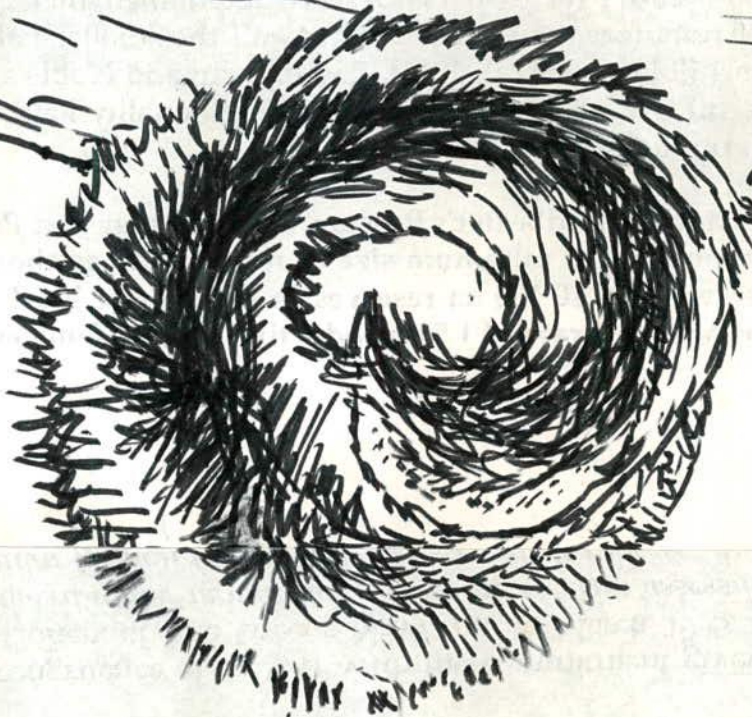


NEFA

LEAF



Winter
Edition
AUGUST '96



Perelone

should be incorporated into many biological research programs, conservation strategies and decision-making procedures for the exploitation of natural resources. We further recommend that the technique be applied in an integrated and adaptive manner so that data collection, PVA and management options are regularly monitored, evaluated and upgraded."

DASET (1993, p111) note:

"Where adequate knowledge is available, PVA can provide predictions for survival probabilities given various population levels of a particular taxon. These probabilities can then be used to guide consideration of adequate numbers of individuals (or reproductive units) reserved, and hence reserve sizes and boundaries

Based upon basic principles various viable population sizes for Greater Glider have been suggested, from 2375 (Davey 1989) to 5,000 individuals (Tyndale-Biscoe and Calaby 1975). Dunning and Smith (1986) proposed the management goal of 521 Greater Gliders within each block of suitable habitat effectively isolated by dispersal barriers (ie rainforest).

Lindenmayer, Norton and Possingham (1993) used a Population Viability Analysis (PVA) model (ALEX) to assess the persistence of Greater Gliders in fragments of old-growth forest (up to 45 ha in size) in a 6 760 ha block of logged forest and determined they had a high probability of extinction within 30 years. Their analysis and a similar assessment by Norton and Possingham (1991) led the authors to conclude that populations of Greater Gliders in areas of 100 ha or less had a high predicted probability of extinction within several hundred years, and that only those populations in areas of 1000 ha or larger were likely to persist in the long-term.

For the Yellow-bellied Glider Mackowski (1986) adopted a minimum population size of 500 individuals or 250 territories. Goldingay and Possingham (1995) conducted a preliminary Population Viability Analysis (PVA) which predicted that areas containing at least 150 contiguous Yellow-bellied Glider territories were needed to support viable populations.

The strategy adopted for the north American Spotted Owl (Johnson et. al. 1991) was based upon ideally reserving blocks of habitat suitable to maintain 20 or more pairs of spotted owls, with smaller habitat blocks acceptable when the ideal size can not be found. To account for dispersal it was determined that generally, the 20-pair blocks should be not more than 12 miles apart and the smaller habitat blocks not more than 7 miles apart (Johnson et. al. 1991). Possingham and Noble's (1992) model indicated that for Powerful Owls a number of areas of high quality habitat over 20 000 ha are able to maintain populations over time.

For the Victorian Leadbeater's Possum Lindenmayer and Possingham (1993) used the model to determine that the minimum size of reserved areas should be 1000 ha. We also support the urgent formulation of a policy for the Victorian Leadbeater's Possum.

