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Comments: Sustainable forestry begins and ends with a realization that Nature in her evolutionary brilliance is the Master, not humans or our illusions of domination and control. Industrial forestry is predicated on those illusions. Today we can see how those Industrial priorities and illusions are undermining the very fabric of Nature and Climate and our very survival on this once garden planet. The changes that Industrial forestry has imposed on Nature are NOT sustainable ecologically, economically, or socially. It's time to understand the depths of our denial in all its manifestations, or the human experiment will soon come to an end.

The myths and untruths that underline Industrial forestry must be vetted and understood in order that we don't just repackage unsustainable forestry practices as the industry has done with planting, clear-cutting, road building biomass, restoration, and extreme wildfires. Let me address each, exposing the myths and then suggesting what a sustainable path forward might do.

Planting trees has become a justification for Industrial forestry suggesting that forests are like a crop of corn which we can genetically accentuate rapid regrowth in our attempts to liquidate the forest and regrow it. To equate a plantation with a forest makes as much sense as suggesting a golf course is a prairie. One has been highly manipulated, simplified and fundamentally altered for human benefits while the others are highly complex, inter-related and symbiotic in their evolutionary brilliance. The liabilities of human arrogance begin to show up in all areas of manipulation under the domination and control model if we care to understand consequences and externalities.

What Industrial forestry advocates do not understand is how these changes and impacts are not just immediate but generational in their consequences. Climate change and carbon sequestration are just the latest myths that Industrial managers deny.

Let's examine some of the myths that perpetuate our unsustainable ways.

1. That fast-growing Douglas fir trees are the target and goal and that Douglas fir needs full sun to grow the fastest.

While trees do grow faster in full sun yet what isn't talked about is that 'structural integrity' is a direct function of growth rings and SLOW growth. The more and denser growth rings the slower the growth and the stronger the fiber. This is born out in structural analysis that includes, Fb and modulus of bending and rupture. It's basic tree physics.

Man made products that attempt to 'improve' Nature, are froth with unintended consequences. Orientated strand board (OSB) outgasses, TJI's - the floor joists and rafters with OSB web, fail in under 5 minutes in a house fire and fire departments won't go in if they determine TJI's presence, and CLT's (cross laminated timbers) have failed extensively due to their use of fast growing, nonstructural wood. All of these 'improvements' are in fact liabilities which undermine the essence of 'build back better'.

The sad truth is that many proponents of true selective harvesting (Orville Camp, Dick Smith, Merve Wilkerson, Menominee Nation, Walton Smith and others) have all demonstrated how selective harvesting (taking the dead, insect damaged, danger trees etc.) can improve the forest by just taking the compromised trees. Many selective foresters do not replant, as Nature does that best too, with the best genetically adapted trees. All the other natural functions (from soil protection, hydrologic functions, erosion and temperature moderation and carbon sequestration) are maintained intact. When Nature is seen as the master; respect and reverence for the 'gestalt' of Nature's services is perpetuated. True selective harvesting is the only management approach which is holistic and sustainable.

While liabilities are the result of Industrial forestry manifesting in many ways:

1. A short economic boom followed by the protracted economic bust - every time with Industrial logging. No exceptions. Today there are no thriving rural forested communities anywhere. Industrial forestry is a bust when it comes to sustaining jobs and rural communities. Please show me where this isn't true, or where any reputable University of Scientists are researching this?

2. A radically increased cataclysmic fire danger follows every clear cut as C.M. Countryman in his research

showed that at 2pm the temperature difference within a forest (surface and crown) and a clear cut was 66 degrees. (87* in the forest and 153* in the clear cut). Adding the increased 'residue/fuel load' from logging slash as one study (Howard) identified more than 7 million cords of wood equivalent in Cal, Wash and Ore in 1965) was left as residue and gets baked in the direct sun. Add wind to the equation (where winds would go over the top of a forest, if forest was present) which fans flames in a clear cut and we get extreme wildfires. This isn't a function of fire suppression or global warming as they try to deflect, but a direct result of Industrial logging in both human time frame and impacts.

3. The soil is the primary resource in the landscape, not the trees. I've seen studies that the soil is essentially spent and compromised by the 3rd generation of clear cutting. Once the soil is gone, deserts follow. This is the legacy we are leaving our children and grandchildren. We must do better and stop the unsustainable practices of Industrial logging.

4. Other negative consequences include how bird species change with clear cutting. Insect eating birds are a major part of an intact forest helping to keep the ecological balance. But once the trees are removed, seed eating birds replace the insect eaters and thus the insect infestations become common and overwhelming. Charles Little as written an excellent book talking about these dynamics.

5. Today, TIMO's and REIT's have taken over the ownership of many forests with one goal in mind, maximize short term profits. This will hasten the demise of our species as the consequences go unchecked. This parasite economic structure should be seen as a threat to future human survival and needs to be stopped as well.

If we can learn from the past, there are specific transitions that are the foundation of sustainable forestry:

1. From volume to value added
2. From corporate control to local control
3. From capital intensive to labor intensive.

These 3 transitions should/could be at the heart of addressing the Elliot Research Forest, the H.J. Andrews experimental forest and state forests, if holistic and integrated thinking could/would prevail. Decentralized and labor-intensive approaches using portable sawmills with a value-added focus could bring back much needed jobs to the contiguous communities and would embrace the indigenous values of long-term benefits, maintaining all ecosystem functions intact. It's time to see the forest in an entirely new light. Success should be seen as long-term jobs and sustainable rural communities, minimizing waste and not Volume of timber extracted. The waste of Industrial forestry is off the charts.

I have direct experience with many aspects of the forest, including portable milling and processing which enables and enhances true innovation and creativity. Taking the philosophy 'less is more' (R. Buckminster Fuller) and applying it in our forests is the opposite of Industrial forestry and could go a long way in reversing the negative trends of the past. The key to sustainable forestry is to minimize damage, waste, and unintended consequences. All of which are part and parcel to Industrial forestry. It's time to focus on the long term and not short-term profits. Questions remain: Are we smart enough to learn from history? Can we attribute causes with consequences? Can we understand that climate change is happening now? Can we understand that leaving trees growing is far more important than cutting them down which undermines carbon sequestration, ecosystem services and climate mitigation? Our children's future depends on our choices today. Let's do right by them, for a change.

Sincerely,

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