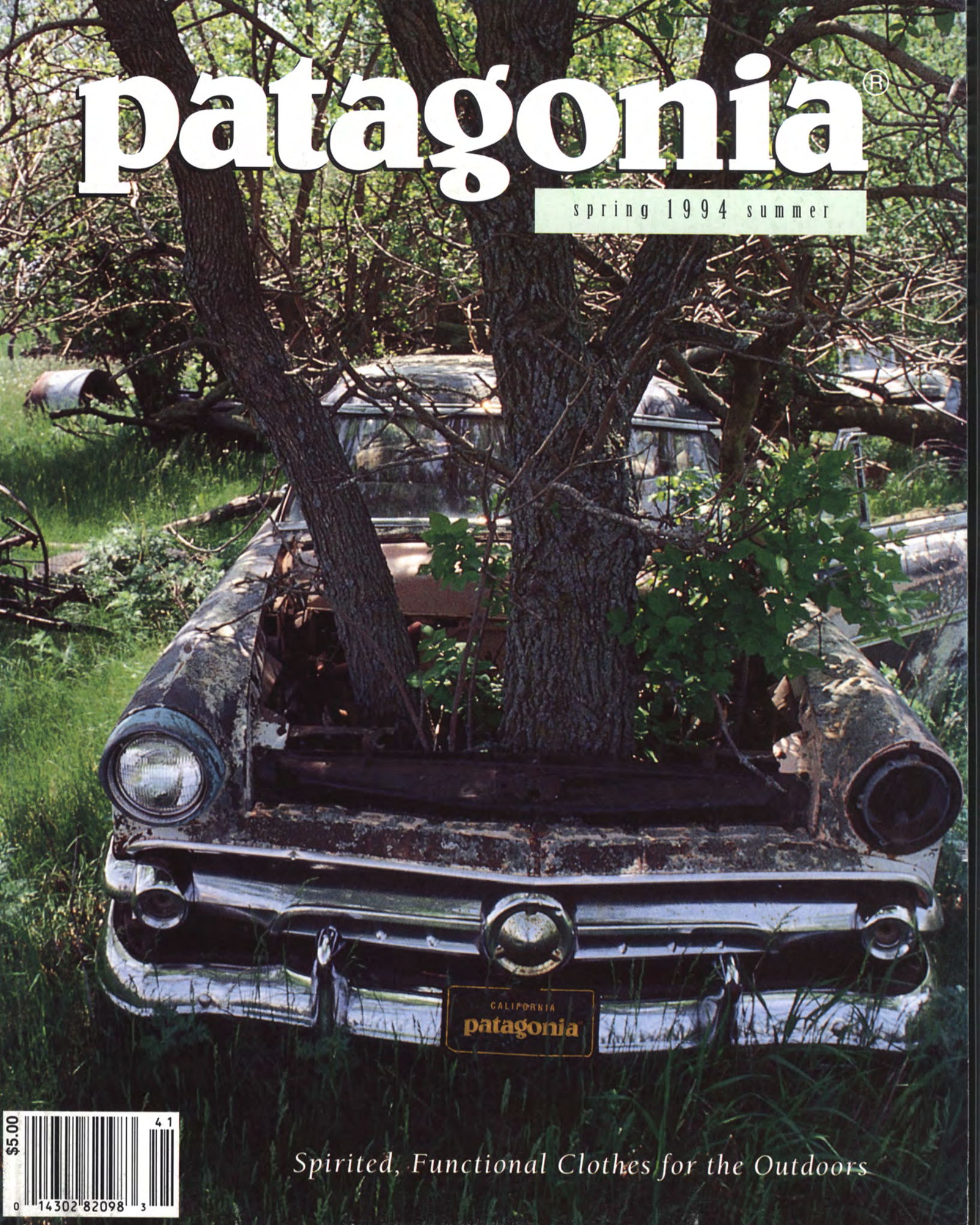


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*Spirited, Functional Clothes for the Outdoors*



FORESTRY ISSUES

## Two Models of Sustainable Forestry

### Collins Pine and Menominee Tribal Enterprises

Cutting trees and preserving forests can be complementary goals. As Aldo Leopold wrote in *A Sand County Almanac*, "It is a matter of what a man thinks about while chopping, or while deciding what to chop." The fact that sustainable forestry is so rare has more to do with management priorities than with any technical challenges the foresters face.

Half a continent apart, with radically different terrain and tree species, the Menominee forest of central Wisconsin and the Collins Almanor Forest (CAF) of northeastern California exemplify good management. They were both certified as "well managed" in 1992 and 1993 by Scientific Certification Systems, a not-for-profit environmental assessment company based in Oakland, California.

Their success provides a kind of trail map for sustainable forestry. Both operations are based on secure, long-term land tenure. The Menominee forest lies completely within the 234,000-acre Menominee Indian Reservation, Collins Pine is a privately held, family-run company that has been harvesting logs from its own 92,000-acre forest for more than fifty years. Both forests survived the "wild-west" era of commercial logging through a combination of visionary management and serendipity. Both are managed for a wide diversity of species, following a conservative selection formula that strengthens the genetic stock of the forest by targeting old, weak or crowded timber. Menominee forester Steve Arnold explains, "Instead of cutting the best, we cut the worst."

Neither forest should be confused with parkland or wilderness. Roads everywhere lead to skidder tracks and stumps. Tree harvesting is intensively managed. Each operation yields upwards of 30 million board feet of high-quality timber per year and the volume and health of the forests continues to improve. These are almost entirely "natural" forests, enhanced to a very limited extent on the Menominee forest by small clearcuts, artificial planting and the application of herbicides. None of these more intrusive commercial forestry practices are applied on the CAF.

The challenge to both forests lies in the marketplace. Will buyers of "good wood" pay enough of a premium to compensate their efforts? Can they deliver enough product from their carefully husbanded, finite resources to satisfy a budding "green" market?

Consumers can purchase Menominee wood from a small retail outlet at the Menominee mill in Neopit, Wisconsin, and through the Frank Gehry Collection of bentwood chairs and tables, manufactured by The Knoll Group. Collins Pine wood is distributed most widely in doors and windows manufactured by the Andersen Corporation and in lumber available at a selection of Home Depot stores in Southern California, Northern New Jersey and Phoenix.

If this limited access to "good wood" is frustrating to some consumers and retailers, it should come as no surprise. Our conversion to a sustainable resource economy will not be simple or without bumps. But the Menominee and Collins Pine are clearly on the right track.

—Scott Landis

Gerry Brasch