NEFA notes with approval that Labor's Forestry Policy commitment to 'a rapid evaluation of existing regrowth forests to determine their suitability as replacement resource...' [p7] has been progressed, though not finally satisfied, by the preparation of the Wood Resource Study database. NEFA notes with approval the congruence of the IAP with the commitment given by Premier Carr in his letter to Ian Cohen, of The Greens NSW, on 16 March 1995, that "the identification of areas to be placed under moratoria during the interim assessment process will be conducted in a similar fashion to the regional assessment process" [p3]. NEFA notes with approval the congruence of the IAP with the commitment given by Premier Carr in his letter to Ian Cohen, of The Greens NSW, on 16 March 1995, that "the identification of areas to be placed under moratoria during the interim assessment process will be conducted in a similar fashion to the regional assessment process" [p3]. NEFA notes with approval the congruence of the IAP with the commitment given by Premier Carr in his letter to Ian Cohen, of The Greens NSW, on 16 March 1995, that "the identification of areas to be placed under moratoria during the interim assessment process will be conducted in a similar fashion to the regional assessment process" [p3].

Commission of the consequences of its own wrongdoing by suspending the application of provisions of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act which had required the preparation of EISs prior to logging.

New legislation throws out environmental standards

As a result of the TI(IP) Act logging can now occur, with few exceptions, in old growth forests, rainforests, and nominated wilderness areas and proposed national parks without the need for any prior environmental assessment.

This legislation will undoubtedly lead to a rush on old growth forests throughout NSW with the industry aiming to harvest as much of these areas before they receive any protection.

THE NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE.

The North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) has been campaigning for the preservation of old growth forests in North East NSW for over three years now.

Through a combination of court actions, political lobbying, media statements, forest protests and public education campaigns, NEFA has delayed and in some cases prevented, the destruction of several significant old growth remnants, including Washpool, Chaelundi and the Mt Royal area. NEFA has successfully enforced environmental laws and highlighted the FCNSW's gross incompetence and its betrayal of the public's interest in forest management.

The fight to protect our old growth is as urgent as ever, significant areas of old growth, rainforest, and wilderness area and proposed national parks, throughout North East NSW are currently threatened by logging. These areas include parts of the New England and Werrikimbe wilderness areas near Kempsey, Bindery wilderness near Grafton, Dome Mountain near Kyogle, Mt Royal near Singleton, Jenner State forest near Tenterfield, Riamukka s.f. near Walcha, and Doyles River and Bulga s.f. near Taree.

NEFA's focus in the immediate future will be to defend important forest areas through blockades, court actions and consumer boycotts. Woodchipping of native forests is a growing problem on the North Coast, and the Federal ALP government is on a collision course with the North Coast environment movement over its continued approval of export licenses for woodchipping in the absence of any environmental impact assessment...STAY TUNED.

How you can help

You can help NEFA by becoming involved in protests, by writing letters to newspapers and politicians and by phoning into radio talkback shows. Donations of time, energy and money are constantly needed to help NEFA maintain the fight.

In particular, you can help by photocopying and distributing this leaflet.

Send donations to ...
NEFA C/- Big Scrub Environment Centre
149 Keen St Lismore NSW 2480
PH (066) 213 278 fax (066) 222 676

For more information contact NEFA on (066) 213 278

or by contacting your local environment centre:

Caldera E.C. (Murwillumbah) 066 721 121

Nimbin E.C. 066 891 529

Coffs Harbour E.C. 066 523 940

Armistead TWS 067 711 155

Byron E.C. 066 857 066

Clarence E.C. 066 431 863

Bellingen E.C. 066 552 599

NSW. E.C. (Sydney) 02 246 4206

YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED URGENTLY

Australia's unique species: on the brink of extinction



Eastern Quoll
(Dasyurus viverrinus)

Old growth forests under threat

Prepared by the North East Forest Alliance

WHAT IS AN OLD GROWTH FOREST?

An old growth forest is one that has not been logged or has been only lightly logged in the past. Old growth forests contain a complex mixture of trees and shrubs featuring an overstorey of mature trees, they represent the "climax" of forest evolution and species diversity for the site on which they occur.

Benefits to wildlife

Old growth trees provide numerous benefits to wildlife, not adequately provided by regrowth: tree hollows, abundant flowers, fruits and seeds, stable and high nest sites, large trunks and branches for foraging, and large decomposing logs on the forest floor. Logging destroys the habitat qualities of old growth forests by changing the age structure of the forest, replacing the old hollow bearing trees with even aged stands of young regrowth trees.

