

“...[the Forest Service’s] actions are all too typical of an agency that has long interpreted its stewardship responsibility according to the law of the chainsaw: log now and worry about species habitat, or the lack of it later.”

— San Francisco Chronicle, editorial (no date)

Mistakes of the Past?

The Forest Service claims that massive clearcuts, degradation of water quality, and the destruction of critical wildlife habitat are mistakes of the past. The Agency says that ecosystem management has replaced their out-dated management style and that the “new” Forest Service can be trusted to handle the responsibility of protecting the public’s land...

“But over the last 90 years the Forest Service mutated from a small, idealistic bureau of scientific managers into a growth-addicted agency intent on protecting and perpetuating its own budget and power.”

— The Wall Street Journal (May 22, 1996)

“The EPA has classified the sale [Thunderbolt Salvage Sale] as ‘environmentally unacceptable,’ the first time the agency has given such a classification to a Pacific Northwest timber sale.”

— Idaho Statesman (November 9, 1995)

“It’s a shame this sale [Thunderbolt Salvage Sale] didn’t sell...It was built as a win-win project, win for Idaho, win for the economy, win for the environment.”

— Cathy Barbouletos, deputy Supervisor for the Boise NF (The Oregonian, November 10, 1995)

The Forest Service defied Congress by substituting salvage sales for green tree sales

“It’s been hard to stay silent watching what the Forest Service does in mutilating the land. I just can’t be quiet anymore.”

— Joe Fox, Forest Service smokejumper and former forest insect scientist (Spokesman-Review, March 27, 1995)

“Congress: 1) directed us [the Forest Service] to expedite and increase our offering of salvage material; 2) that this was not to come at the expense of our regular program...”

— Forest Service Timber Salvage Questions and Answers, (1995)

“...the Review Team did not observe consistent processes, criteria, or quality control procedures regarding the interpretation or application of the definition of salvage by FS or BLM.”

— Interagency Salvage Program Review (1996)

Actions Speak Louder Than Words...

Freed from the fetters of accountability and given the responsibility to apply professional judgment, the Forest Service showed its true colors.

“An interagency post-mortem of the salvage program last month criticized the Forest Service’s enforcement of environmental safeguards that led to logging in areas of national forests with ‘virtually all live trees.’”

— The Washington Post (January 2, 1997)

Fiscal Year ‘96 Salvage Tree Program vs. Green Tree Program on 6 National Forests

Salvage Volume (MBF)

Green Volume (MBF)

