We care for the Forests
America's use of wood products is up. As U.S. demand for wood rises, greater environmental devastation takes place — not in America — but in places with few or no environmental safeguards.

Our country's most startling environmental paradox is that even as activists succeed in getting our government to declare more and more U.S. forestland off limits to tree harvesting, America is destroying more forestland than ever before.

How? By demanding more and more wood while harvesting less and less of our own. If U.S. tree harvesting declines and U.S. demand for forest products rises, somebody has to pick up the slack. Somebody has to provide the United States and other developed nations with the wood products we aren't willing to harvest from our own back yards.

So, who is picking up the slack? Third World nations such as Indonesia, Cambodia and the Philippines. America has created a domino effect, in which California gets its wood from Oregon or Washington, which gets its wood from Canada, which gets its wood from some other country, and so on.

At the end of the line — filling the void created by U.S. environmental policies — are less developed nations where environmental protections are lax or non-existent. These nations are more than willing to allow devastation of their forestlands and look the other way.

In other words, Americans — who are well able to harvest their timber without devastating the environment — are preserving their forests by allowing huge tracts of tropical forests in Third World countries to be reduced to scarred wasteland. As U.C. Berkeley forestry professor emeritus William J. Libby
America's environmental paradox

has written, this is like "locating a landfill for an affluent city in a neighboring community that needs the money and is willing to put up with the smell."

In the past decade, as U.S. wood imports have grown by about a billion cubic feet, domestic production has fallen by nearly half a billion cubic feet. California, which was self-sufficient in wood only 20 years ago, now imports 80 percent of its forest products.

What is this doing to the environment? According to Libby, for every acre of forestland not harvested for timber here, two acres must be harvested in tropical forests of the Third World. The government of Indonesia, for example, reports that an area the 'size of the state of Connecticut is being cleared of forest each year. Forest depletion deprives native peoples of their primary source of energy for cooking, water sterilization, and warmth: firewood.

Here in America, we don't live on that kind of subsistence level. But we do use lots of wood. For instance, wood makes up about half of a modern home's construction. New housing starts continue to increase, and the typical U.S. home has doubled in size in the last 20 years — from 1500 square feet to 3000. Alternative building products are not an option, since they require much more energy to produce than wood and are not renewable.

Growing and harvesting our own trees in an environmentally responsible way is the best thing America can do for the global environment. But tell that to many environmental groups — which scream the loudest about Third World forest devastation, while at the same time demanding that U.S. forestland be left alone — and their retort will be that lumber companies are propagandizing in order to exploit forests everywhere.

American leadership can solve this dilemma — but not by pointing fingers of blame. The solution doesn't lie in environmentally irresponsible harvesting of timber in the United States or anywhere else. But neither does it lie in cordonning off more and more U.S. forestland from timber harvesting while turning a blind eye to the environmental consequences elsewhere.

There is more forestland in this country today than there was in 1900. In California, more than one-and-a-half times the annual consumption of wood is added as new growth onto existing trees each year, and goes unharvested. It's impractical to think a state the size of California will ever return to self-sufficiency. But it's irresponsible not to utilize more of this unprecedented forest growth.

Moreover, no-cut, total fire suppression policies on federal lands have created a forest that is dangerously dense, the source of devastating wildfires. Our forests desperately need thinning, which makes use of our own forests into a win-win situation for everyone, including Third World nations.

Why can't environmentalists put away their animosity toward private landowners and timber companies, link arms with the private sector, and help us use our most sustainable resource in an environmentally responsible way? We have the answer — the only obstacle right now is politics.
Forests are part of a natural cycle that goes back to the creation of our planet. Like other forms of life, they grow, live and die. Over time, they change and adapt to new conditions. Today, the challenge for foresters, and for all of us, is how to grow and conserve our forests while supplying the wood products we increasingly want and need.

Before the last ice age, redwood trees covered much of the North American continent. Today, mostly as a result of evolving geological and climactic conditions they’re limited to a narrow strip of land along the Pacific coast from Oregon to Monterey, California.

If you go into the mixed conifer forests that grow along the western slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains, you’ll see softwood trees like giant sequoia, sugar and ponderosa pines, incense cedar and white fir. You’ll also find a variety of hardwood trees, like black oak. They may look as if they’ve been there forever, but they haven’t.