Some 399 (25%) of Australian terrestrial vertebrates need tree hollows. A high proportion of forest vertebrates are "hollow dependant" including gliders, possums, bats, cockatoos, parrots, lorikeets, rosellas, owls, kingfishers, treecreepers and a large variety of other mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs.

The animals in turn provide numerous benefits to the plants such as: pest control, pollination, dispersal of seeds and fungi and accelerated nutrient cycling. Old growth forest eco systems are more than the sum of the parts, they involve complex interrelationships between the individual and the whole.

AUSTRALIA'S WILDLIFE EXTINCTION CRISIS.

The current NSW list of endangered fauna is divided into two classifications: "threatened" (which refers to those species most at risk of extinction) and "vulnerable and rare" (which refers to those species whose numbers are declining as a result of destruction of habitat or where the population is confined to restricted areas).

Australia already has one of the highest recorded rates of species extinction in the world. 38 of the 72 species listed as threatened for NSW are already known to be extinct. Mammals are of particular concern, 26% of NSW mammals are extinct, 8% are threatened and another 40% are listed as vulnerable and rare.

The Importance of habitat

Species that have specific habitat requirements found only in a limited range of situations, face the danger of extinction when their habitat is severely modified or destroyed.

When faunal populations become isolated through fragmentation of their habitats to small unconnected pockets, the chances of those species remaining viable is greatly reduced. Factors such as disease, inbreeding, fire, drought, predation by introduced species, and seasonal food shortages can suddenly precipitate the collapse of that local population of the species. Over time the remaining pockets become more and more isolated, with more occurrences of local disappearance until eventually extinction occurs. This process is most critical in the case of species which normally occur at low densities such as owls and larger vertebrate fauna.

Current reserves inadequate

Current scientific evidence suggests that the present system of isolated reserves are inadequate to arrest the alarming rate of species decline. It is essential that all remaining areas of old growth forest and an adequate system of wildlife corridors be preserved to facilitate long term survival of our endangered species.

LOSS OF OLD GROWTH FORESTS

Old growth trees are being eliminated at an alarming rate throughout Australia. Trees which had been retained in farming areas are rapidly disappearing as consequences of salinity, dieback, continued clearing, and generally as a result of becoming isolated from forest areas.

After decades of overcutting at unsustainable levels, the timber industry is now rapaciously concentrating their activities on the few remaining old growth forests, and pockets of old growth left scattered in regrowth forests.

The Forestry Commission is responsible for the timber industry's reliance on old growth timbers. It has failed to have establish hardwood plantations and has not insisted on sustainable management of forest resources.

Continued mismanagement by the FCNSW is leading towards the collapse of the sawlog industry and it's replacement by woodchipping operations.

The role of public subsidies

The NSW Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee has reported that the NSW timber industry benefits from substantial public subsidies amounting to over \$16m annually. Chief among these subsidies are underpriced raw materials. Furthermore the industry is not required by the FCNSW to pay for transport and expensive road construction into remote forest areas.

Construction of roads and bridges for timber harvesting operations costs the NSW taxpayer over \$12m annually. Subsidisation of road construction discourages the establishment of plantations, and encourages continued reliance on logging in previously inaccessible old growth areas.

Once the last remaining old growth in state forests has been removed, the timber industry will inevitably be forced to restructure for a new resource.

