



CLEARCUTTING HARMS CALIFORNIA COMMUNITIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES



All Californians deserve clean air and water, healthy forests and a sustainable economy. In California, over a million acres of forested land are scheduled for clearcutting. Clearcutting and loss of natural forests is harming water quality, air quality, wildlife habitat, recreation and tourism throughout the state.

Clearcutting threatens our water for California cities and farms

- 75 percent of California water comes from forested watersheds.ⁱ
- The Sierra Nevada is the source of 60 percent of the state's developed water supply.ⁱⁱ
- Forests are natural filters for our air and water. Forests filter pollutants, help minimize floods, slow storm runoff, reducing soil erosion and improving water infiltration rates and recharge to aquifers.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Irresponsible clearcut logging increases erosion and dumps sediment into streams.^{iv}
- After forests are clearcut, toxic chemicals are applied, potentially entering drinking water sources like the Mokelumne River, which provides 90 percent of the East Bay's water.^v
- Clearcutting harms \$128 million government funded salmon restoration project^{vi}
- In clearcutting, nearly every tree is logged and the soil is often deep-ripped by heavy equipment, removing a major source of carbon storage.^{vii}

Clearcutting can increase Community Fire Risk

- Plantations create fuel conditions that support large severe fires.^{viii}
- Young trees are more fire prone than older trees with fire resistant bark and crown fires spread quickly across trees of the same age and size.^{ix}

Clearcutting threatens California's sustainable economy

- The Sierra Business Council has stated, "Deteriorating natural assets, such as polluted streams or marred scenery, reduce property values, drive away new businesses, and undermine the quality of life for current residents.... our region's prosperity depends directly on our willingness to make wise use of our assets and to act swiftly to prevent their diminishment."^x
- The most lucrative industry in the Sierra Nevada Region is no longer timber and forest products but tourism and recreation based activities *within* those forests. In order to promote this emerging source of economic growth, the forests that support them need to be protected. – Sierra Nevada Conservancy



The California legislature envisioned responsible forest resources management.

Z'BERG-NEJEDLY FOREST PRACTICE ACT:

The Legislature thus declares that it is the policy of this state to encourage prudent and responsible forest resource management calculated to serve the public's need for timber and other forest products, while giving consideration to the public's need for watershed protection, fisheries and wildlife, and recreational opportunities alike in this and future generations.

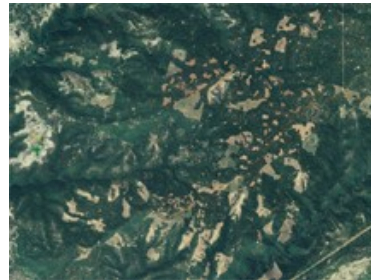
Does this look like responsible forest resource management?



SHASTA COUNTY



PLUMAS COUNTY



NEVADA COUNTY



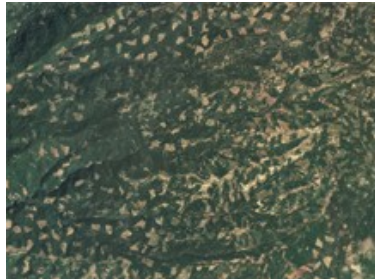
EL DORADO COUNTY



AMADOR COUNTY



CALAVERAS COUNTY



TUOLUMNE COUNTY



MENDOCINO COUNTY



SONOMA COUNTY

Images from <http://www.stopclearcuttingcalifornia.org/>

ⁱ California Forest Magazine, Winter 2011, <http://www.foresthealth.org/magazine/Winter2011.pdf>
ⁱⁱ California Department of Resources. 2006. *Sierra Nevada Conservancy Strategic Plan*. Auburn, California. Author
ⁱⁱⁱ United States Forest Service, Watershed Services, http://www.fs.fed.us/ecosystemservices/pdf/Watershed_Services.pdf
^{iv} Clearcutting in the National Forests, Congressional Research Service report to Congress, Adela Backiel, Ross W. Gorte, Specialists in Natural Resource Policy, Environment and Natural Resources Policy Division, July 29, 1992
^v Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Mokelumne Watershed Environmental Benefits Effort, Agenda Item VII e, March 3, 2011
^{vi} Sacramento Bee: Troubled Waters of Battle Creek, 6/19/2011
^{vii} <http://www.thptrackingcenter.org/documents/Climate%20Op%20Destruction.pdf>
^{viii} Turning Plantations into Healthy, Fire Resistant forests: Outlook for the Granite Burn, Dave Sapsis, Fuel and Fire Behavior Specialist; Clay Brandow, Watershed Specialist. Fire and Resource Assessment Program. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. 1997
^{ix} State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. "Findings Pursuant to Government Code Section 11346.1(b) in Support of Adoption of Emergency Rules to Implement Lake Tahoe Region Exemption Emergency Rule, 2005." Final Version with OAL Edits 6_20_05. Notice Date: June 13, 2005. p. 8)
^x Sierra Business Council. *Sierra Nevada Wealth Index: Understanding and Tracking our Region's Wealth; 1999-2000 Edition*. 1999.6