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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am the Josephine County Coordinator for the National Organization "Old Growth Forest Network" located in Oregon. I believe we must first set a moratorium for NO MORE cutting of Old Growth nor Mature trees until all due processes are finished and the rules and regulations are in place. At this time in our history and in the grip of climate change and severe heating of landbases and oceans, the old growth and mature forests place a vital role in keeping the planet cool. As seen from any Google Map, Oregon has become a severely destroyed patch work quilt of clear cuts and forest degradation. We MUST stop cutting all National and State Old growth NOW! In our county, we live in a small island of old growth, which our community is attempting to protect. We are surrounded by clear cuts and the landbase temps are increasing each year. I recommend absolutely no more cutting of both old growth and mature forests. I add mature because we will never recover more old growth if we cut down every mature tree. I also recommend for Old growth Fir and Pine forests that we lower the diameter dimensions on both old growth and mature. Old growth should be lowered from 36" to at least 30" and mature hardwoods should be lowered from 24" to 18". Mostly though, we must have a moratorium in place now to protect the trees still being logged by timber companies. Old Growth forests must be a place of peace and education. Here in our old growth forest, the residents are working with BLM to establish our own community, Education Forest on 7,700 acres of ACEC land. We believe this will have many positive outcomes, with our community stewarding these old growth areas, becoming docents for field trips and bringing the public back onto public lands to learn about and appreciate the natural wonders of the trees, which give us so much and ask only to live. I welcome being a part of the conversations upcoming and I can be reached at the information above. I believe in community involvement and that the residents of our living forests should have a huge say in the care and stewardship of our forests. Thank you. Len