

Trump Wants National Forests to Become Clear-Cut for Lumber

Please make sure these dispatches reach as many readers as possible. Share with kin, friends and workmates and ask them to do likewise.



Los malditos capitalistas are at it again. Like a virulent cancer, the Trump strain of freemarketism never stops.

An article from a local newspaper, submitted here by Eric Zuesse

Following is an abbreviated version of an article from the 15 August 2019 [Addison County Independent newspaper](#) in Vermont: Proposed change would cut public input in Green Mtn National Forest

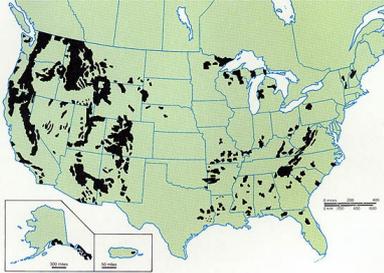
Thu, 08/15/2019 - 12:55pm By Christopher Ross.

If a proposed change in federal land use rules goes through, ... [national forests] could see a lot more commercial logging, road building and utility corridors – all without environmental review or public input.

“Basically, the rules would take the ‘public’ out of public land management,” said Jamey Fidel, Forest and Wildlife Program Director for the Vermont Natural Resources Council (VNRC).

At issue is a proposal by the United States Forest Service (USFS) to revise the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which is the foundation of environmental policy making in the United States. It requires agencies like the USFS to analyze the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions.

The USFS proposal would drastically alter those requirements by greatly expanding the number and type of projects that would count as “categorical exclusions,” which can be approved without environmental assessments or impact statements.



Location of surviving national forests. Before the European plague arrived, the whole North American continent was covered in primeval forests teeming with life.

Projects the USFS would reclassify as “categorical exclusions” include:

- Commercial logging, including clear cutting, on areas up to 4,200 acres at a time.
- Building new roads through the forest up to five miles at a time.
- Reconstructing old roads through the forest up to 10 miles a time.
- Bulldozing up to four miles of pipeline and utility rights-of-way through the forest.
- Closing roads and trails used for recreational purposes.
- Adding illegally built roads and trails to the official USFS road and trail system.

New rules would also allow the USFS to bypass public input on nearly every project decision.

According to estimates from a number of forestry and environmental organizations, the proposal would eliminate public and environmental review from more than 90 percent of all USFS projects. ...

The deadline for commenting is Aug. 26. [After that time, no public comments will be accepted.]

“Please make your comments specific and unique to your concerns and relate your comments to a particular national forest ...

According to the Forest Service website, comments may be submitted:

- online via

<https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=FS-2019-0010-0001> (Note:

This info has been updated from the print version of this article.)

• or by mail to NEPA Services Group, c/o Amy Barker, USDA Forest Service, 125 South State St., Ste. 1705, Salt Lake City, UT 84138.

• or by email to nepa-procedures-revision@fs.fed.us. ...

Reach Christopher Ross at christopherr@addisonindependent.com.

This article is part of an ongoing series of dispatches by



historian Eric Zuesse

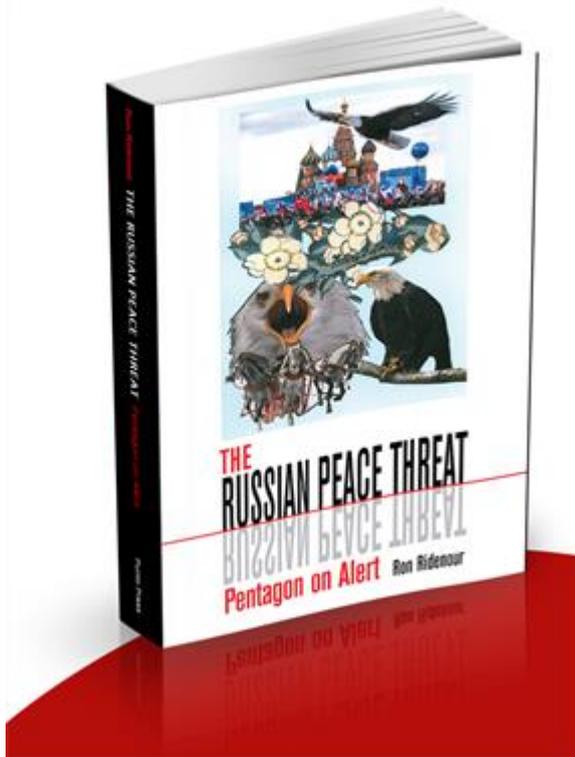
About the author

ERIC ZUESSE, Senior Contributing Editor • Investigative historian Eric Zuesse is the author, most recently, of [They're Not Even Close: The Democratic vs. Republican Economic Records, 1910-2010](#), and of [CHRIST'S VENTRILOQUISTS: The Event that Created Christianity](#). Besides TGP, his reports and historical analyses are published on many leading current events and political sites, including The Saker, Huffpost, Oped News, and others.



Be sure to get the most unique history of the Russo-American conflict now spanning almost a century! The book that every American should read.

```
[su_panel background="#f9fafa" border="1px solid #170101" shadow="8px 1px 2px #eeeeee" radius="24"]
```



Nuclear Armageddon or
peace? That is *the*
question.
And here's the book that
answers it.

How did we come to be in this horrid pickle? Join the discussion! Read Ron Ridenour's provocative bestseller **The Russian Peace Threat**, the most scathing and irrefutable exposé of US foreign policy and its malignant obsession with the elimination of Russia as a countervailing force in world affairs. Buy it today direct from

us. You don't have to patronize **Amazon**. Just click on the bar below.

[.CLICK HERE to buy The Russian Peace Threat.](#)

[/su_panel]