



Highlights of New Global Forest Watch Reports *Embargoed for April 3, 2002*

Advance copies of the reports are available at: http://www.dooleyonline.net/media_preview/index.cfm
After April 3, they will be available at: <http://www.globalforestwatch.org> and <http://www.wri.org/wri/>
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North America

Source: *Low Access Forests and their Level of Protection in North America*

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- Only 6% of forest cover in the lower 48 states remains within large tracts of low-access forest, areas at least 200 km² mostly undivided by roads and other access routes. About 40% is strictly or moderately protected.
- Much of this forest in the lower 48 is federally owned. About 30% are within national forests, and thus are a focus of recent controversy regarding a roadless area logging ban, established during the Clinton administration (and currently under review).
- In the lower 48, over 60% of remaining large tracts of low-access forest are found within six states. In order of relevant forest area, there are: Idaho, Montana, Washington, California, Wyoming and Minnesota.
- All but 5% of large, low-access forest tracts are in Canada and Alaska.
- Canada houses vast areas of low-access forest, much of which is within slow growing regions, with sparse tree cover. Only 4% of these large tracts are strictly or moderately protected today.