

Big machinery is a big mistake. Look at the draggers: demanding a bigger quota so they can buy a bigger boat and gear and acquire a bigger debt so they can demand a bigger quota. Man will destroy himself for quick money. We should learn a lesson from the fishery.

"The same attitude destroyed the fishery, " a community leader said. "Each one going at it for all he could get and not cooperating with his fellow to establish some guidelines and limits."

Residents anticipate that the consequences of this overcut will be a reduction in the sustainability of the forest, the closing of some local woods operations and sawmills, a decline in employment leading to community decline, a slowdown in the tourist industry, a reduction of wildlife habitat, and increased restrictions on their own many uses of the forest.

The second predominant criticism is against clearcutting with big machinery as a method of timber removal. Residents say that although clearcutting may be the least expensive logging method, the gains are short term and go to a few, namely the contractor or company, while the costs are long term and fall upon the many.

One woman fumed,

The country is all tore up by timberjacks. They are using the wrong equipment. You can't even walk in the woods because the ruts are so deep. A young tree can't grow under those conditions. When you drive in there, all you see is big cutovers. If you see a moose he has a backpack on, looking for someplace to go.

A man told us,

Spring Pond {a pseudonym} is a good example of a wasted region. That was beat flat, with tire tracks and big clearcuts. When we raised the cry, {the logging companies} said we were trying to take away their jobs, but we were really trying to make sure they had a job down the road.

The outcry against clearcutting was raised at forestry management meetings and also in a series of letters to the editor in the local newspaper. A businessman wrote,

Everything is being clearcut right up to the edge of ponds and the main road. One only has to drive around the area to see that. It looks like it has been hit by an A-bomb.
(Northern Pen 1991)

Critics were particularly horrified when Forestry allowed outfits to chip whole green trees which would have been suitable sawlog material and hence more valuable (this practice ended in 1996 when the chip-burning plant closed). They also think that Forestry does not perform enough re-planting or pre-commercial thinning soon enough after clearcutting to hasten regeneration. In sum, the accusations of overcutting and clearcutting express a fear of a permanently degraded forest and a reduced woods industry.