

Logged-off Land near Neahkahnie Mountain, 1968

By Al Monner, Oregon Journal

Al Monner took this 1968 photograph of clear-cut logging near Neahkahnie Mountain, located in northwest Tillamook County. Monner, who died in 1998, was a photographer for the *Oregon Journal*.

Lumber companies have logged intensively on private land near Neahkahnie Mountain and the nearby Nehalem River since the early twentieth century. Many of the trees were Douglas firs, part of a coastal temperate rainforest that spanned as far north as Southeastern Alaska.

Over time, technological inventions — such as steam engines and chainsaws — allowed loggers to remove trees with increasing speed. In the 1930s, clear-cutting became the predominant logging method in the Pacific Northwest. Forestry workers argued that removing all the trees was more efficient and stimulated healthy re-growth by exposing the forest floor to sunlight. The 1941 Oregon Forest Conservation Act promoted clear-cutting, but also required lumber companies to replant seedlings.

By the late 1960s, many people began to oppose clear-cut logging. Protesters charged that removing all of the trees in an area caused erosion, damaged streams, and decreased biodiversity.

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