

Delve Deeper into *If a Tree Falls*

A Film by Marshall Curry

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Shaun Briley, of the San Diego Public Library, includes books, films and other materials related to the issues presented in the film *If a Tree Falls*.

If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front explores two of America's most pressing issues — environmentalism and terrorism — by lifting the veil on a radical environmental group the FBI calls America's "number one domestic terrorism threat." Daniel McGowan, a former member of the Earth Liberation Front, faces life in prison for two multimillion-dollar arsons against Oregon timber companies. What turned this working-class kid from Queens into an eco-warrior? Marshall Curry (Oscar®-nominated **Street Fight**, POV 2005) provides a nuanced and provocative account that is part coming-of-age story, part cautionary tale and part cops-and-robbers thriller.

ADULT NONFICTION

American environmentalism

McKibben, Bill.; Gore, Albert. *American Earth : environmental writing since Thoreau.* New York, NY : Literary Classics of the United States : Distributed to the trade by Penguin Putnam, 2008. This collection of works by over 100 writers highlights America's contribution to literature about the environment.

Righter, Robert W. *The Battle over Hetch Hetchy: America's Most Controversial Dam and the Birth of Modern Environmentalism.* New York : Oxford University Press, 2005. Righter provides an account of the struggle to save a valley in Yosemite by John Muir and the recently founded Sierra Club.

Wapner, Paul. *Living Through the End of Nature: The Future of American Environmentalism.* Wapner argues that environmentalists need to shift their focus from wilderness preservation to the encouragement of nature in urban and agricultural spaces.

America's forests

Dietrich, William. *The final forest : big trees, forks, and the Pacific Northwest.* Seattle : University of Washington Press, 2010. Dietrich provides an overview of the various perspectives in the debate over logging in America's last remaining ancient forest.

Foster, Bryan. *Wild Logging: A Guide to Environmentally and Economically Sustainable Forestry.* Missoula, Mont. : Mountain Press Pub. Co., 2003. Foster suggests a compromise in forest management between environmentalists and the timber industry.

Hirt, Paul W. *A Conspiracy of Optimism: Management of the National Forests since World War Two.* Lincoln : University of Nebraska Press, 1996. Hirt provides a historical examination of the way the nation's forests were used for resource extraction in the second half of the 20th Century.

Steen, Harold K. *The U.S. Forest Service: A History.* Durham, N.C. : Forest History Society in association with University of Washington Press, 2004. Steen offers a broad view of the Forest Service, including its controversies and conflicts over use of natural resources.

Radical environmentalism

Foreman, Dave. *Confessions of an Eco-Warrior.* New York : Harmony Books, 1991. Foreman, a co-founder of the radical environmental movement Earth First! lays out his beliefs and his experiences within the movement.

Kuipers, Dean. *Operation Bite Back: Rod Coronado's War to Save American Wilderness.* New York : Bloomsbury, 2009. Kuipers provides an account of environmental extremism by focusing on Rob Coronado, one of the movement's most active members.

Liddick, Donald R. *Eco-Terrorism: Radical Environmental and Animal Liberation Movements.* Westport, Conn. : Praeger, 2006. In this book, Liddick provides an introduction to radical domestic movements and the tactics that they use.

Long, Douglas. *Ecoterrorism.* New York, NY: Facts on File, 2004. Long gives a brief overview of ecoterrorism, including a chronology of events, glossary of terms, and annotated bibliography.

Scarce, Rik. *Eco-Warriors: Understanding the Radical Environmental Movement.* Walnut Creek, Calif. : Left Coast Press, 2006. Scarce explains the history and motives of several radical environmental groups.

Pickering, Leslie James. *Earth Liberation Front 1997-2002.* Portland, OR : Arissa Media Group, 2007. Pickering, who once served as the spokesperson for the Earth Liberation Front, provides a history of the organization's formative years.

Roselle, Mike & Mahan, Josh. *Tree Spiker: From Earth First! to Lowbagging: My Struggles in Radical Environmental Action.* New York : St. Martin's Press, 2009. Co-founder of Earth First! and the Rainforest Action Network, Roselle recounts his experiences as a radical environmental activist.

