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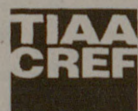
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**Clinton defends forest plan**

*President says protection of timber will not hurt industry*

REDDISH KNOB OVERLOOK, Va. (AP) — With the Shenandoah Valley's first tinges of fall color for a backdrop, President Clinton said yesterday his sweeping plan to place 40 million acres of federal forestland off-limits to development would not harm the timber industry.

The remote, largely pristine parcels of land Clinton wants to preserve represent a mere fraction of federally owned forest, he said. Vast reaches of other federal timberland are already available for logging and other development, he said.

"It is very important to point out that we are not trying to turn our national forests into museums," Clinton said as he detailed a plan environmentalists call progressive and the timber industry has called reckless.

His program would prevent or restrict road-building through the larger sections of currently roadless federal forest, most of it in the West.

Less than 5 percent of timber harvested in America comes from national forests, and of that amount, just 5 percent comes from roadless areas, Clinton said.

"We can easily adjust our federal timber program to replace 5 percent of 5 percent," Clinton said to applause, "but we can never replace what we would destroy if we don't protect these 40 million acres."

Roads open forest areas to development, erosion and pollution. They also disrupt wildlife, plant life

and natural systems. But roadless federal forest contains some of the most desirable timberland managed by the Forest Service. Timber companies and allies in Congress oppose any effort to close timber development.

*"...We can never replace what we would destroy if we don't protect these 40 million acres."*

**— PRESIDENT CLINTON ON FOREST-PROTECTION PLAN**

The president took a few swipes at congressional Republicans, several of whom have already denounced the forest plan, for what he described as shortsighted views on the environment.

"Once again, the leaders of the Republican Party are polluting our spending bills with special interest riders that would promote overcutting of forests, allow mining companies to dump more waste on public land and give a huge windfall to companies producing oil on federal lands," Clinton

**Tyson Foods fined for labor violations**

HOPE, Ark. (AP) — The Labor Department fined Tyson Foods Inc. nearly \$60,000 yesterday for child-labor law violations after a teenager was killed at an Arkansas plant and a young worker was injured in Missouri.

In the Arkansas case, investigators said 15-year-old Juan Alderete of San Felipe, Mexico, was electrocuted when he walked into a ventilating fan while chasing chickens late one night in April.

In the Missouri case, a teenage worker seriously injured both his legs when he slipped and fell into an auger. He also suffered severe nerve damage and second-degree burns.

The Labor Department said a 15-year-old and two 14-year-olds also were found to be working at the plant illegally.

**Tobacco company says it knew of risks**

NEW YORK (AP) — Philip Morris Cos. is acknowledging for the first time that smoking is dangerous and addictive — a turnaround that appears aimed at protecting the company against smokers who might someday claim they were unaware of dangers.

The world's biggest cigarette company's acknowledgment is spurring renewed calls for federal regulation of tobacco and greater efforts to keep children from taking their first puff.

Philip Morris, producer of the best-selling Marlboro brand of cigarettes, publicly acknowledged

with the debut of its corporate Internet site yesterday smokers' serious health risks.

"It certainly makes clear what we have said for years, that tobacco companies should be held accountable for their actions in court," President Clinton said yesterday. "They should stop marketing their products to children."

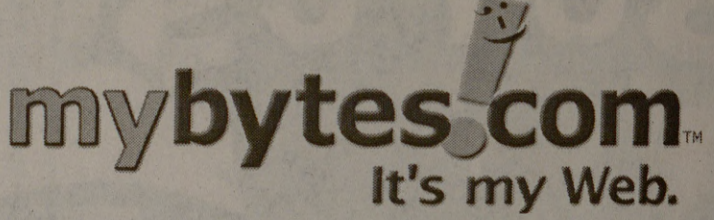
The Justice Department's suit against the tobacco companies last month, seeking \$100 billion in health care costs for the treatment of sick smokers

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