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Comments: most wildfires are not started in forests...however they all miss or avoid telling you the root cause of forest fires.

I hope you find better sources for forest resilience ---I suggest Dr. Chad Hanson of the John Muir project at the Earth Island Institute or George Weurthner [umw.org/george-wuerthner-close-logging-roads-to-preclude-wildfire/article\\_abc58440-2d66-11ee-b8ca-db2bc36ed97e.html](http://umw.org/george-wuerthner-close-logging-roads-to-preclude-wildfire/article_abc58440-2d66-11ee-b8ca-db2bc36ed97e.html)

I wrote the following LTE in 2019 after the Paradise fire in CA. it is still relevant.

Here in Lane county, in Oregon, and the U.S. deforestation is being ignored; especially by our elected officials. The vast majority of forestland here in the northwest is being clearcut more than ever.

My teeth clench when I hear the "foresters" who taught people how to exploit the forests, now explain how to "man-age" them especially to avoid fire. Journalist interviewers don't know enough to question what they are told, and politicians parrot the same propaganda.

The original sin was clear cutting the continent east to west. Everything now suggested is a desperate attempt to mitigate that. It is not easy to get a fire to rage through a big, old, closed canopy forest. This is especially true in northwest rainforests. Old forests are cool and retain moisture.

Forest "man-agers" are promoting the reductionist idea of thinning and prescribed burning of undergrowth in a vain attempt to imitate those mature native forests. This practice can expose the soil to sun and wind increasing its susceptibility to fire. When I was taking OSU forestry classes, we toured a property completely devoid of undergrowth. The fir trees were actually evenly spaced in rows. This was their idea of model forest regrowth, and I was strongly rebuked for saying it was not a forest but a tree farm. The Forestry College would more appropriately be called the Logging College. <https://www.oregonlive.com/environment/2019/07/majestic-douglas-fir-stood-for-420-years-then-oregon-state-university-foresters-cut-it-down.html>

Oregon's climate plans talk about emission controls and glaringly avoids deforestation. We need to keep saying that chopping forests is a massive contributor to carbon buildup in our atmosphere. Despite industry propaganda, several hundred young replanted trees per acre do not absorb the carbon of the enormous old original trees. The undergrowth in a natural forest not only also absorbs carbon, but is alive with habitat for birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, all kinds

of insects, other invertebrates, fungi, and micro-organisms; synergistically making a real biodiverse forest. As some of the undergrowth is shaded out it decays(which is habitat) it eventually becomes soil providing nutrients. Interrupting this natural process, this web of life, is what we seem to be so good at doing. We see the difference in the natural forest on our property compared to the tree farm next to us. Be very skeptical of so-called foresters whose jobs depend on their latest "forest health" promotions. The practices they promote may actually create deadscapes.

The Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission recently passed more forest damaging rules to burn out forest undergrowth vegetation and slash. If there are invasive plants, blackberries, scots broom, poison oak; goats and certain breeds of sheep can do the landscaping more safely and without toxic pesticides. I use my animals in this way in my orchard and forest; and, oh by the way, they fertilize at the same time. The remedy to prevent so many of these manmade fires is obvious. Allow forests to live out their lifespan. We better act fast because fir trees are already stressed and dying. I think there's no longer a question that the causes are climate caused drought and damaging forest practices. If we do not act, Oregon will soon see mother nature settle any forest debate for us.

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ps: to emphasize the idea regarding the notion of forest thinning, especially prescribed burning, the timber industry and their advocates for "man-aging" forests are very good at diverting attention from the real problem we have caused the forests. if we want to have healthy forests and a healthy planet like what existed during our co-evolution, we have to let forest ecosystems grow out their natural lives. YES, WE MUST STOP LOGGING and all other insults we impose on the landscape. yes, that means no more timber built structures. 30% to 40% of the human built structures on the earth are not wood or only with minimal roof poles. but ,Of course, our society has locked itself into self inflicted destruction as we continue to accelerate entropy.