

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Timber company gets injunction against protesters

BY PATTI EDGAR

VICTORIA (CUP) — A timber company has won an injunction against environmental protesters camped out in an old growth forest.

The decision came last week when the Supreme Court of British Columbia rejected the protesters' appeal against the injunction, which was sought by Timber West Forestry Ltd.

The group had been camped out in the Upper Walbran Valley since mid-September in an effort to prevent the company from logging in the area.

Protest organizer Ian Hunter said while they may have lost last Tuesday's battle, their war isn't over.

Despite losing their fight against the injunction, the protesters gained two victories in court, Hunter said.

"I couldn't personally conceive [an overturn of the injunction] happening," Hunter said. "What did happen is the best possible thing that could have happened from what I read of the

situation."

The court removed a clause that gave police the right to arrest people who counsel protesters into blockading the company as well as a clause making arrested protesters automatically responsible for Timber West's court costs, Hunter said.

And the group of about 40 people plans to take Timber West to court again — this time over an affidavit it used in its defence during the appeal.

Land-use forester Steve Lorimer said his company is pleased protesters will no longer prevent it from operating in the Upper Walbran Valley.

"It would be very nice in our point of view if we didn't have to [have people arrested]," he said. "We'd like to go to work without confrontation and do the job we are permitted."

The injunction will give police the authority to arrest protesters if they block the company from building roads and logging in the Upper Walbran Valley, near Port Renfrew, BC.

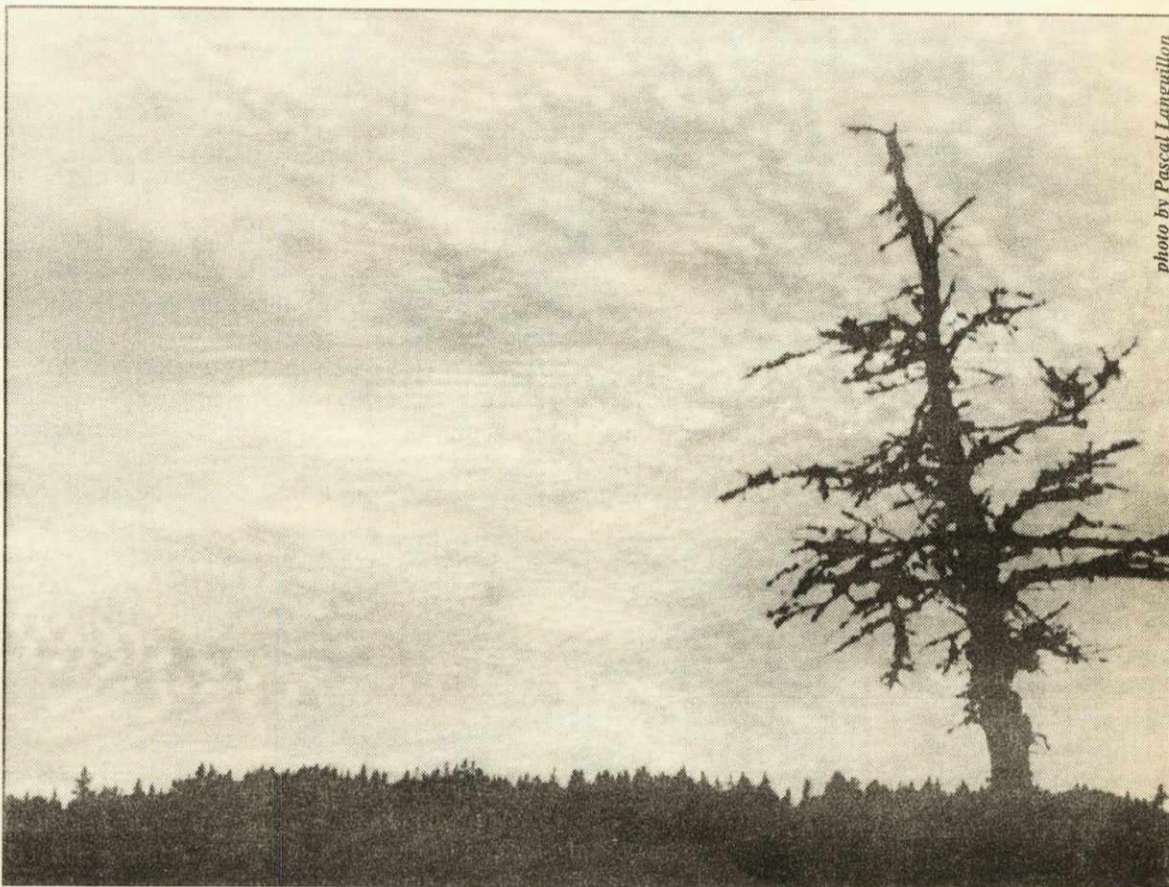


photo by Pascal Languilton

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