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Comments: I am Eric Urstadt, a licensed Logging Engineer, in Oregon and licensed Forest Engineer in Washington. I graduated from Oregon State University in 1985 and worked my entire career doing forestry. I became a consulting forester and forest engineer in the late 1990's. I have worked for every category of forestland owner I can think of. I am trained, licensed, experienced and tested all with favorable resultant symptoms. I know both good and bad forest management.

The current political thinking is that CO2 is causing global warming, and that global warming is causing the large wildfires in the Pacific Northwest (PNW); however, the facts show that lack of timber harvest directly causes higher incidence of large wildfires. Simply go back to the decades when large wildfires did not occur and you will find that is when much harvesting was occurring.

I have worked in numerous Environmental Assessments as required by law on federal forests. The process takes several years and often yields an impractical result, I think because the anti-harvesting interests far exceed the number of good forest management interests involved. Also, after a large fire, there is typically less than a years to accomplish an economical solution to reinvigorate the forest.

In short, find a way to allow forest management personnel to quickly direct the solution after a wildfire and hopefully to prevent future wildfires.

Harvesting removes fuel, harvesting requires road that allow fire suppression access and can be used as fire breaks. Harvesting brings in money for fire suppression.

Do not add more layers of review; that will just make the problem worse.