Zakin, Susan. *Coyotes and Town Dogs: EarthFirst! and the Environmental Movement.* Tuscon: University of Arizona Press, 2002. Zakin describes the evolution of Dave Foreman from the Wilderness Society's top Washington lobbyist to leader of the radical environmental group Earth First!. The book also contains a good overview of the overall development of the U.S. environmental movement during that period.

Reactions

Berlau, John. *Eco-Freaks: Environmentalism Is Hazardous to Your Health!* Nashville : Nelson Current, 2006. Journalist John Berlau challenges many of the ideas that fuel the radical environmental movement and warns of the dangers of untamed nature.



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Helvarg, David. *The War against the Greens: The "Wise-Use" Movement, the New Right, and Anti-environmental Violence.* Boulder, Colo. : Johnson Books, 2004. Helvarg describes the ways that corporations and proponents of free markets have sought to challenge the environmental movement.

Potter, Will. *Green is the New Red: an Insider's Account of a Movement Under Siege.* San Francisco : City Lights Books, 2011. Potter reflects on the FBI's response to radical environmentalism with an emphasis on the questionable use of the term "eco-terrorism."

Domestic protest and security

Likar, Lawrence E. *Eco-Warriors, Nihilistic Terrorists, and the Environment.* Santa Barbara, Calif : Praeger, 2011. Likar, a retired FBI agent discusses the security implications surrounding the environmental movement.

Reed, T.V. *The Art of Protest: Culture and Activism from the Civil Rights Movement to the Streets of Seattle.* Minneapolis : University of Minnesota Press, 2005. Reed outlines the role that activism has played in recent American history and continues to play today.

Thomas, Janet. *The Battle in Seattle: The Story Behind and Beyond the WTO Demonstrations.* Golden, Colo. : Fulcrum Pub., 2000. Activist Janet Thomas provides an account of the 1999 anti-World Trade Organization protests in Seattle.

Turchie, Terry & Puckett, Kathleen. *Hunting the American Terrorist: The FBI's War on Homegrown Terror.* Palisades, NY : History Pub. Co., 2007. A clinical psychologist who worked with the FBI analyses the mindset of the domestic terrorist.

ADULT FICTION

Abbey, Edward. *The Monkey Wrench Gang.* New York : HarperCollins, 2006. Originally published in the 1970's, this novel focuses on a group of environmental warriors and gave birth to the sabotage phrase "monkey wrenching".

Evans, Nicholas. *The Divide.* New York: Putnam, 2005. From the author of *The Horse Whisperer* comes a tale of a Montana girl who becomes embroiled in the world of eco-terrorists.

Henry, April. *Torched.* New York, NY : G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2009. This novel follows the story of a teen who infiltrates a band of eco-terrorists for the FBI (for young adult readers).

Matson, Suzanne. *The tree sitter a novel.* New York : Norton, 2006. Matson tells the story of a college student who leaves it all behind to fight logging in Oregon until the violence of her peers causes her to reconsider.

FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

***An Inconvenient Truth.* A film by Davis Guggenheim, 2006. TRT: 100 min.** *An Inconvenient Truth* is a passionate and inspirational look at former Vice President Al Gore's fervent crusade to halt global warming's deadly progress by exposing the myths and misconception that surround it.

***Behind the Mask: the Story of People who Risk Everything to Save Animals.* A film by Shannon Keith. Uncaged Films, 2006. TRT: 72 min.** *Behind the Mask* is a documentary by and about the Animal Liberation Front.

***Butterfly.* A film by Doug Wolens, 2000. TRT: 79 min.** In December 1997, Julia Hill climbed a thousand-year-old redwood tree vowing to not come down until it was saved from being clear-cut. Wolens' film is a primer on forest issues and direct-action environmentalism, but most of all, it is about the spiritual journey of a determined, articulate woman nicknamed Butterfly who saved an ancient tree she called Luna.

***Confessions of an eco-terrorist.* A film by Peter Jay Brown, 2010. TRT: 90 min.** *Confessions of an eco-terrorist* is a documentary about a group of seafaring conservationists, regularly featured on Animal Planet's *Whale Wars* series, who ram illegal fishing boats and make life difficult for those who abuse the marine environment.

