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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a Teacher, an active voter, concerned taxpayer, and father of two raising my family on the Oregon Coast. Taking my students to visit the couple rogue old growth trees that reside around our middle school in Newport has been one of the highlights for myself and my students. They literally can't help but embrace these behemoths everytime we see them. Unfortunately, these are only remnants of the great forests that evolved on this coast since time immemorial. After we learn about the carbon cycle, even preteens can comprehend the impact that entire mature forest stands can have on our atmosphere and ecosystems.

We must protect and increase carbon rich old growth forests because they remove and store climate warming carbon from the air. The moist forest I'm familiar with, the Siuslaw National Forest, is the number one carbon storing forest in the country. Please include special guidance in the final document for super-carbon-storehouse-forests like the Siuslaw.

Our local national forests are very moist due to high rainfall. Intact old growth on the Siuslaw is naturally fire resistant. I am very concerned that a stakeholder process that includes the timber industry will abuse the proposed management theory of "proactive stewardship."

I implore you see the forest through the profit of the trees. Please save and expand mature old growth forests wherever possible for us and many generations to come. Our planet depends on them. Thank you for your time.