

# Help overturn action REQUIRING LOGGING



## A LEGAL DEFENSE EFFORT *of the FLORIDA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION*

The Florida Forestry Association has joined a partnership at the national level to overrule a decision by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, that would put in place a new water control standard that could have major impacts on logging and forest operations. Recognizing the serious impact this ruling could have on landowners, loggers and the cost of forest management, the FFA Executive Committee voted unanimously to put financial, political and staff resources behind efforts to restore the historically-successful BMP treatment to forest operations through a coordinated legal, legislative and outreach campaign led by the National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO) in Washington, DC. Congressional action and Supreme Court intervention are among the two immediate strategies.

The 9th Circuit decision effectively struck down the non-point silvicultural exemption that has been a successful component of EPA's regulation of water since 1976. Under the court ruling, private forest landowners would be forced to obtain **National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)** permit for roads on their land. EPA's definition of "forest road" is still not known.

"Coming up with remedies to this court ruling is critical to keeping Florida's working forests working," says Bryan Olmert, Association President. "Waiting on EPA for a logging permit, could bring timber harvesting to a standstill. As a logger and a landowner I can't imagine having to apply for a industrial stormwater runoff permit for new and existing logging roads. I am proud our Association will lead the Florida effort to help solve the regulatory headaches that this ruling has created. We are calling on our members to step up to the plate as we engage in this important battle," Olmert concluded.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

The Executive Committee is asking each member to contribute an amount equivalent to 10% of your Association member dues. An invoice in that amount is enclosed with this letter. A form is also provided if you choose to contribute less than that amount.

**There has never been an issue that threatens the ability to grow and harvest your forest assets as what is before us now. The Association has already begun putting forth financial resources and a tremendous amount of staff resources to fight this battle. We appreciate your help.**

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