Ancient forests were quite different from the ones we see today. Over hundreds of thousands of years, the different species shifted

Rethinking the myth

When most of us imagine what our forests looked like, say, a hundred years ago, we think of a lush, thick, uniform forest untouched by man. As counterintuitive as it may seem, precisely the opposite is true.

As the pictures in this presentation show — taken from the same spots about one hundred years apart — the forests of a century ago were far more open than the forests of today.

In fact, some of man’s efforts to protect the forest — through total fire suppression and policies that prohibit harvesting, for example — have created forests that are unnaturally thick and overcrowded, unhealthy, and dangerous. Many public lands have as many as 300 trees per acre where 30 or 40 once thrived, and some have reached astronomical densities of 2,000 trees per acre.

Forests that just 150 years ago were described as being open enough to gallop a horse through without hitting a tree are now packed with logs and trees of all sizes — you can barely walk through them, let alone ride a horse. This fuels the wildfires that are now devastating our forests.

Historically, low-level fires sculpted the land and left islands of large trees surrounded by meadows and savannahs. Those gentle fires stayed on the ground as they wandered around and under trees — in some cases you could walk over the flames without burning your legs. They created a forest in which the bigger, more devastating fires couldn’t develop the momentum they need to ravage entire regions.

Today, after a century of total fire suppression and restrictive harvesting policies that prevent the tree thinning that is needed, every fire has the potential to wreak catastrophic damage.

Restoring our sick forests to health and their historical grandeur is going to require active forest management. The good news is that thinning our forests to their optimum density can help meet our need for wood products even as we sustain a diverse, healthy forest for generations to enjoy.
of the ancient forest

These photos are from a 2001 book by forestry expert George E. Grue, entitled Fire in Sierra Nevada Forests: A Photographic Interpretation of Ecological Change Since 1849.

The photo above shows the upper Yosemite Valley in 1899 with meadows occupying much of the valley floor: the photo on the right shows the same location in 1994 crowded with dense conifers and woody plants.

In this 1993 photo, the ridge to the left had been logged seven years earlier; the remaining landscape was untouched.

around the landscape independently of each other as they responded to changing climactic conditions. It was only about 4,500 years ago that the forests we see today formed when the trees migrated up mountainsides after the last ice age.

Nature hasn’t been the only force shaping our forests. As early as 12,000 years ago, Native Americans were changing forests to fit their needs. They cut trees for building materials and to clear land to grow crops. They changed vegetation patterns by digging roots, cultivating plants and spreading seeds. But the most dramatic way they changed the forest was with fire.

Native Americans deliberately set fires to clear land for planting and to keep forest floors open and easy to travel through.

Fire was used to drive game during hunts, and to eliminate pests. Their fires did much the same thing as fires caused by lightning strikes by keeping the forest clear of large build-ups of brush and creating a mosaic pattern of grasslands, open woodlands and closed forests. That began to change when European settlers arrived.

The new settlers had a different view of the forests than the Native Americans. Europeans tended to see them as an endless supply of wood for building and energy. They also cleared forestland to plant crops.
As people began to settle closer to and in forests, another major change took place in the natural cycle. They began to prevent and put out any fires that started, whether by humans or nature. That, along with ever-increasing limitations on harvesting, has resulted in forests which today are choked with dense brush and too many young trees in the understory. They’re stressed, weakened and vulnerable to drought, insect infestations and uncontrolled wildfires.

The problem is especially acute on our public lands. The national forests in California around Lake Tahoe and Lake Arrowhead are good examples of how suppressing fire and virtually eliminating harvesting has created a dying forest just waiting to explode into catastrophic wildfire. Once that happens, and experts agree it will, it could take many decades for the forests to recover. If foresters can’t replant burned areas, fast growing plants such as chamise and manzanita can take over and the forests may never return to their natural state.

California private forests, on the other hand, are managed to prevent catastrophe. Balancing the need to protect air, soil and water quality with the need to reduce fuel loads, foresters use sophisticated machinery along with controlled burns to clear underbrush, often re-creating the mosaic pattern of trees and meadows that was common before European settlers arrived.
Common trees in California forests

The Douglas fir is the second tallest tree in the world, next to the redwood. Its wood is strong and light, ideal for structural lumber, windows, doors, moulding, flooring, paneling, chairs, furniture and tables.

Incense cedar isn’t really a cedar. Mismarked because it has aromatic wood like true cedars growing in Europe, Africa and Asia, incense cedar is used for moulding, decking and siding, but the best known use is for pencils.

