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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I spent a morning last week visiting the Siuslaw National Forest between Mapleton and Deadwood. I drove on forest roads 32, 3259, 2127, 2570, and 5070. I saw many stands with overstory doug firs with diameters of 30-40 inches. Among them were many cedars and maples, and beneath them many younger trees, vine maple, hazel, rhododendron, and berries, ferns, etc. Between these stands there were brushy areas that had been thinned and overcome with grass, and also some tree-farm-y areas where the medium-sized doug firs were pressed so close together that there was no green underneath. The mature and maturing forests I described first - please design your management for more of that! My sons I love to come to the forest in the rain and see salamanders. Please leave fallen wood on the ground for salamander habitat!

I support management of the forest, but I am very concerned about treating timber companies as stakeholders in forest management decisions. Please do everything you can to make management decisions without the input of those who would like to turn our forests into money. They have done enough harm already. The forest is our treasure here in the northwest. We are willing to contribute to manage it in the best ways possible, rather than managing it for profit. There is so little old growth left that I think the time has come to protect every single tree. Meanwhile, let's give strong protections to the maturing forests and stands like the ones I describe in the forest visit forms attached, so that over time there will be more old growth. There are so many reasons to want that! But the most urgent reason is climate resilience. Our coast range forests hold so much carbon. Let's let them do their job. Let's always err on the side of leaving them alone. Let's be super careful that we don't justify profit-driven decisions with a green-washed form of forest management. Let's patiently let the forests grow and heal, and take only carefully considered actions to support them as they do so.

After having done such profound harm to the Pacific Northwestern forests in past decades, it can feel like we need to take big actions to repair that harm. Certainly repair needs to be a priority! But let's observe big and act small, avoiding hubris and remembering that we might be wrong.

ATTACHED: 6 copies of identical forest visit documentation forms for the Siuslaw National Forest.

ATTACHMENT: Forest-Visit-Form-V-1 BJ32.pdf

ATTACHMENT: Forest-Visit-Form-V-1 BJ2127.pdf

ATTACHMENT: Forest-Visit-Form-V-1 BJ2570.pdf

ATTACHMENT: Forest-Visit-Form-V-1 BJ3259.pdf

ATTACHMENT: Forest-Visit-Form-V-1 BJ50701.pdf

ATTACHMENT: Forest-Visit-Form-V-1 BJ50702.pdf