



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

18 FEB 1999

CECW-ON

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS
AND DISTRICT COMMANDS

SUBJECT: National Sign Standards Policy Letter 99-01 -- Elimination of Clear Heart Redwood
as a Sign Material

1. Reference: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sign Standards Manual, Engineer Pamphlet 310-1-6a and b.
2. The referenced manuals specify the use of clear heart redwood for all routed sign panels and glue laminated posts, and construction heart for sign frames and non-laminated posts. Clear heart redwood occurs primarily in old-growth redwood. Clear heart redwood was specified because of its durability, appearance, and ease of working.
3. Obtaining clear heart redwood from old-growth redwood lumber requires harvesting ancient trees. More than 100 lumberyards and lumber vendors, including six of the top ten national retail chains, have signed pledges not to purchase or sell lumber from ancient forests. It is inconsistent with the Corps resource stewardship ethic to continue to specify clear heart redwood for use in sign fabrication. Effective immediately, clear heart redwood is no longer to be specified for use in Corps manufacture. Appendix B of the reference will be revised to reflect this change at the next opportunity. High Density Overlay (HDO) material does result in distinctive and durable signs in applications where redwood has been used, particularly in Corps standard identification signs. If routed signs are still preferred over HDO for Standard Identification Signs, Western Red Cedar can be used in lieu of redwood. Western Red Cedar is durable, straight-grained, and easily routed. Construction heart redwood lumber is sawn from second and third growth timber and remains acceptable for use in Corps fabrication.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



RUSSELL L. FUHRMAN
Major General, USA
Director of Civil Works