

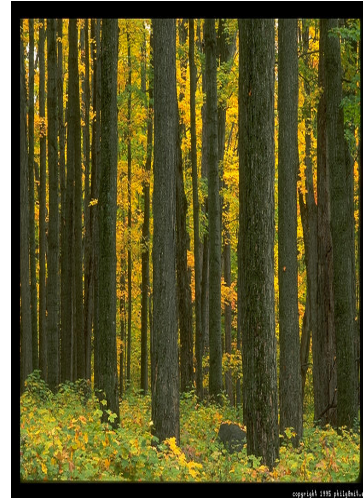
**References**

- [www.ifdn.com](http://www.ifdn.com)
  - [www.forests.org](http://www.forests.org)
  - [www.iwokrama.org](http://www.iwokrama.org)
  - [www.globalforestwatch.com](http://www.globalforestwatch.com)
  - [www.photo.net](http://www.photo.net)
  - [www.canada.com](http://www.canada.com)
  - [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us)
  - [www.savespiritbear.org](http://www.savespiritbear.org)
- The World in One Day, Russell Ash, DK publishing Inc 1997



**Save Our Forests**

**Forest Resource Management**



<http://www.photo.net>

Grade: 6

December 1, 2003

**Introduction**

Our forests are one of our most valuable resources. They are used to make products such as pencils, paper and other items. They are also a huge part of British Columbia's economy by creating thousands of jobs and contributing millions of dollars.

The forests, however, are slowly diminishing due to logging practices, consumption of paper products, natural disasters like fires and pests and diseases that kill trees such as the mountain pine beetle. This has environmental, economic and social impacts.

If logging companies don't replant the trees they cut down and better manage their industry they will damage it. This would have severe consequences for the economy. The environment can be damaged if the lumber industry doesn't do their jobs carefully. Most communities that rely on forestry for their economic survival could disappear.

1. Lumber Industry Impacts

A major impact on our forests is logging. Clear cutting is when loggers cut down a huge patch of trees so that there are no trees left. It can take thousands of years to grow back the trees that were cut down, Sometimes they don't replant the trees so it becomes a permanent problem.



By not using machinery that is better adapted to the environment they kill the trees that they won't use. Sliding is another harmful logging technique that involves sliding the cut trees down hills. It can kill any saplings or bushes that happen to be in its way.

a. Economic Impacts

According to the Iwokrama environmental conservation group, approximately 2.5 million people who live in areas near forests depend on the forest to provide their fuel wood and water.<sup>1</sup>

Most logging communities depend on logging to provide them with jobs and money. If there aren't any trees to log then those people who work at the logging company would lose their jobs. This would mean that others in the communities who own or work in local businesses would lose their jobs too. The community would not be able to survive without a new industry to replace it.

b. Ecological/Environmental Impacts

From the bald eagle that makes its nest in trees to the bears that eat many forest plants all animals depend on the forests. The loss of forest could mean that many animals will lose their homes. An example of a unique animal that would be impacted by the loss of forests is the Spirit or Kermode Bear. It is one of the rarest bears in the world and is only found in B.C.'s mid coast forests. They are worshipped by the first nations but if their habitat is lost they will be extinct. This is only one example of an animal that could become endangered or extinct.



<sup>1</sup> [www.iwokrama.com](http://www.iwokrama.com)

Trees are considered to be the lungs of the earth because they take in carbon-dioxide and put out oxygen. They're like a giant air freshener that provides the world with clean air. If you cut down the trees the air will become dirtier and it can damage you're health.

2. Social Impacts

The loss of our forests would have an impact on the community in a non-economic way.

First Nations

The First Nations people's lifestyle could be changed from the one they have used for years if clear cutting continues. They depend on the trees to give them their tools and shelter. But if you take this away from them, they will lose their most valuable asset.

B.C. Communities

By taking away trees you take away an industry causing people to lose their jobs and making the community deteriorate. Families and friends could be separated and the towns would become a ghost town. Without trees to make into products they would have to be imported which would cost a lot more.

Products Connected With the Forestry Sector

The forestry sector is responsible for many products. For instance, the house you live in, the pencil you write with and the paper you write it on. When you go to the washroom that toilet paper you use is made from a tree. The products we just named are only a few of the ones you will use every single day.

Below is a chart showing how many wood products we used over one week.

Wood and Paper Products Consumed by Individuals

School

Day	Lined/White Construction Paper	Kleenex, Paper Towel, T.P	Paper Bags, Cardboard Boxes
Monday	5	4	0
Tuesday	8	2	0
Wednesday	4	8	0
Thursday	5	10	0
Friday	4	6	0
Saturday	0	0	0
Sunday	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>

HOME

Day	Lined/White Construction Paper	Kleenex, Paper Towel, T.P	Paper Bags, Cardboard Boxes
Monday	6	22	0
Tuesday	6	8	0
Wednesday	7	8	0
Thursday	3	7	0
Friday	1	10	0
Saturday	3	10	0
Sunday	3	10	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>0</b>

Did You Know

These chart shows approximately how much paper two individuals would use over a two week time but did you know?

- On average two individuals would use about 2860 lined or plain paper and 5460 Kleenex, paper towels and toilet paper in 52 months.
- If all 500 students at Homma used roughly the same amount of wood products, in one week they would use 27500 pieces of lined or plain paper and 52500 pieces of Kleenex. Paper towels and toilet paper.
- Approximately 15125000 pieces of lined and plain paper and about 28875000 pieces of Kleenex, paper towel and toilet paper would be used in Richmond if everyone used almost the same amount as we did.
- If everyone in B.C. used almost the same amount as us they would use about 137,500,000 pieces of lined or plain paper and 262,500,000 pieces of Kleenex, paper towels and toilet paper.

Other Interesting Facts

- Every day worldwide, enough tropical rainforest is cut down to cover an island as big as Barbados.
- In one day, the U.S throws away over 222,666 tons of paper of which only 77,161 tons are recycled.
- 30,000 tons of newspapers are thrown away but only 14,330 are recycled.<sup>2</sup>

Conclusions

The environment needs our help so everyone has to pitch in. Even by recycling one newspaper you can save a tree. You can promote forest conservation by joining forest conservation groups. One of these groups is the World Bank/WWF alliance for forest conservation. They have already protected over 45 million hectares of forest and plan to protect 50 million by 2005. You can also help by taking part in clean ups and educating other people on the importance of protecting our forests.

What we can do to help

By using some tree saving ideas like printing on both sides of a piece of paper, you can save trees. Some logging companies try to help by using machinery that is more adaptable to the environment so that they don't destroy trees that they don't need and replanting the trees that they cut down. Out of the 60 percent of forests that are intact only 7 percent are protected.<sup>3</sup>

The biggest way you can help the environment is to *Modify your lifestyle to save our forests*. You're probably thinking, "How can I do that". It's easy. All you have to do is: **Reuse, Reduce and Recycle**. By doing this you can save trees from being cut down. Also try to watch how much paper you use so you don't "over do it".

<sup>2</sup> The World In One Day, Russel Ash, DK publishing Inc 1997

<sup>3</sup> www.globalforestwatch.com