



## **Bush Administration's Healthy Forest Initiative to Increase Logging on Our Public Lands**

### **American Lands Alliance**

726 7<sup>th</sup> St., SE, Washington, DC 20003  
Phone 202-547-9400, Fax 202-547-9213  
[www.americanlands.org](http://www.americanlands.org)

---

The Healthy Forests Initiative (HFI) is President Bush's response to the past year's forest fires. The initiative is based on the false assumption that landscape-wide logging will decrease forest fires. This premise is contradicted by the general scientific consensus, which has found that logging can increase fire risk. This disconnect between what the administration says and what science says about logging and fire reveals the administration's true goal which is to use the forest fire issue to cut the public out of the public lands management decision making process and to give logging companies virtually free access to our National Forests.

HFI, if fully enacted, would:

**1. Limit environmental analysis and limit public participation by:**

- Excluding environmental analysis for any site-specific project the Forest Service and BLM claim will reduce hazardous fuels, including post-fire salvage projects.
- Limiting public participation by allowing "hazardous fuels reduction projects" to be categorically excluded and suspends citizen's rights to appeal projects.

**2. Accelerate aggressive "thinning" across millions of acres of backcountry forests miles away from communities at risk to forest fires.**

**3. Uses 'Goods for services' as the Funding Mechanism by:**

- Allowing the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to give away trees to logging companies as payment for any management activity, including logging on public lands.
- Creating a powerful new incentive to log large fire-resistant trees, old growth, and other commercially valuable forests.

The 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Act, passed by Congress on February 14, 2003, made the Stewardship Contracting pilot program permanent through 2013 (Public Law 108-7, Division F, Title II, Section 323).

**4. Increase logging of mature and old growth forests in the Pacific Northwest by weakening protections under the Northwest Forest Plan.**

**We urge Congress to oppose any legislation that excludes environmental analysis, limits public participation and citizen's rights to appeal projects; and allows the timber industry to be given trees instead of cash as payment for fuels reduction logging on public lands, and support community protection as the top priority of the fuel reduction program.**

For more information, please contact: Lisa Dix, American Lands Alliance; 202/547-9105, [ldix@americanlands.org](mailto:ldix@americanlands.org)