A look at California forests.

California has more forestland than any state except Alaska. The 52,281 square miles of public and private forests make up 37% of all the land in California. That’s almost as much as we had 100 years ago, and every year we’re managing to grow more.

California forests are unique for their diversity. There are more than 600 wildlife and 4,000 plant species native to our forests, including the coastal redwood and its cousin the giant sequoia.

California also has the most protected forests in the world. More than 8 million acres are set aside for parks, wildlife habitat and botanical and wilderness areas. Foresters practice sustainable forestry to keep the remaining timberlands healthy and productive so there will always be enough trees to meet our needs for wood products.

Ownership of forestland in California

- Government - USFS and parks and wilderness areas, BLM rangeland, etc.
- Forest Industry - large land owners
- Other Private Nonindustrial - small land owners (less than 5,000 acres)

Forest Industry is private forestland designated as a Timber Production Zone (TPZ). Nonindustrial forestland may or may not be productive, and is not designated for commercial use.

(Source: American Forest & Paper Assoc. 2003)
We’re managing to keep our forests in balance.

A forest is a complex ecosystem that affects the quality of our water, air, and the lives of the animals and people living there. It’s the job of the forester and other professionals to maintain the delicate balance of nature while providing the forest products we use.

A dense, overcrowded forest provides little except cover for animals. Thinning the forest creates open spaces that encourage the growth of plants that feed deer, elk, bear and other wildlife. Thanks to improved forest management techniques, the black bear population has doubled in the past 20 years, and deer and elk populations have increased dramatically.

Leaving standing dead trees, or snags, on harvest sites provides homes and perches for animals and birds. Spotted owls are at home in managed forests. When the owls were included under the Endangered Species Act, it was thought they nested only in old growth forests. More complete research has found that they nest close to where wood rats, their favorite food, are abundant. The highest recorded concentration of spotted owls is on private land harvested regularly to supply wood...
products. Active forest management encourages the growth of the grasses and succulent plants that wood rats eat.

The quality of our water is directly affected by the health of our forests. A healthy forest acts like a giant sponge, preventing excess erosion and silting by soaking up rain and snow and gradually releasing it into streams. Healthy forests also remove pollutants from water.

Because of heavy rainfall, soil types and earthquake activity, streams along the northern California coast have more sediment flowing into them than almost any streams in the world. Earthquakes, fires, floods and landslides still create a continual cycle of destruction and renewal that’s lasted millions of years. The fish and plants that live here evolved for eons under these conditions.

From the 1940s to the 1980s, government agencies required landowners to remove large woody debris from streams. That policy has been reversed because it’s now known that wood in streams is an essential part of fish habitat. Foresters mimic the natural landslides and erosion by putting woody debris, rocks and gravel back into waterways. Forest products companies also have hatcheries and research programs that are improving the outlook for fish in California streams.
California forests are the most protected in the world.

Nowhere else are there so many strict regulations to protect the trees and the ecosystem than in public and private forests. The forest products industry is one of the most heavily regulated industries in the state, and no activity is more restricted than logging. The California Forest Practice Act alone has 973 regulations that dictate exactly how private forestlands are used and maintained.

Public and private forests are sometimes managed differently. Park and wilderness areas are managed for preservation, with no harvesting permitted. National forests have traditionally been managed for multiple use, including timber production. During the past decade, harvesting in these forests has been severely limited, putting many forest products companies out of business and increasing our dependence on wood products from foreign countries and non-renewable substitutes for wood.

There is a perception that private forest owners can do anything they want on their lands, but California private forests are more heavily regulated than public forests in many ways. The Z"berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act is the most restrictive in the nation and governs all harvest-related activities on California private lands. It limits the type and location of clearcutting.

Clearcutting
Clearcutting can be used to mimic a natural fire. All the trees in a small area are removed to create open areas that quickly sprout grasses and forage for animals. It's an ecologically friendly way to manage forests with species that grow best in open sunlight. Clearcutting is strictly regulated in California.

Seedtree
Seedtree harvesting is like a clearcut, except that a few healthy trees are left standing to naturally reseed the area.

Shelterwood
Shelterwood leaves enough trees to provide shade for seedlings planted. When the young trees are grown, they are removed.

