

**Deforestation: An Obfuscation through a View of Only Those Trees - Planted Up-Front: Similar to Devastating Losses after “peaceful, and thoughtful” looters strip retail shelves during riots (aka a self-seeking, hidden agenda of redistribution of wealth).**

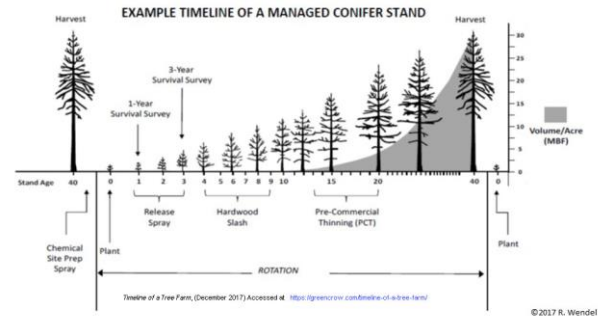
By; Arthur House, EJD, MBA



*Seeing the forest through rose-colored glasses.*

The Myth: Carbon Neutrality is achieved even after 1.) harvesting up to 280,000 acres of southeastern forests annually,<sup>1</sup> 2.) planting trees that could take up to 40-years to mature (*into merchantable logs*) or about 10 – 20 years to reach crown closure,<sup>2</sup> before any pre-commercial harvesting, 3.) processing wood chips into wood pellets, and then 4.) shipping wood pellets to Europe to burn for electricity or power, where “Drax’s emissions from using Enviva pellets over 40 years could be more than 2 ½ times higher than continuing to burn coal.”<sup>3</sup>

According to globally recognized scientific research professionals; burning wood pellets is being carbon neutral. “Biomass power plants tend to emit more CO<sub>2</sub> than fossil fueled plants per MWh, and net emissions from [wood pellet burning] can exceed emissions from fossil fuels for decades.”<sup>4</sup> Yet wood pellet plants are deceptively encouraged to proliferate because of faulty carbon-counting errors, and continued subsidies, driven by the works of the ever insidious lobbying efforts of governments, to keep the money trough of public taxation and subsidies and funding apparatus available to the industry. So, potential devastation to forests continues.



Analogously, retailers and businesses alike, suffer from another type of sinister behavior. As a result of unrest, leading to riots across the landscape, retailers see their establishments looted by the likes of Antifa, BLM Activists, Common Criminals, and not to be excluded, the often potential shopkeeper interested in financially looting their own stores for cash and profit through internal willful blindness, the filing of insurance claims, and even the ‘Bankruptcy for Profit’ scheme. “Bankruptcy for profit occurs most commonly when a government (*or insurance industry*) guarantees a firm's debt obligations.”<sup>5</sup> Among the ‘economically oppressed’, “equality deprived”, needy street-thieves, and the blatantly obvious common criminal who is allowed to steal up to \$950.00 per episode of thievery without being arrested or ever prosecuted, there could also conceivably exist, the associate or affiliate of the store owner to also ‘takes home’ a windfall by simply overstating the daily losses of inventory and reporting those inflated losses to their insurance company, which will eventually be covered and compensated by some government program aimed at subsidizing the egregious losses, due to riots and looting.

For instance, state law in California holds that “stealing merchandise worth \$950.00 USD or less is just a misdemeanor, which means that law enforcement probably won’t bother to investigate,

and if they do, prosecutors will let it go.”<sup>6</sup> As long as the losses are covered, there is no incentive to prosecute looters, bring attention to otherwise verifiable losses, and shine a light of scrutiny on the entire matter. It is not hard to imagine that the shop owner would continue to order replacements for the stolen items, under the auspices that the item is hard to keep in stock because of the increased demand, and their desire to be compensated by insurance coverage for the very best and most expensive inventory, while being guardians of the environment due to the reduction of necessary paperwork associated with the myriad of smaller and less valuable but nevertheless stolen items.

After store owners collect and insurance companies are subsidized, jobs (*economic development*) have been created in the reconstruction and restocking activities; only then will the powers-to-be, decide to declare a RESET as necessary. All looters should be prosecuted and jailed as rioters, prosecutors who do not prosecute should be disbarred, and insurance companies should not be subsidized as a primary solution. For owners of the stores who profit from the pandemic of rampant theft and destruction should be held accountable for their disingenuous participation. Theoretically, these companies have an “incentive to go broke for profit at society's expense (to loot) instead of to go for broke (to gamble on success).”<sup>7</sup> It is for the innocent shopkeeper or business owner alike, just as with the protection of forests from deforestation, to be adequately safeguarded by the establishment and implementation of sound policies and meaningful fortification of their property by an unbiased and evenhanded application of equitable rights promulgated by open, honest and deliberative science based policies.

