

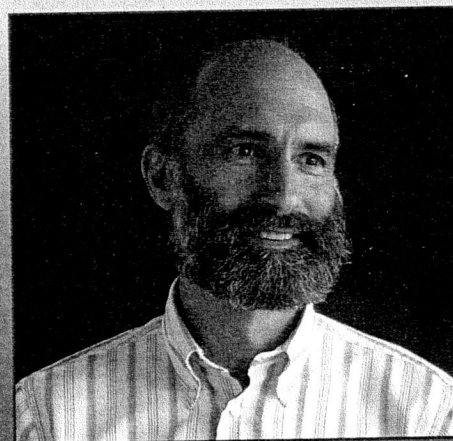
on 24 million federally owned acres in Washington, Oregon and northern California. The injunction and related economic events drastically reduced timber harvest in the region.

The federal policy that emerged to quell the ensuing controversy, the Northwest Forest Plan, restricted logging on federal land in order to protect owl habitat. The plan provided money for job retraining, anticipating that the restrictions on logging would reduce the work force. But no one suspected that the market for big trees would decline. Surprise.

Although some old growth remains in the Northwest, most forest products companies aren't bothering to cut it. The timber industry has changed. Just a little over a decade after the big fight, ancient and large trees are no longer economically or politically

The Northwest's old-growth trees take hundreds of years to grow. Most mills have shifted production to timber that may not be much older than many of their employees. Below, old growth awaits milling at Starfire Lumber Company in Cottage Grove, Oregon.

## Who Won the Owl War?



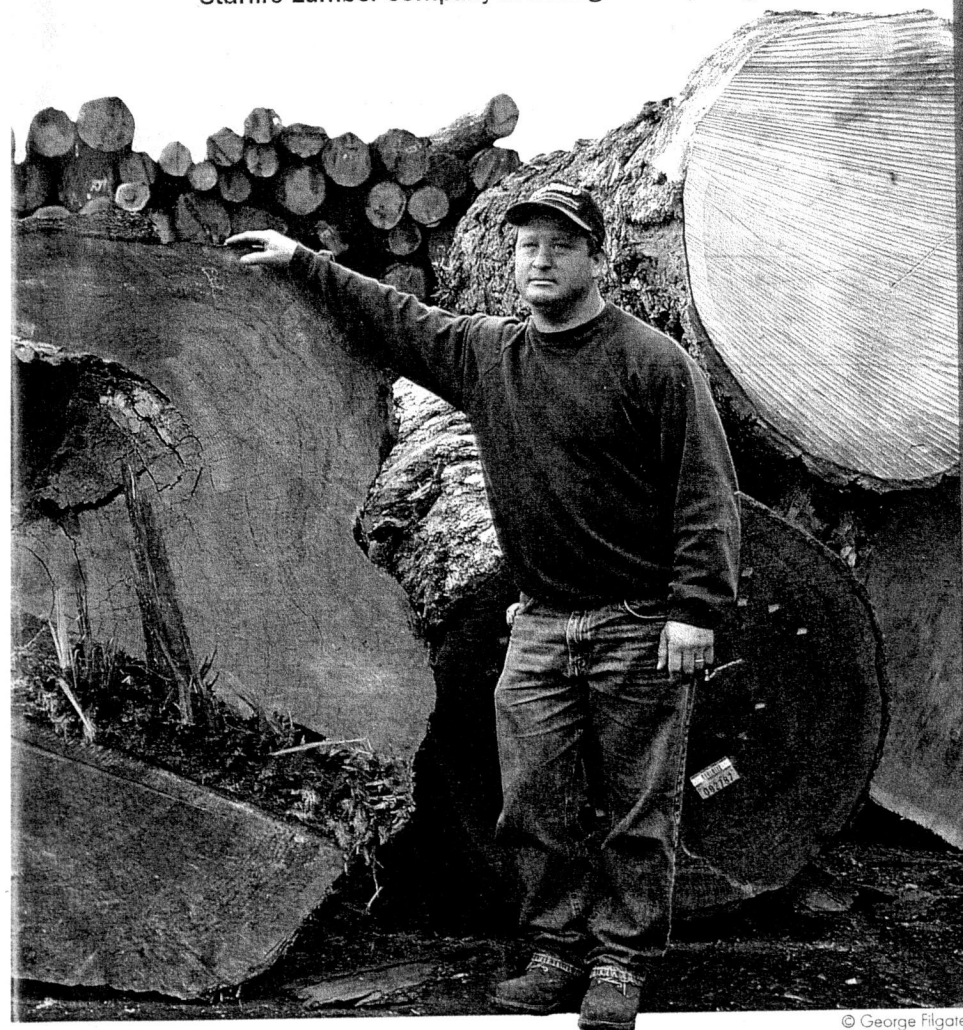
Courtesy College of Forestry, Oregon State University

### Fred Swanson

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**Hey, they're not over yet! It's one** thing to look at where we are ecologically, but we might look at where we are with policy socially: Is it sustainable?

In general, we still are trying to come to grips with how we as a society are going to live with these incredible forests. There are a number of issues we haven't figured out—fire and fuels, wood resources, human enjoyment and aesthetics. We still have a number of battles before us that we're not quite square with yet.



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