

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/9/2024 5:00:00 AM

First name: Waverly

Last name: Hayner

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The National Forest lands, along with other federal Public Lands (National Parks, BLM, other Federal Reservations) are all that remain of the vast stands of mature and old growth forests that covered the Pacific Northwest Bio Region just 200 years ago. In the Coast Range of Oregon 70% to 80% of Forest Land is in Private Ownership (think Wall Street Investors) and clearcut harvested every 30 to 40 years, releasing MORE CARBON into the atmosphere, creating a WILDFIRE HAZARD, contributing to the extinction of aquatic and terrestrial species, destroying watersheds and sending the profits out of the region. The only remaining mostly intact mature forest (80 to 200 year old) are those of the Siuslaw National Forest and it is most important to Update or Amend the Pacific Northwest Forest Plan to reflect the Regional Climate, Ecological, Economic, and Social Changes that are continuing to affect our world since it's inception.

The east boundary line of the Forest Land I live on is the Siuslaw NF and an example of why these lands are so important to my neighborhood, county, region, country and planet. The National Forest boundary is less than a mile from the beach and presently managed for the protection of Endangered and Threatened Species and the only source of drinking water for our Water District. I purchased my property after being logged and replanted it with mixed species and manage it to provide habitat and mature forest complexity for a diversity of species. The adjacent Siuslaw NF Tract was Railroad logged in the 1920-30's and then reacquired by the Federal government. Some of the watershed was replanted by the Conscientious Objectors to WWII stationed at Camp Angell but most of the forest is natural regeneration with only a few very small stands of older trees that survived in riparian areas and steep headwalls of creeks. Today the entire Tract is Mature Forest and one of the last intact watersheds on the Oregon Coast where other communities struggle daily to provide clean drinking water. The creek on the north boundary of my property provides spawning habitat for some of the LAST surviving Coastal Coho Salmon. My point is the recovery of this Forest Land over the last 90+ years was accomplished by Nature and the only management by the Forest Service was road maintenance, designating it as Habitat and leaving it alone.

I believe it MOST IMPORTANT to increase funding for INCREASED MONITORING and DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS so we may continue to improve and update the NWFP, based on science and facts, and Protect and Nurture this Invaluable Public Resource into a Better Future.

The most resilient Westside Forests are mixed species uneven aged stands which can only really happen in stands of trees over 60 years. That is the approximate time (varies by slope, aspect, elevation, etc.) when the canopy begins to open and allow filtered sunlight into the understory, which will begin the diversity building of the stand and connection to the rest of the forest. It should be clear that thinning a dense stand of conifers could provide similar results but is not even necessary unless you have planted the trees so close together they compete for light and nutrients and your wanting quicker growth for earlier harvest. The young conifers store no water or carbon for at least 15 to 20 years and are actually a GREAT FIRE DANGER! Older stands are capable of storing more Carbon than any forest on earth; storing and releasing vast quantities of clean water, and are FIRE RESISTANT, recovering from wildfire in a very short time if NOT SALVAGE LOGGED. I call this Sitka Spruce/Western Hemlock/Western Red Cedar Forest the Asbestos Forest because in an intact older stand, fire will not spread because of moisture content and the density of stems per acre that blocks the winds ability to fan the flames.

In closing I am hopeful that we are learning the lessons of past failures and understand that the future of Pacific Northwest Forests depend on these last small remnants of Public Forest to reinoculate the surrounding depleted private fiber farms and provide all the amenities necessary for the communities, plant and animal, to survive and thrive instead of profits for the already super rich. Before we cut down any old tree we need to grow some and

not just protect the few that remain after First Contact and Colonization. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Attachment: Coast Range Old Growth.jpg