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Comments: 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 dont 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>

Oregons 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 theres 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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