

<u>Area</u>	<u>Maximum Permitted Clearcut in Hectares</u>
Northern British Columbia	60
Southern British Columbia	40
North Ontario	260
Nova Scotia	50
State of Washington	98
State of Oregon	98
State of California	16
Higher Elevation USFS	16
Lower Elevation USFS	25
Finland	10

Ecological considerations should play a primary role in forestry policy decisions. The conventional approach to protecting biodiversity has focused on relatively small parcels of land, in part because that is all the wild lands that are left, and in part because such compromises are seen as politically essential. But that approach has failed to protect many species such as grizzlies and salmon, who require vast stretches of land to survive and thrive. Setting aside small parcels of land will not ensure the preservation of threatened and endangered species. Limiting clearcutting is an essential step in protecting forest ecosystems, since that kind of logging is so damaging. Clearcutting destroys buffer zones that otherwise reduce the impact of flooding by absorbing and holding water, removes the forest canopy that is home to insects and bacteria, reduces carbon sinks and thereby contributes to the threat of global climate change, destroys the habitat of fish and wildlife, eliminates sustainable forest industries such as fruit-picking and sap extraction, and ravages aesthetic values and recreational opportunities.⁶³

Environmental and labor groups have focused attention on the impact of logging on salmon fishing. Trees and streams have an important symbiotic relationship. Trees provide shade that moderates water temperature during the day. Fallen trees help create pools of water that serve as new habitat for fish. Needles and leaves provide important sources of food for the algae and amoeba that fish eat. Some salmon go up small ditches and tributaries in the fall to spawn that are dry during the summer. Loggers have failed to recognize these dry beds as salmon spawning areas and destroyed them as they drove through with heavy equipment. Protection of riparian zones is critical, and the buffer strips provided for in the FPC are smaller than the 100 meter-wide zones fishing and conservation groups have demanded. In the Northwest United States, riparian zones are protected by buffers 91 meters wide for fish bearing streams, and 46 meter-wide buffers for non-fish bearing waters. The FPC also gives local forest managers the discretion to approve logging roads and cuts even closer to streams and lakes.⁶⁴

There are several options the government could have pursued to reduce logging and protect timber communities: make it possible for displaced workers to work in new forests,