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Comments: 2024 - It is time to update the NW Forest Plan - Today 2024 - It is time to create protections to robustly fight Climate Change, fight species loss and to protect a liveable planet!

Before 1796 Europeans did not believe extinction could occur. It was believed that God would always provide what they presently experienced in the natural world. Georges Cuvier was able to change the understanding that massive dinosaur bones were from long extinct creatures.

During the 1890s and early 1900s, much of the National Forest system was established, primarily for the purpose of supplying a sustained yield of timber harvest for construction purposes. This nationalization of the forests was primarily due to the concern that private ownership of forests had resulted in boom / bust instability in communities and plundered forests with degraded watersheds.

Since the 1960s, environmental and ecosystem research and understanding have been expanding and have been increasingly protected by law.

1973 Endangered Species Act enacted - in recognition of vulnerability of species to human caused extinction

By the 1990s, most of the Old growth forests were gone from private lands and heavily fragmented on public lands. Old growth forests were considered 'stagnant, decaying and wasteful' and had been rapidly cut down and replaced with young tree plantations. Many Pacific Salmon runs had become extinct and the Northern Spotted Owl was highly endangered.

Today 2024 - It is time to create protections to robustly fight Climate Change and species loss and to protect a liveable planet! Climate change is creating increasingly negative changes to our weather patterns and resulting in increasingly dramatic environmental changes. Climate change increases temperatures above our tolerance and threatens our food production, species survival and eventually to human survival on this planet. Remaining old growth forests are less than 5% of historical amounts.

2024 - It is time to update the NW Forest Plan to:

use the best and most recent science on ecosystem health and climate change for all your planning. Therefore acknowledge that wildfire, insects, disease, and climate change are NOT the primary threats to mature and old growth forests. Cutting / logging trees is, and has been for over 150 years, the primary threat to mature and old growth forests!

create large connected no logging forest zones that will allow migration and survival of species as climate change progresses and human development proceeds

place a ban on logging of late successional, mature and old growth forests to increase carbon sequestration, habitat growth and species protection

protect and increase the acres of complex younger forests (not tree plantations) to protect diversity of species. Allow younger complex forests to become mature and old growth forests.

provide accountable supervision (and heavy penalties) to so-called thinning projects as logging companies routinely leave an essentially clear cut forest behind. I have seen these disastrous results time and time again

when I have driven through, hiked and explored NW forests.

do not 'thin' old growth and complex mature forests! Nature automatically thins forests for the most productive outcomes for species health and diversity. Humans merely mess up the process, thus creating decreased diversity and robustness of forest health.

increase carbon sequestration by not logging or 'thinning' mature and old growth forests. We need more mature and old growth forests to help fight climate change and protect loss of species  
increase use of responsible controlled burns to improve forest health and help prevent catastrophic wildfires

increase width of streamside buffer zones in logged and 'thinned' forests to protect clean water for salmon and drinking water

ban biomass harvest and collection from federal lands - biomass burning has been exempted from counting as contributing to CO2 emissions in many climate agreements. However, this is a ridiculous and false premise, as common sense knows that 'biomass' harvesting, processing, shipping and burning, is in fact, highly contributing to CO2 emissions! BAN BIOMASS from federal lands as a fuel source for power or heat!

include tribes in creating policy and managing forests and other land types

Today 2024 - It is time to create protections to robustly fight Climate Change, fight species loss and to protect a liveable planet in the NW Forest Plan update !

Thank you!

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