

Chapter 11

COMMUNITY DYNAMICS—SUCCESSION

IN THE NEWS

Logging of old-growth forests around the world, from Tasmania to British Columbia, has pitted forestry workers and mill owners against environmentalists and conservationists. There are two major ecological questions that underlie the logging of old-growth forests:

1. Will the logged forest recover to become similar old-growth forest in the future?
2. What is the time frame for this recovery?

Both these questions are ecological questions about **succession**, or the recovery of communities of plants and animals from disturbance. Logging is a major disturbance in forests and it destroys stands



An intact old-growth Douglas fir forest, Umpqua National Forest, Oregon. (Photo by Garth Lenz (2002).)