

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/30/2022 4:36:18 PM

First name: Spencer

Last name: Kroll

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Good Morning,

I live in Columbia County, Oregon, allegedly one of the most productive timber regions in North America for the production of Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock, Sitka Spruce and Western Red Cedar. My property is surrounded by tens of thousands of acres of plantation 'forests' that are owned by Weyerhaeuser, Stimson and multiple other timber and fiber entities. The entire North Oregon Coast range is covered with plantation forests, producing a tremendous amount of timber.

Considering this vast amount of industrialized forest and the constant plantation clear cutting that I bear witness to, I do not understand why there is any impetus to cut ancient forests that are such a teeny fraction of what once stood here. Aside from being an awe-inspiring wonder of massive, giant trees, old growth forests hold a tremendous amount of bio-diversity for endangered plants and animals, genetic diversity of old tree stands that could help to generate stronger trees especially in lieu of climate change and they hold an innumerable amount of secrets about mycelium relationships in forests that we are just beginning to understand.

When so much of our land is covered by monoculture plantation forests, why would we even entertain the idea of not protecting, in-perpetuity, the remaining stands of ancient beings? In the face of this environmental catastrophe of climate crises that we are now faced with, not logging old growth forests is the very least that we can do.