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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Forest Service Representatives,

I am writing with regard to proposed changes in the forest plan, and the definition of old growth timber.

I have noted an accelerated rate of harvest on private lands in my vicinity. Word on the street is that foresters need to harvest now, before more restrictive guidelines are established. I just flew over from Vancouver Canada to Portland, Oregon, and was appalled to see that the vast majority of the forest between here and there was a patchwork of clear cuts and tree farms.

I am sure that you are aware that the arctic is warming at 4 times the rate of the rest of the world. The tundra is thawing, and once pristine streams are running orange with heavy metals and acidic melt that are incompatible with life.

Even former loggers have changed their position, as the density of wildlife they have seen in the forests has fallen by at least 1/2. We hear about new extinctions every day. We are on the cusp of the 6th mass extinction, which may well include humans.

We are at the crux of a rare opportunity to do the right thing. PLEASE work with conservationists to help preserve our old growth to sequester carbon, support clean watersheds, and provide habitat for at least some of the remaining wildlife. Work for the long term health of the planet, and not short term financial profit. Thank you!
Laura Ouellette