

Mark E. Rey: Undersecretary of Agriculture

Mark Rey was handpicked by the Bush Administration to oversee the U.S. Forest Service as Undersecretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources & Environment. His appointment drew high praise from timber industry officials who hope to benefit from Rey's history and connections with the industry.



History working for the timber industry

Mark Rey spent nearly twenty years working for various "big timber" trade associations and organizations:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 1992-1994 | Vice President, Forest Resources for the American Forest and Paper Association. |
| 1989-1992 | Executive Director of the American Forest Resources Alliance. |
| 1984-1989 | Vice President, Forestry Programs for the National Forest Products Association. |
| 1976-1984 | Several positions for the American Paper Institute/National Forest Products Assoc. |

Undersecretary for Natural Resources and Environment, United States Department of Agriculture

As Undersecretary for Natural resources and Environment, Mark Rey directs the programs and activities of the U.S. Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. He is responsible for the management of 156 national forests, 19 national grasslands, and 15 land utilization projects on 191 million acres in 44 states. Rey is positioned to play a critical role in the Bush administration's public land policy and implementation.

Staff Member, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Before his appointment to Undersecretary of Agriculture and after a nearly 20 year tenure with the timber industry, Rey served as an aide to Senators Larry Craig, (R-Idaho) and Frank Murkowski, (R-Alaska), both considered friends of the timber industry. The following outlines three of Rey's most notable attacks on our national forests:

- The "key architect" of Sen. Craig's 1997 version of the National Forest Management Act, which would have eliminated citizen oversight and made timber harvest levels mandatory and enforceable, while making environmental standards unenforceable "policies." (*National Journal*, 1997)
- Helped develop Sen. Craig's plan to stall the Roadless Initiative -- until the new Bush Administration could take office -- by requiring a congressional oversight committee to investigate how the policy came about, effectively delaying enactment for at least a year. (*Oregonian*, 2000)
- Authored the infamous "salvage rider" of 1995 which exempted logging in our national forests from all environmental laws and compelled the logging of thousands of acres of old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest. (*National Journal*, 1996)

Timber Industry Lobbying

In 2000 several of the top timber and paper corporations in the Forestry and Forest Product Industry spent nearly \$5 million on efforts lobbying Congress and the Forest Service.¹

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA), Mark Rey's former employer, was one of the top timber industry lobbying forces for three years running. From 1997 - 1999 AF&PA ranked in the top five for the forestry industry on lobbying and spent nearly \$7 million on lobbying efforts. In 2000 AF&PA spent more than \$2 million on a team of eighteen in house lobbyists pushing timber industry issues in Washington.²

According to Mark Rey

In 1997 Mark Rey stated that clear-cut logging, while "not aesthetically uplifting" is "compatible with rain forest ecology" and that the practice is "relatively comparable" to windstorms. (*Sunset Magazine*, 11/1997)

¹(House of Reps Office of The Clerk, Lobby Reports 2000 for: American Forest & Paper Association, Boise Cascade, Georgia-Pacific, International Paper, Louisiana-Pacific, National Hardwood Lumber Assoc.) ²(Center for Responsive Politics; House of Representatives Office of The Clerk, Lobby Reports 2000)