

# Citizens For A Redwoods National Park

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO ALL NEWS MEDIA: November 16, 1967

Subject: Logging by Georgia-Pacific Corporation within Senate compromise  
redwood park bill S. 2515

After more than three weeks of study, Citizens for a Redwoods National Park (CRNP) has obtained evidence that Georgia-Pacific has been cutting down trees within a once virgin forest area, delineated by the Senate redwood park bill S. 2515, which passed by a 77 to 6 margin two weeks ago. Indications are that more logging inside the proposal is soon due, as evidenced by much logging road construction within the park boundaries.

Plans for this logging activity were begun early in the summer, commencing with logging road construction, and culminating with a major cutting operation beginning weeks before the Senate bill was passed---and all of this occurring during a so-called "moratorium".

The exact location of the latest of many infamous "moratorium" violations by Georgia-Pacific is within the eastern half of Section 10, Range 1 east, Township 10 north, on the ridgeline separating Elam and McArthur Creeks, both tributary to lower Redwood Creek and highly desired by conservationists for park purposes. Confirmation of the violations have been accomplished by air and ground reconnaissance.

The new logging roads (L-2 and L-2-2) which now encircle the ridge were begun early this summer; now branching off these main roads in a complex network of smaller roads ("skid trails")--some only a little more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from Redwood Creek--which have been completed as preparatory work to full scale logging even further inside the boundaries of S. 2515.

Despoiling of national park values in Redwood Creek is not new to Georgia-Pacific; they have been at it since the "tallest trees" were discovered and included in park proposals encompassing their lands. The most serious damage has occurred during the past two years, and especially during the past year, while a "moratorium" on cutting was in effect.

During the "moratorium", Georgia-Pacific has:

- 1) built or extended 5 major roads into virgin forests (L-2-2; L-2; L-2-3; L-line; and M-3-1);
- 2) chopped up three previously virgin forest ridgetops;
- 3) logged and burned over a half-dozen different areas on the slopes of five watersheds tributary to Redwood Creek; and

4) Cut into virgin timber closer to Redwood Creek than in the previous two years. This was within sight and sound of Redwood Creek.

After doing all that in little over one year (Sep. '66 to Nov. '67), R. B. Pamplin, president of Georgia-Pacific, wrote to Senators Henry M. Jackson and Thomas Kuchel on Sept. 1, 1967, clearly stating his company's objections to a moratorium which never existed:

"...let me say that the terms of the understanding are imposing a burden..."

The facts are evident to all who have availed themselves of the truth:

1. So far as Georgia-Pacific is concerned, there never has been a moratorium of any kind on their lands in Redwood Creek. They had been primarily logging ridgetops and upper slope forests the past 3 to 4 years, and have continued to do so the past year.
2. Destruction of park values during the past two years (fall of '65 through fall of '67) has been greatest, but particularly so this year due to heavy cutting in the three watersheds containing the best remaining virgin forest blocks: Elam, McArthur, and Bridge Creeks.

On September 7, 1966, Georgia Pacific Vice-president Gray Evans wrote Senator Jackson stating:

"...Georgia-Pacific Corp. is and always has been willing to work out any reasonable adjustments in our harvesting program on our redwood lands in order to minimize cutting in proposed Redwood Park areas..."

"It has been a long standing policy of Georgia-Pacific Corp. that the special interests of the Corporation...must be sacrificed if the national interest requires it."

Never has the interest of the people of the United States been higher on a national resource issue, than with the redwoods. Nevertheless, Georgia-Pacific has again displayed contempt and disregard for its own public statements and of public trust with its latest act of apparent wanton vandalism, while enjoying public esteem over a phony "moratorium". They have logged the area inside S.2515 before, during, and after its passage by the Senate.

CRNP has clearly stated that S. 2515 has serious weaknesses. For example, only the lower reaches of both Elam and McArthur Creeks are included in the bill. Left out are some fine stands and their added watershed protection is vital. The bill has a 3,000 acre clause which allows the Secretary of the Interior to adjust the boundaries in critical areas. Conservationists have expressed a desire to have the boundaries expanded further in both watersheds and in several other areas.

Instead of allowing Congress to establish a Redwoods National Park worthy of the name, and which expresses the will of the American people, Georgia-Pacific has obviously chosen to set the boundaries itself by destroying park values in as many primeval forest areas it can cut down before the public becomes fully aware of what is happening.

Logging inside park proposals is inexcusable when it involves companies owning timber of equal commercial quality readily available outside those park boundaries. Georgia-Pacific clearly is in this position. Simpson Timber Co., and Pacific Lumber Co. have refrained from any cutting inside park proposals, and the Arcata Redwood Co. has honored its agreement not to log in Redwood Creek proper or west of highway 101; although they have seriously damaged portions of the Lost Man Creek watershed, this is the area they clearly stated they would continue to cut.

The only company never clearly stating its commitment to the public is Georgia-Pacific. The moratorium-that-never-was ended on Nov. 1, 1967.

CRNP feels a new moratorium--this time a real one to be honored by Georgia-Pacific--should include the remaining uncut areas in Elam, McArthur, and Bridge Creeks, the Emerald Mile, and a zone along Redwood Creek a mile wide, upstream to Devils Creek. This leaves timber inside the Redwood Creek area which Georgia-Pacific could cut, though it would be in the public interest for them to refrain from cutting any more timber within the watershed of Redwood Creek for the duration of this controversy.

This moratorium would not pose an actual burden on Georgia-Pacific, for they own superlative virgin timber in the Maple Creek watershed next to Big Lagoon and just over the ridge from Redwood Creek. It is closer to the main highway 101 and their sawmill facilities. In addition to this Georgia-Pacific owns considerable timber in the Van Duzen River drainage near Carlotta in southern Humboldt County.

More time is needed for the House of Representatives to consider park legislation, for any differences in the Senate and House bills to be ironed out, and for the President to sign the bill into law. In the meantime, it is possible that the companies involved could destroy whatever values were there, leaving more stumps and muddy waters than primeval forests. CRNP hopes the lumber companies, which have literally helped build a great America, will help keep it that way, bowing to the national interest by allowing Congress to establish a Redwoods National Park Americans want, rather than dictating boundaries drawn by the chain-saw.

/s/ David Van de Mark,  
President

Cutting violations inside S.2515 shown at end of arrow. Outside the boundary Georgia-Pacific is cutting down the remaining superlative forests on Elam and McArthur Creeks NOW!

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Recently revealed to the public is the area Georgia-Pacific told the Senate Interior committee they would refrain from cutting for a year. It includes all the land north of Township 9. This "moratorium", which ended Nov. 1, 1967, was never honored.

T. 10 N.

T. 9 N.

SIERRA CLUB PLAN

SENATE BILL S.2515

Nov. 16, 1967