Some of the federal and state regulations include:

- Federal Endangered Species Act: prohibits logging and other activities that may harm threatened or endangered species or their habitats.
- California’s Porter-Cologne Act of 1969: allows the State Water Resources Control Board to regulate and control the quality of the state's water.
- California Professional Forester Licensing Act: establishes stringent requirements for licensing of Registered Professional Foresters.
- Federal and California Clean Air Acts: establish requirements to protect and enhance the quality of our air resources.
state laws with the greatest
private forests.

Group Selection

Single Tree Selection

Strategically removing individual trees in a cycle. This harvesting technique is used mostly in small stands. Standing dead trees are left to seed the area. Standing dead trees are left to seed the area.

forest and stream bank protection zones next to streams, lakes and other protected areas.

A harvest plan must be prepared by a registered professional forester and submitted to the state before the site is harvested. The plan must describe in detail how the harvest will be done and all the measures that will be taken to prevent erosion, maintain water quality and protect wildlife and habitat.

Under the act, a written harvest plan is prepared by a registered professional forester and submitted to the state before the site is harvested. The plan must describe in detail how the harvest will be done and all the measures that will be taken to prevent erosion, maintain water quality and protect wildlife and habitat.
Nothing goes to waste in the forest.

Thanks to modern technologies and management techniques, every part of a tree is put to good use.

Sawmills use computers and laser-guided saws to get the most lumber from a log. Bark is used for fuel, or for landscaping products. Wood chips are used to make pulp and paper. Sawdust is used as fuel, or turned into products like artificial firelogs. Chippers turn small trees and branches into fuel. Sawmills burn chips to power the electrical generators that in turn run the sawmill. Some operations generate excess electricity they can sell to power companies. The ash that remains after burning is used for soil enhancement by farmers, or in filters to purify water. Even rocks picked up during harvesting are separated and used for building roads.

New adhesive and milling technologies have helped the forest products industry turn what used to be waste wood into usable products. Small pieces of wood that once were burned or dumped are turned into laminated and glued products like oriented strand board, finger-joined mouldings and engineered trusses and floor joists.

Wood today is harvested with the help of light-on-the-land equipment, and turned

Trees are an environmentally friendly resource.
into products we use every day — in home construction, books, toilet paper, medicines, fabrics, cosmetics, pencils, musical instruments, and much more.

Back in the forest, branches and needles are left on the forest floor to prevent erosion and soil damage. As they decompose, they return valuable nutrients for the next generation of trees.

**Energy from trees.**

Years of drought, insects and fire suppression have left many forests weakened and filled with too much woody debris, or biomass, creating a fire hazard that threatens trees, wildlife and humans.

Sophisticated machines like feller-bunchers make it possible to thin the forests to keep them healthier and remove the fuel ladder that could turn a controllable low-intensity ground fire into a much more destructive wildfire. Harvesting biomass decreases competition for sunlight and nutrients. The remaining trees are less stressed and better able to survive drought and insects and grow more quickly.

Biomass is also a source of "green energy." Companies use biomass to generate electricity to run sawmills. In some areas, they generate enough electricity to sell to local power companies, helping to supply light and power to nearby towns.
Wood is efficient.

Every building product we use comes from natural resources. Since 1955, we have all consumed twice as much steel and wood, 4 times more cement, 5 times as much plastic, and 7 times more aluminum than all of humanity before us. Of all those natural resources, wood is the most efficient and ecologically friendly and the only one that's renewable. In fact, the net growth of California forests has more than doubled since 1955.

- The power to make trees grow comes from the sun. The power to produce steel, aluminum, plastic and concrete comes from non-renewable gas and petroleum.

- Plastic is not bio-degradable. It remains in its current form for at least 500 years.
- Known oil reserves will last less than 50 more years at the current rate of consumption.
- It's estimated we'll run out of bauxite, the main ingredient in aluminum, in less than 200 years.
- Trees help clean the air. As they grow, they absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen. Trees lock in the carbon, returning it to the soil when they decompose, instead of releasing it into the air and contributing to pollution.
- Wood is more energy efficient in a building and insulates 413 times better than steel, 8 times better than concrete, and 2,000 times better than aluminum.
California forests are important to our economy.

California is the third leading producer of forest products, after Oregon and Washington. California forest products, wood, paper and allied companies produce more than $16 billion worth of products every year.

In 1999, Californians used approximately 9 billion board feet of lumber, enough to build about 600,000 standard-sized homes. Largely due to ever-increasing limits on the amount of timber that can be harvested on federal lands, our forest products companies can supply less than a quarter the wood products Californians use. By the year 2020, it’s estimated our demand for wood products will increase by 50%. Unless things change dramatically, California will have to import more and more of its wood from countries that lack the forest management expertise and strong environmental protections that California has — our impact on the global environment will steadily worsen.

