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STOP THE TIMBER RAID ON PUBLIC FOREST LANDS

A bill, the National Timber Supply Act, misleadingly renamed "National Forest Conservation and Management Act of 1969", (S. 1832, H.R. 12025) is pending in Congress which will result in the rapid cutting on an estimated 60 to 70% of all National Forest lands outside the existing wilderness areas. This land, formerly managed for multiple use, (wildlife, watershed, recreation, forage, and timber), is to be converted to timber only management. Worse, the bill directs the Secretary of Agriculture to take steps to begin the immediate cutting at a high rate on all such lands. These lands include much of the remaining virgin forests in the U.S.

If passed, it would mean that hardly any more scenic or wilderness lands would be available for protection for recreational use. These lands belong to you. They will be turned over to the timber companies for cutting if your voice is not heard immediately.

What You Can Do

The most effective way to be heard is to write a personal letter or postcard, in your own words, to the people listed below. Be sure to include your home address and refer to the bill by name and number.

Rep. _____
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Sen. _____
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Stress the following points:

1. Only a small percentage of the original virgin forests in the U.S. remain untouched. If this bill passes, they will soon disappear.
2. The lands are public property and should not be administered for the sole benefit of the timber industry, which has its own extensive holdings.
3. The rapid increasing recreational use of the forests makes it urgent to set aside more scenic and wilderness land. The bill as presently drafted will make this goal impossible.

Relevant Provisions of the legislation:

- intent is to cause more timber to be cut from U.S. National Forests
- establishes 'high yield timber fund' into which go earmarked receipts of timber sales. These are appropriated back yearly into forests to "increase yield"
- directs Secretary of Agriculture to "increase yield" by using a variety of specified practices, and then to "revise" (increase) yearly cuts from public forests
- directs Secretary to apply this new policy to all 'commercial timberlands,' defined as land producing or capable of producing wood and not withdrawn.
- fund may be used to build roads and to log in presently roadless and unprotected scenic parts of National Forests

"Need" for the legislation:

- proponents state it is necessary because of projected future demands for wood products, particularly lumber, to meet anticipated demand for housing.

FACTS about so-called "Need":

- housing slowdown is caused by lack of credit, not lack of timber
- private lumber industries exported over 4 billion board feet of lumber last year
- demand for all wood has been nearly static since 1900; lumber demand is down
- lumber prices have tumbled drastically, to $\frac{1}{2}$ of their price 9 months ago
- substitute materials and industrial materials are being used in new housing

Why does the lumber industry really want this bill?

- to put an end to the conservation movement by quickly destroying all remaining 3 million acres de facto wilderness (roadless areas not protected by law) and another million acres of park-quality roaded scenic country
- to get cheap timber without having to use their own timberland
- to cover up the fact that they have not been managing their land very wisely

Some specific objections:

1. The bill makes it nearly impossible to protect more lands for recreation.
 - the bill is a clear mandate to cut more, faster. Money is provided for this.
 - the bill authorizes the use of earmarked funds to road and to log virgin forests (these are its primary targets). The unprotected lands will be the first to go.
 - it is no answer to say the Forest Service retains authority to protect areas. The primary dispute has been over its refusal to protect important areas.
2. The bill negates the multiple-use principle.
 - the Acts of 1897 and 1960 set up the basic principles of many uses of the National Forests. The 1960 Act affirms that none shall have priority.
 - over 90% of the public forests are open to extractive uses. This bill provides for more logging, faster. Soils, water, wildlife and recreation will suffer.
 - the bill provides a lip service to multiple-use principles. But by providing a mandate to log much more, and the money to do it, these principles are negating.
3. Logging the last unprotected wilderness and scenic areas of our public forests will not meet any anticipated "demand" for more lumber. Only about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ % of the total available timber volume is found in the unprotected lands.
4. Clear cutting and destruction of watershed further leads to environmental pollution.

Some say it is only a tree
Grown from the sod
I say it is more than a tree
To me it is God