

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/13/2022 5:43:33 AM

First name: John

Last name: Boesch

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Responsible Officials-

With all the hype about new and breakthrough technologies and investors pouring money into sectors that are supposed to be the " next big reset " it appears that the timber industry has been left to it's own devices and in some cases given a free pass while avoiding regulation and responsible forest management oversight. For example the Columbia Gorge Commission had their chance to restrict logging and curtail clearcutting within the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area during a restructuring of the Act but instead applied more restrictions to homeowners and small businesses while giving the mega timber industries a pass. Consequently the sound of chain saws began in earnest and more land came up for sale labeled "Timber sale property". In the mean time more and more carbon sequestering mature native forest continues to be destroyed. This type of environmental destruction should not be allowed in any national preserve and it is appalling that is still happening.

Only a fraction of the timber sale revenue goes to schools and community services and statistics show that these entities are becoming less reliant on timber revenue.

However when you look at the ports of Longview and Olympia Washington and Coos bay Oregon our swiftly diminishing native forests and our legacy are being shipped overseas as raw lumber!

The trees once a majestic and significant factor in carbon sequestration are now stacked forty feet high in massive staging areas while the land they came from has been permanently altered and no longer a carbon sink.

People that live in urban areas ( many who are political decision makers) do not have to drive by on a daily basis the the increasing amount of clear cutting and witness the total destruction of not just the native mature forest but the ecosystem itself. Once someone observes the process of timber harvesting on a regular basis and in particular clear cutting and the subsequent plantation style replanting procedure a different perspective emerges. (See attached photos.)

Photo: 120 year old Douglas Fir tree stumps surrounded by dead and dried red limbs and needles covering every square foot of ground of the clear cut creating an extreme fire hazard. In the background is an emerging "plantation forest" so thick that one can hardly walk through it. These trees are not growing naturally and may not mature properly or ever develop any circumference but instead become narrow pole trees. Also the native understory and ground cover is gone.

How does this "care for the land and serve the people" ?

In my mind this type of timber harvest /management only serves the mega corporations and the interests of political parties in the government and their revenue grabbing schemes.

Science has proven the significant benefits of mature forests and especially old growth forests for carbon sequestration yet the technology the timber industry uses does not benefit the forest or the climate. Instead the procedures they use are antiquated and the modern technology they use just speeds up the destruction in a far worse manner than than a century ago. Their only purpose being to increase production for more revenue and that is all. The environment does not matter.

We have all heard this history before and we do not need to go down the same path again like other native species including humans .

Clear cutting of the limited remaining native and old growth forests must to stopped. Clear cutting in general should be stopped.

The technology is available to transform the timber industry. It is time for a massive reset of the timber industry before the invaluable and unique northwest environment and our legacy is destroyed.