Clinton spoke to it during the campaign when he stated that, "Exports and automation are the main causes of job losses in the (wood products) industry, not spotted owls."

For years, it's been far easier for politicians to take on the defenseless (at least prior to court injunctions) spotted owl than to take on the wealthy traders that benefit from the wholesale export of our country's raw materials, in this case — trees. During the past decade, almost half of the trees cut in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and California have been exported unfinished. On an average yearly cut of 21.6 billion board feet (a board foot equals one square foot of wood one inch thick), 3 billion have been exported yearly as raw logs alone. Add in chips, pulp, slabbed logs, veneer, etc. and the total comes to about 10 billion board feet of timber leaving our shores annually to provide jobs in Osaka and other Far Eastern mill towns.

As long as industry can count on gaining the high prices available on the export market for their own logs and gaining a subsidized low price and guaranteed supply of federal logs, what possible reason is there for any change in business as usual? No long-term solution is possible as long as we avoid the export issue and continue to play short-term quick fix.

The end result of the forest conference should be for the president to declare (as is the case with oil) that Douglas fir is a strategic resource in short supply and issue an executive order banning the export of unprocessed wood for a three-year moratorium.

During that time, a comprehensive transition package for federal timber-dependent communities in the Northwest must be developed.

We can't justify cutting the last of our once vast ecosystem for jobs now and ignore the exports issue anymore than we can afford to continue to operate an obsolete weapons industry to save defense worker jobs.

The steel workers, auto workers and others who lost their jobs through past economic transitions didn't have a spotted owl to utilize in attaining this kind of federal help. The wood products workers not only have the owl, they have a ready replacement supply to be found on the docks of every Northwest port.

☐ **Michael Donnelly** is a Salem environmentalist.

Statesman Journal, Salem, Ore., Tuesday, March 30, 1993

Complete ban on log exports is the answer

8·20·91

8-20-91

Opinion

Grants Pass Daily Courier

Log exports from the Pacific Northwest have long been a problem to a region staring at a serious timber shortage. Now, they're becoming an embarrassment in Washington, D.C.

Federal officials, long fired at for their forest management decisions, have turned the guns on their critics. The Pacific Northwest has no business blaming the northern spotted owl for all its timber woes, said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently.

Numerous other factors have cost timber industry jobs, the agency said. The two factors singled out for special attention were automation and log exports.

Automation is part of competition. The fewer people it takes to produce 1,000 board feet of lumber, the cheaper that lumber is. Neither the federal government nor anyone else is about to tell companies they have to give up their competitive edge and not use the latest technology available. That would be inconsistent with America's private enterprise system.

However, log exports aren't so embedded in the U.S. system. Something can be done about them, but isn't.

Most exports from state and federal land have been banned permanently in the Northwest, but about 3 billion board [illegible] of timber continues to be shipped overseas annually, mainly from private land. To put that in perspective, that's about 19 times the annual harvest of the Siskiyou National Forest.

Telling people what they can do on their property has always properly been considered a serious matter. People should be free to do what they want on their land, as long as they're not harming others. But those exporting from private land are now hurting others by reducing the Northwest's timber supply.

The lack of wood has shut down mills, and now the region's residents are looking at losing wildlife or tens of thousands of industry jobs.

Meanwhile, comparatively few, mainly big companies, are gaining from the export of logs. They're scooping up premium prices, while many in the timber industry face unemployment.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials exaggerate the effect a total log export ban could have..They say the 8.2 million acres they want to set aside for the northern spotted owl accounts for only 15 percent of the average 3.3 billion board feet of logs shipped overseas in the late 1980s.

What they don't say is that a ban those years wouldn't have guaranteed that those logs would have been put on the domestic market if the foreign ones were closed. Companies might have left much of that timber in their woods, waiting for better prices.

One thing certain is that once those trees were cut and shipped, that timber was lost to the Northwest pool.

The Northwest's congressional delegation needs to move to stop this drain. Only by pressing a total log export ban will the region keep its credibility [illegible] the spotted owl [illegible]

Dennis Roler