The forest products industry is one of the 10 largest private employers in the state. In many Northern California counties, it’s the largest. The jobs created by the forest products industry employ more than 110,000 people with a payroll of more than $4 billion every year. Those 110,000 jobs support more than 300,000 additional jobs in service industries, retail, transportation, agriculture and government.

The taxes paid by forest products companies and their employees have a huge impact on local communities. Employees of forest products companies pay more than $500 million in income taxes each year. In 2001, forest products companies paid almost $20 million in California Yield Taxes. The forest products industry also makes considerable contributions for schools and road improvements throughout the state.
Q Are we cutting down our old-growth forests?
A Of course, not. In fact, the number of old-growth trees in California is increasing. According to the U.S. Forest Service, in about 90 years old-growth trees will reach levels not seen since the early 20th century. California currently has more than 2.4 million acres of virgin old-growth forests in parks and wilderness, including nearly 100,000 acres of protected redwoods donated in part by forest products companies. All told, 97 percent of California’s old-growth forests are already preserved in public ownership. Forest products companies harvest wood from forests that have been harvested at least once already.

Q Is "clearcutting" a necessary management technique?
A In some cases clearcutting is the most environmentally responsible way to harvest trees. Clearcutting is a scientifically sound, ecologically proven way to regenerate forests and maintain biologically diverse habitats — it mimics the results of natural, low-intensity fire and provides a rich environment for plants and animals that prefer early stages of forest development. Clearcutting also requires fewer roads than other harvesting methods, and since clearcut areas are replanted and left alone to mature, it actually reduces human intervention.

Clearcutting is used when foresters follow an 'even-aged' forest management plan, and is especially effective for harvesting and growing trees that thrive on direct sunlight, such as Douglas fir and ponderosa pine, two of the fastest growing species. Clearcut areas are always replanted with native species and become healthy young forests in less than a decade.

California allows for and strictly regulates clearcutting. Clearcuts can never exceed 40 acres, and the vast majority are less than 20 acres.

Q Do the regulations we have now ensure sustainable forests?
A Yes, and no. California’s private forests are among the most protected forestlands in the world. Comprehensive plans that demonstrate sustainability must be approved before a single tree can be cut. In fact, the licensing requirements for foresters and the soil, water, air, fish and wildlife protection mandated by California’s regulations either meet or exceed the requirements recommended by independent certifiers concerned with maintaining environmental protection.

Nevertheless, researchers at Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo say California's inflexible and redundant forest regulations are becoming counterproductive, and may have unintended consequences. For example, the high cost of regulatory compliance often makes conversion of privately owned forestlands into housing subdivisions more profitable than continuing to maintain land as a forest. Unless changes are made, land conversion could become a serious threat to the future of our forests and environment.
ne of the most y asked ut our forests

Q Why not thin forests just around communities to reduce the risk of fire?
A Because it won’t protect those communities from fire. Today’s catastrophic wildfires feast on an abnormal abundance of fuel, throw millions of pounds of pollutants into the air, destroy wildlife and watersheds, and leave a desolate landscape scarred by erosion.

Massive fires roaring through hundreds of square miles of unthinned, overgrown forest simply do not respect narrow fuelbreaks. Firebrands — burning debris — can be launched up to a mile in advance of a wildfire and destroy homes no matter how much cleared space surrounds them. Thinning around communities won’t stop wildfires, and it won’t protect communities. Nor will it protect the watersheds where more than 75 percent of the state’s drinking water originates. The only way to live safely in a forest is to actively manage it to make the entire forest healthy.

Q Why is it important to actively manage California’s forestlands?
A Active forest management can substantially decrease the frequency and impact of catastrophic wildfires. With forests covering more than a third of the state, how these resources are used and protected affects all Californians. Hundreds of communities and thousands of acres are at significant risk from wildfire. The carbon monoxide that fills the air and erosion that spoils our drinking water after catastrophic wildfires affect millions.

The forestry industry has the know-how, equipment and infrastructure to make our forests healthy, naturally resistant to fire, insects and disease, and home to diverse animal habitats. At the same time, all Californians use wood products, which are vital to our state’s economic well being. Active forest management enables us to harvest wood in an environmentally sustainable way.
Choose California-grown wood

Good for our environment, good for our economy.

