

Free Grassy Narrows: Issue Brief

2,500 square miles of forests in Northwestern Ontario have sustained the people of Grassy Narrows First Nation for thousands of years. Now Weyerhaeuser, the largest lumber company in the world, is driving a wave of destructive logging that threatens to uproot their traditional way of life. Join Rainforest Action Network to help defend community rights and the ecological integrity of their land.

Grassy Narrows' Struggle

Despite federal treaties rights to its cultural traditions, the Ontario government renewed industrial logging licenses to the Whiskey Jack Forest—an area roughly equivalent to Grassy Narrows' Traditional Territory.

Following decades of failed negotiations, legal challenges and government petitioning to secure rights to their Traditional Territory, members of the Grassy Narrows First Nation took matters into their own hands.

In December 2002, community members blockaded a logging road in their territory sparking the longest-standing and highest-profile indigenous logging blockade in Canadian history.

American Dream Home, Native Nightmare

Despite protests from the community, **Weyerhaeuser**, the biggest lumber company in the world, continues to be the largest buyer from clearcut logging operations within the Traditional Territory of Grassy Narrows.

Over half of the logs clearcut from these ancient forests—including all of the birch and poplar forests—are manufactured by Weyerhaeuser into TrusJoist building products. Weyerhaeuser markets these products as “environmentally friendly” to homebuilders throughout North America.

From Their Home to Yours

On-the-ground research by Rainforest Action Network indicates that these products can be found in lumber yards and new homes under construction throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Much of the TrusJoist brand products made from the forests of Grassy Narrows are used by Weyerhaeuser building subsidiaries to construct sprawling suburban housing developments in major metropolitan areas throughout the US.



The following construction companies are owned by Weyerhaeuser:

- Pardee Homes (California, Nevada)
- Quadrant Home (Oregon, Washington)
- Maracay Homes (Arizona)
- Trendmaker Homes (Texas)
- Winchester Homes (DC Metro Area)

What You Can Do

- Sign and distribute the Free Grassy petition at www.FreeGrassy.org
- Call or visit your local lumber yard. Learn how you can support Grassy at http://freegrassy.org/take_action/bgw/
- Stay informed by joining RAN's network of activists at www.ran.org