



FRIENDS OF THE CLEARWATER

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June 18, 2012

The Honorable Judge Peter M. Davenport
Office of Administrative Law Judges
1400 Independence Ave., S.W.
Room 1031 South Building
Washington, D.C. 20250-9200

Re: 12-0338

Sent Via FAX: 202-690-0790

Dear Judge Davenport,



The Following are comments from Friends of the Clearwater on the proposal to export unprocessed federal timber from Stimson Timber Company. Friends of the Clearwater is an organization concerned about the public wildlands, wildlife and watersheds of the Clearwater Basin and surrounding areas in north-central Idaho. We have some question and concerns with this proposal.

We are concerned about possible environmental impacts of opening logs from national forests to export. This might create a foreign demand for US resources, specifically forests owned by all Americans. It also seems counterproductive, in an era of unemployment in this country, for a company to propose to export raw logs by being allowed to substitute federal logs for logs grown on private land.

The sourcing area is oversized for three mills located in northern Idaho. It encompasses a land base far larger than from which the three mills would logically buy logs. Most of Idaho and all of western Montana are included. Haul distances would be well over 500 miles for parts of the sourcing area.

While it appears the listing of other facilities and companies in the region is to meet application requirements, it is a bit confusing as the other companies are listed under the heading:

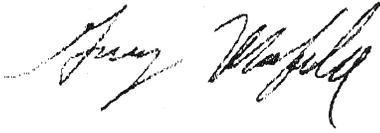
**STIMSON LUMBER COMPANAY – FEDERAL LOG SOURCING AREA APPLICATION
LUMBER MANUFACTUING FACILITIES**

It is unclear what role, if any, these other companies may play in Stimson's log export plans. It is also not a comprehensive list, as smaller manufacturers appear to be missing.

The public comment letter we received from the Forest Service did not contain page two, which included where to send the comments. We only found out, by accident, after downloading a document from the website which we thought was a duplicate of one we had received in the mail.

In summary, we can see no benefit to the national forests or the US economy from this proposal. However, both could be harmed if it goes forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Macfarlane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "G".

Gary Macfarlane

cc: Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service Region I, ATTN: Director RRM, via FAX