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statewide. The council represents about 4,500 people.

Although Wood agreed the timber industry does contribute to Oregon's economy, he said the industry will have to reduce its harvests in the coming years.

"At the rate that we're cutting, we honestly believe in five to 10 years that the destruction that will result will be irreversible," he said. "You may have a few big trees in the forest here and there in about 40 years, but you will not have an old-growth forest ecosystem in another 10."

"Some have suggested that even if we save all of the spotted owl habitats today that it may already be too late," he said. "We hope that is not the case."

Wood said the industry has operated on the erroneous belief that past cutting levels are acceptable today, even if those cutting levels are destructive to the state's ecology.

"The industry has said, 'We've cut this in the past, so we can just keep on cutting,'" Wood said. "Those kind of remarks don't mesh with what is reality. The fact of the matter is that it's a finite resource."

Profit is what keeps the industry going, Wood said, adding that the industry's history of "cut and run" when the logs run out has been proven by its management of Oregon's for-

ests. "The profit motive is really their only motivation, while they continue to say 'jobs, jobs, jobs.'"

**Not A Jobs Issue**

Wood said half of the current harvest of trees is sustainable, but he added he disagreed with the common "jobs vs. protection" arguments that tend to crop up.

"It isn't an issue of jobs vs. the environment," he said. "Protecting the environment also means protecting jobs. It means protecting jobs in our tourism industry, in our retirement industry, in our fishing industries."

"All of those jobs are being impaired by the timber industry's efforts to, figuratively speaking, run the last big tree through the mill," he added.

Wood said a common mistake is to view trees as having a dollar value only after they have been cut down and milled; trees sometimes are more valuable if left in the ground than when viewed in terms of recreation and tourism.

For Trevor Dick, University Survival Center's ancient forest coordinator, the answer to the question is straightforward.

"There's a simple bottom line — we're cutting too much, plain and simple," he said. "It's my view that we have to stop cutting virtually all an-

cient forests. Granted, there's some smaller tracts that can be negotiated upon.

"But when you look at any resource, and 92 to 95 percent of it is gone and will never come back, that says to me that it's time to stop extracting that resource," he said.

**Control The Cutting Edge**

From 1979 to 1985, annual cuts went up 25 percent, Dick said, adding that at the same time, employment in the industry went down 40 percent. Dick also said the timber industry should worry more about exporting logs and less about environmentalists.

"Stop exporting every stick," he said. "If we kept (lumber) here in Washington and Oregon, we wouldn't have to worry about ancient forests."

Dick cited figures from the state employment office, which say employment in the service industries went up 16 percent from 1979 to 1985. He also noted the 63,000 people in the state employed in outdoor recreation.

"Get out in the forest and see what the realities are out there," he said. "That doesn't lie. That's where the reality is. Standing in the middle of a 180 acre clearcut is a pretty powerful experience. Standing in the middle of an ancient forest grove is pretty amazing also."



The timber industry supplies jobs to 79,400 Oregonians annually.

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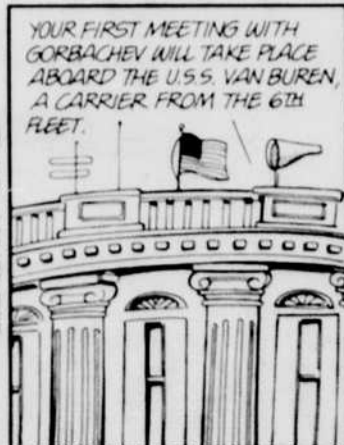
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