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Managing Our Forests

Forests play a large role in our society. They serve many recreational and industrial purposes. We hike, view wildlife, and value forests as part of our lives. People tend not to realize how many of our everyday products come from trees. Forests also provide a habitat for many animals. With so many resources coming from forest we need to work on conserving them.

If managed properly, forests will provide resources and recreation for many generations to come. We tend to take for granted forests and their many products in our lives. For example, some everyday products include paper, glue, toothpaste, lumber, and many more. Many people go to forests to hunt, fish, hike, and enjoy nature.

Responsible timber harvest is needed to ensure that future generations will also be able to use products that forests provide. While clear cutting and slash burning is not always good for the forest, careful cutting of trees is alright and necessary. Trees should be cut down with the least amount of damage possible to other trees. Old snags and other trees providing habitat for wildlife should be left standing. Logging should be done on dry or frozen soils to minimize

erosion. Trees surrounding riparian areas should be left standing to protect the quality of the water.

Since forests play such an important role in our lives we need to concentrate on preserving them. Without forests our lives would be entirely different. People especially those who live in a city do not realize how dependant we are on forests. Every person uses products made from wood. We also need the oxygen trees produce to breathe. Therefore everybody needs to play their part in conserving the forests, by recycling and reducing the number of products we use. That way future generations can enjoy the same recourses and activities we do.