What is hidden from view in the looting scenario is the true loss of inventory on the shelves, similar to the decimation of standing forests. Where a store is looted or a forest is clear cut, it is obscured by a stealthy deceptive practice of filling the front row of shelves with new product, so the public can look into the storefront window, and imagine the store is stocked and all is well. The shelves behind the façade may be as empty as the plantation behind the first row or two of trees, left standing so as to obscure the view of what has been destroyed in the interest of renewable energy and self-seeking agendas of the pellet industry. After all, the initial pellet plant operators have already taken their reward in massive salaries, perks and stock options while rent-seeking behavior<sup>8</sup> continues through lucrative subsidies made available while no one is watching. When the final accounting is begun, they are gone and the debts are left for society to pay.

Similarly, whenever there is a lack of scientific understanding about the impacts of deforestation or true carbon neutral science, the self-proclaimed experts will resort to hitting the RESET button to devise a new excuse or solution to ‘your misunderstanding’, even in the face of incontrovertible evidence revealing that they have been dead wrong for many years about everything they have ever done and are still doing. As an example of a recent reset in harvest scheduling, changing the harvesting cycle from 70 years to 60 years, which cleverly insinuates that growth is now being accomplished easier today, and that trees can be harvested in shorter periods of time because they have grown faster. The math actually reveals a spurious yet permissible increase in annual harvesting volume of about 16% per year. This allows more harvesting and much sooner. It is only later that one may realize the decision was wrong, however it can be RESET about 60 years from now – after the assets have been stripped.

To make sense of all this we should start by reevaluating the entire science of carbon neutrality. Stakeholders should begin by identifying self-interest seeking entities and those parties, with the most to gain by their continually promoting carbon neutrality, even in the presence of leading scientific push-back, and temporally recusing them from fact finding analysis and discussion.

To name one existential threat to forest sustainability, we cannot overlook the debate over an underlying premise that the carbon-neutral accounting methodology is not fatally flawed. As with any rational reevaluation of such a globally significant policy, it is ludicrous to include the continued participation of those who have created the dilemma, among those who may actually come up with corrective solutions to the dilemma. Letters have been written by 65 scientists oppose to wood pellet consumption, proclaiming that it would in fact promote deforestation in the U.S. and elsewhere and make climate change much worse. Neglecting deliberative and open minded discourse, and diluting an unbiased research and debate, can result in continued reliance upon an “accounting error that could be corrected by considering “additional biomass” that can be derived of additional plant growth, or biomass that would decompose rapidly, if not used for bioenergy, can reduce carbon emissions. A carbon accounting loophole, in global climate change policies, which continue to classify burning woody biomass for energy, as “carbon neutral,” and is accepted by the U.N. and many of the world’s nations may lead to a “failure to correct this accounting flaw will likely have substantial adverse consequences.”<sup>9</sup> It may be the right time to realize that the science on this matter is “NOT SETTLED.”

---

<sup>1</sup> “Destroying Southern Forests for International Export.” p. 1 Also, <https://www.dogwoodalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Acres-of-Pellets-Fact-Sheet.pdf> Also available at <https://www.mightyearth.org/wp-content/uploads/Mighty-Sumitomo-Report-English-Screen.pdf> Page 33

<sup>2</sup> Timeline of a Tree Farm, (December 2017) Accessed at <https://greencrow.com/timeline-of-a-tree-farm/>

<sup>3</sup> New Study Shows Drax/Enviva Reliance on Southeast U.S. Hardwoods for Pellets Will Result in Greater Carbon Emissions Than Continued Reliance on Coal, Southern Environmental Law Center, (June 2015), Accessed at

<sup>4</sup> Mary S Booth 2018 Environ. Res. Lett. 13 035001, *Not carbon neutral: Assessing the net emissions impact of residues burned for bioenergy*, Accessed at <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/aaac88/pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Romer, P. Akerlof, G., Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, 2:1993, *Looting: The Economic Underworld of Bankruptcy for Profit*, Accessed at [https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/1993/06/1993b\\_bpea\\_akerlof\\_romer\\_hall\\_mankiw.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/1993/06/1993b_bpea_akerlof_romer_hall_mankiw.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Ohanian, Lee, Hoover Institute, Why Shoplifting Is Now De Facto Legal In California, August 2021, Accessed at <https://www.hoover.org/research/why-shoplifting-now-de-facto-legal-california>

<sup>7</sup> Romer, P. Akerlof, G., Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, 2:1993, *Looting: The Economic Underworld of Bankruptcy for Profit*, Accessed at [https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/1993/06/1993b\\_bpea\\_akerlof\\_romer\\_hall\\_mankiw.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/1993/06/1993b_bpea_akerlof_romer_hall_mankiw.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Corporate Finance Institute, *What is Rent-seeking?* When an individual or an entity seeks to increase their own wealth without benefiting society, Accessed at <https://corporatefinanceinstitute.com/resources/knowledge/economics/rent-seeking/>

<sup>9</sup> H. Haberl et al., Energy Policy 45 (2012) 18-23 Correcting a fundamental error in greenhouse gas accounting 1.9 related to bioenergy, Accessed at

<https://reader.elsevier.com/reader/sd/pii/S0301421512001681?token=EA5493004F18A413E2019E582E563B47B7FC07AD4F3BEFF76DE561540324588E0E1A4371696B9770307403F8C07A5AF3&originRegion=us-east-1&originCreation=20210922073649>