

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) “green label” was developed in large part by environmental groups and small timber operators to certify wood from well-managed forests, but is now increasingly being awarded to major industrial loggers—from the Amazon to Indonesia, and from Maine to Mendocino—who engage in

Massive clearcutting

Massive pesticide use

Pollution of creeks & rivers

Harming & killing endangered species, and

Destruction of the world's last primary forests.

In 1999, the FSC began greatly expanding its “certification” of big land holdings, under pressure from the World Bank, the World Wildlife Fund, and major donors (Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Wallace Global Fund, Rockefeller Brothers). Environmental and human rights concerns have been increasingly marginalized, and standards systematically reduced. For example, the FSC-certified minimum content of particle board has been reduced from 90% to 10%. And FSC’s Principles and Criteria are being absurdly interpreted to permit massive clearcutting, the logging of virgin forests, and other highly unsustainable practices.

The private consultants who conduct FSC “certifications” compete for big timber business and are paid directly by the timber companies that they certify. The “certifications” are often based on promises of reform, not on performance. The FSC’s controls on this process are gravely inadequate.

The global financial powers behind the FSC are placing groups like Greenpeace (who are members of the FSC) into a terrible bind: either defend the indefensible—these unwarranted certifications—or quit the FSC and lose all potential influence over it.

Did you know?

- ☒ Over 140 Indonesian environmental and human rights groups asked the FSC to suspend all certifications in their country—because of widespread illegal logging, conflicts with indigenous peoples, and other adverse impacts.
- ☒ The Sierra Clubs of Canada and Maine strongly opposed the FSC certification of JD Irving Ltd, whose holdings include over 1.5 million acres of forests in Maine and Canada. Despite its widespread clearcutting and pesticide use, Irving was awarded an FSC “green label.”
- ☒ Mendocino’s environmental groups all opposed the FSC certification of the Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC)—owned by the Fisher family of the Gap—where the FSC is permitting extensive clearcutting and pesticide use. MRC has been unresponsive to Greenpeace, Rainforest Action Network, and local pleas to stop logging and has now applied for a federal “license to kill endangered species” throughout their 235,000 acres of forest—with *no consequences to their FSC certification.*
- ☒ The Natural Resources Defense Council (with one of the Gap Fishers on its board and several more as major donors!) is lobbying the State of California to exempt FSC-certified wood from the Heritage Tree Bill, which will outlaw the cutting of trees 150 years old (and older) on both private and public land.

And now . . .

The FSC is lobbying the City of San Francisco to weaken its ban on tropical hardwoods, by exempting wood from FSC-certified forests.

The SF Port Commission reportedly wants to replace the arsenic-treated wood being used for pier pilings. Enter FSC-certified Precious Woods Ama-

zon, a Swiss-German investment group that wants to provide San Francisco with hardwoods from virgin forests in the Amazon!

PW-Amazon doubled its rate of logging after receiving FSC certification and is targeting the oldest trees in virgin forests, killing non-commercial native species, putting in permanent new roads to inaccessible areas, and pushing the local economy toward more logging—the opposite of what is needed. A fifth of the Amazon has already been destroyed. FSC “certification” is making things worse.

“What rural Amazon needs is not a burgeoning timber industry, but diverse economic alternatives for traditional societies. ... *Timber is clearly the wrong product to choose for a campaign seeking to ‘save the Amazon.’*”

— *Trading in Credibility: The Myth and Reality of the Forest Stewardship Council*, by the Rainforest Foundation

Take action today:

This is not a time to be weakening local environment laws! Contact the SF Department of the Environment, and urge them to retain the City’s ban on the purchase of tropical hardwoods—

Ph: 415-355-3700 Fax: 415-554-6393
Email: environment@sfgov.org

There are environmentally sound alternatives for use on piers—such as pilings of 100% recycled plastic, and non-toxic pressure-treated wood.

“If certified logging of the disappearing rainforests is the answer perhaps we have forgotten what the question was...”

— Glen Barry, Forests.org

FSC is one of several “green labels” now in use—and they are all being used on lumber that is not from sustainable forests. Don’t be fooled by the label!

80% of the world's forests have been destroyed or severely damaged in the last thirty years.

The result has been :

flood and famine

(forests stabilize the land)

see UN World Food Program, www.wfp.org

a world water crisis

(forests replenish aquifers)

see Council of Canadians, www.canadians.org

global warming

(forests absorb CO₂)

see <http://forests.org/articles/reader.asp?linkid=37174>
and www.globalwarm.com

and catastrophic loss of species

(forests provide habitats)

see www.defenders.org/bio-cont.html

Most people want to stop this environmental nightmare. They care about the future.

Most corporations don't. They care about short-term profits.

What can we do?

- **Stop buying forest products.**
- **Use only recycled wood, wood grown on farmland (not from forests), or alternatives to wood:**
clay, brick, adobe, straw bale, hemp board, wheat board, rock, rammed earth, bamboo, and (with caveats) steel, concrete, and 100% recycled plastic lumber.
- **Spread the message:** talk to your friends, neighbors, retailers.
- **Keep the pressure on** your local gov't to be forest-aware in its contracting.
- **Stay informed:** Google any of the alternative items listed (like wheat board) to find sources located near you.

For a list of the very few sustainable community-run forest operations, contact Forest Ethics: 415-863-4563.

The remaining patches of healthy forest that can be logged sustainably cannot begin to meet the current demand for lumber. As with our addiction to fossil fuels, we must end our addiction to forest products.



Greenwood Earth Alliance
415-731-7924

Massive clearcutting . . .

Chemical pesticides . . .

Logging of virgin forests . . .

This is not green forestry!



Don't Buy Forest Products

REDUCE • REUSE • RECYCLE

**THERE'S A GLOBAL FOREST CRISIS:
DON'T TRUST ANY GREEN LABELS**