We all use wood products. If the wood we use isn’t coming from California, it’s coming from someplace where the environment is not as well protected.

California’s private forestlands are safeguarded by some of the most stringent environmental regulations in the world and managed by licensed experts. Wildlife, watersheds and air quality are all protected during harvesting. Our state laws help ensure that if trees are being harvested in California, sustainable forestry is being practiced.

Yet, for all of our state’s naturally rich soil, ideal tree-growing climate and millions of acres of forestland, California is a net importer of wood. We import about 80 percent of the wood used here. It makes better economic sense to help meet our increasing demand for wood products from California’s abundant forests.

Purchasing California-grown wood is an investment in our home state that leads to more jobs and a healthy forest economy that is good for everyone — from the families that grow the trees, to all the people along the way who supply the wood products we use in our everyday lives.

Be Californian Buy California Grown

California's forestry industry is a leading agricultural producer and proud participant in the California Grown campaign.
Learn more about California forests.

WEB SITES
The California Forest Products Commission is not responsible for content or changing links.

ALL INCLUSIVE SITES
Forestworld www.forestworld.com
Steve Nix's All About Forestry, www.forestry.about.com

ASSOCIATIONS/RELATED ORGANIZATIONS
American Forests, www.amfor.org
Associated California Loggers, www.calog.com
California Forest Products Commission, www.calforests.org
California Forestry Association, www.foresthealth.org
California Licensed Foresters Association, www.cfpa.org
California Redwood Association, www.calredwood.org
Evergreen Partnership, www.ep.org
Forest Landowners of California, www.forestlandowners.org
Forest Products Society, www.forestprod.org
Forest Stewardship Program, www.cnrc.ca.gov/foreststeward
Greenspirit, www.greenspirit.com
Incense Cedar Institute, www.pencils.com
Northern California Society of American Foresters, www.norcalafs.org
Pacific Logging Congress, www.pacificloggingconference.com
PaperLoop, www.papeloop.com
Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, Inc. (TAPPI), www.tappi.org
Western Wood Products Association (WWPA) Barometer Report, www.wwpa.org
Western Wood Products Association, www.wwpa.org

PUBLICATIONS
Crow's Market Reports, www.crows.com
Evergreen Magazine, www.evergreenmagazine.com
Forestry, www.onp.co.uk/forestry/
Loggers World, www.loggersworld.com

Seventh American Forest Congress Publication, www.yale.edu/forest-congress/

GOVERNMENT
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), www.fire.ca.gov
United States Forest Service, www.fs.fed.us

GENERAL PUBLICATIONS ON FORESTY
Order the following publications from CNPS, 1724 J Street, Suite 17, Sacramento, CA 95814:

Order the following publications from American Forests, P.O. Box 2000, Washington, D.C. 20012:


Sustaining Site Productivity on Forestlands. UC DNR Publication 2148. 1990.

FOR TEACHERS
California Environmental Education Interagency Network, www.ceres.ca.gov/education/
California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, www.cfalc.org
CREEC Network, www.cree.org
Curriculums for Forest Landowners, www.enr.berkeley.edu/departments/espm/extension/about.htm
Pacific Logging Congress, www.pacificloggingconference.com
Project Learning Tree, www.plt.org
Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, Inc. (TAPPI), www.tappi.org/paperu
Temperate Forest Foundation, www.temperateforest.org
The Forest Foundation, www.californiawild.org/ffforder.html

Much of the information in this brochure is courtesy of the following sources:
"We need a new vision for North America's forests. A vision that restores a productive and harmonious relationship between forests and people. Such a promising view of the future can only be achieved by better understanding our past."

— Dr. Thomas Bonnicksen
Visiting Scholar and Board Member, The Forest Foundation
Professor of Forest Science, Texas A&M University

"The forests must be, and will be, not only preserved but used, and the experience of all civilized countries that have faced and solved the question shows that forests, like perennial fountains, may be made to yield a sure harvest of timber while at the same time all their far-reaching beneficent uses may be maintained unimpaired."

— John Muir
Environmentalist and Founder of the Sierra Club, 1885

"We have been led to believe that when we use wood we are causing a bit of the forest to be lost. This is not the case. When we buy wood we send a signal into the marketplace to plant more trees and produce more wood."

— Dr. Patrick Moore
Co-founder and former President of Greenpeace
President of Greenspirit