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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Staff of the USDA,

I am a concerned citizen, who resides in western Oregon. Please work to help conserve what little old growth and wilderness habitat we have left. Only 4% of Oregon is designated as wilderness. I flew home from Vancouver BC after a light snow, and was appalled to see that most of the coast range between BC and Portland was a patch work of clear cuts and tree farms. Much of the coast range is on private land, and is being harvested at an unsustainable rate.

Individuals who support the logging industry propose that we should harvest now, to reduce fuels for wild fire. The normal burn sequence in the coast range is once every 200 years. Old trees tolerate burns better than young trees, and science has shown that tree farms burn more vigorously than old growth. We must create fire mitigation plans that are site specific.

The logging industry wants to maintain forest roads to reach wild fires, but roads bring people, and most fires are caused by people. The scientific literature demonstrates that more roads = more fire. We need to decommission forest roads.

Finally, we are losing precious ecosystems every minute. We are on the verge of the 6th great extinction. I know of seasoned loggers who have become conservationists, because the density of wildlife has dropped in half in just a few decades.

The human race must learn how to live in harmony with the planet. We have an unequalled opportunity to help sequester carbon in the pacific northwest. Please help us to conserve everything we can, for clean air, water, and all life.