RECENT POLITICAL HISTORY

Decades of illegal logging

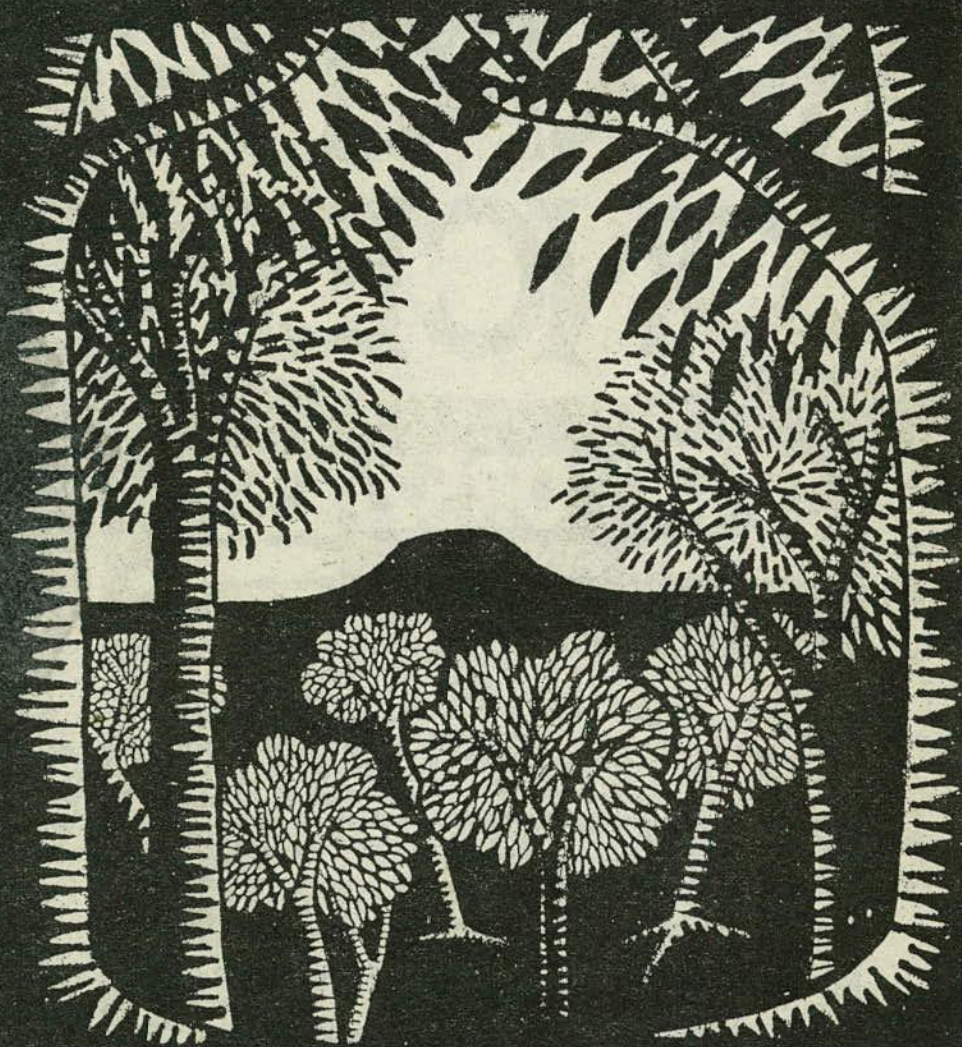
Over the past decade and a half the Forestry Commission has repeatedly failed to comply with a range of environmental and planning laws. Numerous court decisions have revealed illegal logging activities by the Commission due to it's consistent failure to prepare Environmental Impact Statements prior to logging and building roads in sensitive forest areas.

In the Chaelundi case in 1991, the court found that the Forestry Commissions logging operation was in breach of the law because it would lead to the destruction of the habitat of a large range of endangered species. Public concern over the danger of escalating rates of wildlife extinction led to the passage of the Endangered Fauna (Interim Protection) Act, late in 1991. Despite being initially opposed by the Government the Endangered Fauna Act was passed by the Opposition with the support of independent members of parliament.

The Forestry Commission's failure to prepare EISs came to a "crisis" situation in Feb 92 with the Commission claiming that log supply to the industry could not be maintained due to the Commission's own failure to have to have completed EISs prior to commencement of logging operations.

This "crisis" was played up as being a threat to employment in the industry, and despite a lack of evidence to support claims of job losses, hysteria in the media led to the passage of the Timber Industry (Interim Protection) Act (TIPA Act). The effect of the legislation is to relieve the

NORTH EAST



FORESTS



ONE EARTH CONCERT



JACKY ORSZACSKY
AND THE
GODMOTHERS

PRIMAL PULSE SPIRIT WORLD
STARBELLY SISTA FREAK

COOL CALM AND DECEPTIVE
● **SUAVE** and **MORE!!** ●

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE FOREST
BONDI PAVILION

\$5 SUNDAY 18TH \$5
APRIL 11am-7pm

PROCEEDS TO THE NORTH EAST FOREST ALLIANCE


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149 Keen St
Lismore
NSW 2480

For more information contact NEFA on (066) 213 278;
or through the New South Wales Environment Centre
(02) 24874206
2474206.

