

[DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 03, January 29, 1992]

BAN IN THE USE OF HIGHLEAD YARDING SYSTEMS IN THE DIPTEROCARP FORESTS

Pursuant to DENR's mandate to manage the natural forest resources on a sustainable basis, and in accordance with the provisions of Department Administrative Order No. 24, series of 1991 shifting logging from old growth (virgin) forests to second growth (residual) forests beginning January 1992, the following are hereby issued for the guidance of all concerned:

SECTION 1. Basic Policy - The proper conservation, management, protection and development of Philippine dipterocarp forests to ensure the sustained production of forest products and services without sacrificing the environmental considerations shall be a primary concern of the Department. Towards this end, the institution and adoption of additional forest conservation measures and prescriptions is of utmost importance.

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms - For the purpose of this Order, the following terms are hereby defined:

2.1 **Yarding** is the process of transporting the felled trees or sections thereof using a stationary power from the stump to the log landing, roadside or designated loading points in the cutting area for long distance transport.

2.2 **Cable crane yarding** (Skyline Yarding) refers to yarding by using a skyline to carry a self clamping slack pulling carriage which provides for fully suspended log transport along the cableway and allows lateral skidding.

2.3 **Ground skidding** refers to yarding by using a skidder or a tractor equipped with a winch to drag logs along a skidtrail toward the roadside or loading point.

2.4 **Highlead** yarding refers to yarding by using a stationary power unit which is reeling in a mainline that passes through a block attached high on a spar tree.

SECTION 3. Ban on Destructive Yarding Systems - Consistent with the above stated policy, the use of yarding systems which cause excessive damage to forest stands and soil shall, henceforth, no longer be allowed in any dipterocarp forests. Since highlead yarding caused heavy damage to the residual stand and the soil, its use for selective harvesting in dipterocarp forest shall no longer be allowed.

SECTION 4. When Highlead Yarding may be Used - The use of highlead yarding may be authorized by the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources in areas where clearcutting is allowed such as in plantations and in pine forests where the seed-tree system is practiced.