

15 cougars. A Regional Public Advisory Committee recommended in 1995 that one-fifth of the area be preserved and the rest opened to logging.⁵⁹

The Western Canada Wilderness Committee has also emphasized the importance of preserving old-growth rainforests as watersheds and called for an end to logging in the three forests that serve as watersheds for the Vancouver area. The Provincial Water Rights Board indicated that "from a standpoint of public health, it is essential that no logging be allowed on the watersheds." Logging in the area includes cutting old-growth trees such as Douglas firs that are worth as much as \$40,000 worth of lumber from each tree, creating strong incentives to increase logging despite the danger of water pollution and erosion. Old-growth forests are more biologically diverse and less likely to degrade the soil than are same-age, planted forests.⁶⁰

The International Coalition to Save British Columbia's Forest argues that the Forest Practices Code fails to give the public the right to appeal decisions; its standards for the protection of prime salmon streams is weaker than U.S.F.S. standards for fishless streams; it limits but does not prohibit clearcuts; it provides little protection for endangered species and their habitat; and it reaffirms the power of provincial forest officials and timber executives that are responsible for some of the ecologically most destructive logging anywhere. The coalition's agenda for forest policy reform includes the following:

- An end to clearcutting in British Columbia

- A comprehensive inventory of forest resources

- Protection of enough wilderness to ensure the preservation of biodiversity, including all native species, pristine watersheds, and wildlife corridors

- "Selection-based ecoforestry" where logging does occur

- A transition to community control of resources and value-added manufacturing of forest products

- A ban on the export of raw and minimally processed logs

- Full cooperation with First Nation Peoples to protect their traditional lands.⁶¹

Public Lands and Ecology

One of the major consequences of the Forest Practices Code has been to limit the maximum size of clearcuts, as shown in the following figures. B.C. clearcuts are smaller than those in Ontario but about the same as those in Nova Scotia, and smaller than those in Washington and Oregon, but larger than in many other areas of the United States.⁶²