N.E.F.A. North East Forest Alliance

NEFA is:

- * a network of community based forest protection groups and individuals, working in the public interest to enforce NSW law and to protect our natural heritage
- * YES we are an unincorporated, non-hierarchical collection of activists - and we're winning!
- * a volunteer, decentralised alliance drawing on economic, ecological, legal and bushcraft expertise to pursue our aims
- * committed to a policy of non-violent action in defence of Mother Earth.

The North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) has been campaigning for the preservation of old growth forests in North East NSW for over three years.

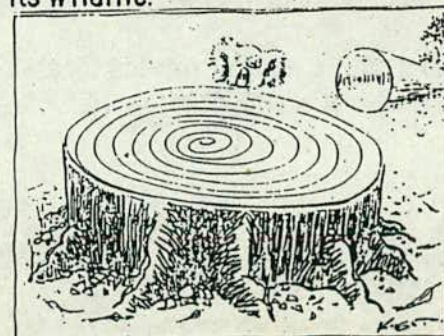
NEFA has delayed, and in some cases prevented, the destruction of significant old growth remnants, including areas of Washpool, Chaelundi and Barrington Tops.

This has been achieved through a combination of court actions, political lobbying, media statements, forest protests and public education campaigns

NEFA has successfully enforced environmental laws and highlighted the NSW Forestry Commission's gross incompetence and it's betrayal of the public's interest in forest management.

The fight to protect our old growth is as urgent as ever, significant areas of old growth, rainforest, wilderness areas and proposed national parks, throughout North East NSW are currently threatened by logging. These areas include parts of Killikrankie, Mummel and Carral.

NEFA's policies and ultimate goals have been stated many times in public, not always accurately. The information presented below restates our campaign objectives, for the NSW north east forests and its wildlife.



A timber industry and jobs for the future

We want an ecologically & economically viable timber industry which generates & harvests timber. Restructuring the timber industry is needed to achieve **real** sustainability. Softwood and hardwood plantations should be the main source of future timber needs. Regrowth native forests can be harvested on a sustainable basis.

NEFA does **not** want to close down the north coast timber industry.

Conflict resolution

NEFA's legal actions in the NSW Land and Environment Court have only been commenced **after** the FCNSW refused to comply with NSW law. No Minister, Premier, or Department has been prepared to tackle FCNSW and enforce these laws.

Blockades and legal action are last resorts to publicly highlight the crimes being committed and enforce the law. Public protest is part of public participation in Government. It is a fundamental right.

Alternative ways of solving forest disputes are supported by NEFA.

No go in rainforests, wilderness, or old growth forests

These areas have been the front line of forest campaigns and disputes for a decade. They will disappear if we don't act now to protect them. No logging, road construction or burning should occur in these important and vulnerable ecosystems.

Hands OFF high conservation areas!

High standard forest management plans

It is impossible to manage our forests unless we know and understand their values. Our forests need to be comprehensively assessed. This includes assessment of ecological values and human cultural values, especially Koori cultural sites.

Protection of wildlife, soils, water quality and other non-timber values should be included in professional, publicly exhibited and approved management plans.

Ecologically sensitive management plans should also be developed for regrowth forests and mixed species plantations.

Transform the Forestry Commission

The ancient 1916 Forestry Act is hopelessly out of date. NEFA believes new forestry legislation, for the future is urgently needed.

Public participation, accountability, ecological reality, scientific credibility and increased focus on plantations must feature in future management.

Turning FCNSW into a competent, trustworthy, multi-disciplinary, sustainable agency is only part of the restructuring needed...

An adequate reserve system

This is our main goal. North east NSW is extremely diverse in terms of plants and animals. A comprehensive reserve system is needed which includes representative samples of all these species, plus communities and ecosystems. Only then can the conservation of our unique natural heritage be achievable. The Commonwealth Resources Assessment Commission, RAC, found that the NSW reserve system was **not** adequate.

RAC recommended comprehensive assessments of old growth forest, an adequate reserve system, and the logging of old growth **ONLY** after these steps (and **ONLY**) if no alternative resources are available.

What NEFA spends money on

The work of protecting the forests and informing people is a very diverse, logistical job. It is an extremely time consuming and expensive campaign. We are about to establish a new NEFA office too.

Funds raised from this camp will cover some of these expenses: computers, faxes, telephones, photocopying, radio, video, camera and film, transport and vehicle maintenance, tools, blockades, education material, research....

All these expenses can only be covered by incorporating fundraising into our actions. Donations received only cover costs and are very much appreciated.

