



# STOP CLEARCUTTING CALIFORNIA

*SAVE OUR FORESTS, WATER AND CLIMATE*

## IT'S TIME TO BAN CLEARCUTTING IN CALIFORNIA



### CALIFORNIA'S FORESTS ARE IN CRISIS

Catastrophic drought and bark beetle infestations are decimating California forests. Industrial logging harms forests further by clearcutting instead of using selective harvesting.

Since 1999 more than 1 million acres of private forests have been clearcut in California.

### What is clearcutting?

Clearcut logging removes profitable trees and bulldozes remaining small trees and plants. Debris is usually piled and burned. Herbicides are applied to prevent native plants from returning. Conifer seedlings are planted to create even-aged plantations.

Clearcutting makes it harder to fight drought and climate change. Clearcut sites capture and retain less water and increase erosion. Most of the carbon stored in forest trees and soil is released through clearcutting. Even after replanting clearcut forestlands, decades pass before the site stores more than carbon than it emits.



# CLEARCUTTING THREATENS CALIFORNIA'S WATER AND CLIMATE SECURITY

## HEALTHY RESILIENT FORESTS:

- Include a diverse mix of trees and native vegetation of various ages and sizes.
- Are better able to survive a disturbance such as fire and changes in climate and rainfall.
- Build soils that retain moisture, carbon, and nutrients.
- Guarantee that watersheds capture, filter, and slowly release water and snowmelt.
- Remove carbon dioxide from the air and store it in trees as well as soil.



## Can forests be logged without destroying them?

Selective logging provides for the removal of a portion of the trees with minimum of disruption to the soil and the forest, and is already used in some California forests where profits are balanced with environmental protection.



## CLEARCUT PLANTATIONS:

- Feature trees of the same age with generally only one or two species of trees.
- Face increased vulnerability to fire and insect infestation.
- Have degraded soils that contain less water, carbon, and nutrients.
- Emit carbon for 20-40 years after a clearcutting operation.
- Impair water quality through erosion and heavy herbicide use.
- Capture and retain less water than do healthy forests.

To improve water security, reduce forest fire risk and fight climate change, California must ban clearcutting on state and private lands.