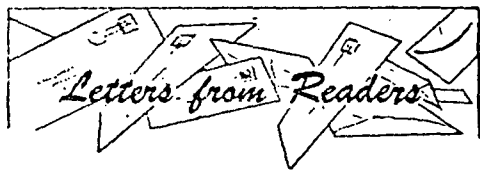




Redwood Creek in Northern California. This is how one famous national lumber company leaves the banks of a stream that once carried steelhead and salmon, but now is grey with silt.



An undercut corner on Redwood Creek. A Sierra Club photographic expedition ran this stream in April. There is hope of saving some of the redwood groves in a National Park.



June 9, 1965

Dear Mr. Whitney:

I am somewhat disturbed by your condemnation of the lumber industry in California (and perhaps, by implication, elsewhere) in "The Thousand Year Flood." (AWW, Spring, 1965) based on assumptions and purely empirical evidence.

I do not know what Mr. Luten's and Mr. Gilliam's qualifications are to write on the subject. Mr. Litton apparently qualifies through an interest in "con-

in case you have not seen the enclosed, I should like to point out that it presents the other side of the picture and is well documented with facts and figures as well as the opinions of highly qualified observers.

I believe your readers should be also informed on the experts' viewpoint.

Sincerely,

Howard F. R. Mason, Jr.
Moss Hill Road
Russell, Massachusetts

(Ed Note: Mr. Mason's enclosure, "An Analysis of Logging and the 1964 California

American WHITE WATER

Floods," is an 11-page brochure published by the American Forest Products Industries, 1816 N St., Washington D. C. 20036, in January—about a month after the flood. Readers of American White Water may request copies at that address if they are interested: the document is too long to reprint and too diffuse to digest. Its burden: there would have been flooding, logging or no logging, in view of the heavy rainfall in Northern California—a matter which nobody disputes. But the evidence on the whole doesn't acquit on the real issue: whether logging by modern methods aggravated the flooding, and whether floating logs were what really clobbered the bridges, homes, and dams in Northwest California. The pamphlet says "evidence indicates logging had no measurable effect," but the evidence given is ex parte statements by such as the chief of the Corps of Engineers, who long to build a string of dams on the Eel, Klamath and Rogue rivers.

(Dan Luten is a lecturer in geography at the University of California, and was a technical adviser on natural resources in the U. S. oc-

cupation of Japan. Research for his article was done by graduate ecologists at the University. Harold Gilliam is the author of several books on natural resources, former member of the Art Commission of San Francisco, a former consultant to Secretary of Interior Udall. He was one of those invited to the President's conference on natural beauty in May. Martin Litton's knowledge of the redwoods is so encyclopedic that he tends to dominate discussions on the subject in the Board of Directors of the Sierra Club, of which he is a member. It was he who recently guided a National Park Service team to the redwood that proved to be the world's tallest known tree, along Redwood Creek.

(Nobody believes we can do without lumber and paper. We do believe, however, that most States' forest practices acts are lax and are inadequately enforced. A San Francisco Examiner writer recently declared that there had been no prosecutions under the industry-written law in California until three years ago).

SUMMER 1965

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