



by Ansel Adams in *This is the American Earth*

SIERRA CLUB

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Mr. Ted Woodbury
Chairman, Illinois Chapter
Sierra Club
P. O. Box 22
Godfrey, IL 62305

Dear Ted:

Thank you very much for sending me copies of the rather shocking correspondence about the plans of the State of Illinois to do some logging inside Pere Marquette State Park.

Reading through the materials as I did rather quickly, it seems that the justification for cutting--"sanitation and rehabilitation"--sound quite phoney. They are simply the typical kinds of foresters' language we have seen many times over the past two decades to justify logging in any kind of choice spot that is valuable for other purposes. There must be big trees there, or some forester must have gotten through the department in some way.

I remember a similar example back in 1956, when the Superintendent of Olympic National Park in Washington state conducted about 50 million board feet worth of "salvage logging." We caught him and exposed him, and it became a major issue in the 1956 presidential campaign.

I would urge you to fight this all the way, and take it to court if you must. The resultant publicity alone ought to rouse the people of Illinois about what is happening to their state park. In a state with as few forests as you have, it sounds almost criminal to me that they should be permitted to go ahead. Are you aware that our people in Maine have opposed a similar proposal for logging in Baxter State Park there? I think they were successful.

You may be able to get help from various quarters, but I'm not sure just who would qualify as "expert." Are you familiar with Dr. Leon Minckler, a professional forester who has done a great deal of work with central hardwood forests? His current address, as far as I know, is: Coon Hill Road, RFD #3, Skaneateles, NY 13152. He could give you good testimony at a trial.

I hope you do fight this thing, Ted. It is outrageous on its face.

Best,

Brock