



*American Loggers Council Position on
USDA Forest Service Appropriations*

The federal timber sale program was one of the last remaining programs run by the federal government that actually had a net gain to the federal treasury. To risk losing that program by watering down the targets of the Forest Service would be a travesty to not only the rural communities that are already reeling under double digit unemployment, but to all of the American citizens who are looking for ways to reduce the federal deficit and create jobs here in the United States.

It has been proposed that the Timber Products line item be combined with two other items and be titled "Integrated Resource Restoration." We are concerned that removing the "Timber Products" line item from the budget will take away all accountability for the US Forest Service to produce a "target volume" of saw logs and the "target volume" accountability would be replaced with an "acres treated" accountability approach which could lead to fewer mechanical treatments such as timber thinning/harvesting projects and more "prescribed burning" projects which are not as subject to litigation in the courtroom. Active management utilizing mechanical treatments is the only way to address the escalating crisis affecting the health of the national forests, produce saw log material to support existing industry infrastructure in rural communities and to capitalize on the utilization of woody biomass for the generation of renewable energy.

The American Loggers Council supports a target volume of 3 billion board feet of saw log volume to be offered from US Forest Service land in 2011, with a ramping up of volume to 4 billion feet by 2013.

As Congress considers budget cuts and appropriations for FY 2011 and beyond, the American Loggers Council would like to go on record as supporting continuation and full funding for the USDA Forest Service Timber Products line item in those budgets.