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Comments: Hello, and thank you for encouraging Oregonians to weight in with thoughts and concerns.

First, and foremost, and I know this sounds radical, but I truly believe the US and State forest systems MUST be removed from the Dept. of Agriculture, and not be connected in any form. Agricultural practices are the human activity of (mostly) removing indigenous species from a given area of land to grow crops specifically for human consumption. If we approach our forests, the very trees and their ecosystems that support almost all life on Earth, as first and foremost a 'crop' or a 'resource' for consumption, our species is doomed. It simply won't work, as humans are (mostly) and will continue to be opportunists and greedy. So we need a unique approach that honors this and will ensure not only protection, but also, as much of your plan suggests, the slow and thoughtful restoration of, in the Pacific Northwest at least, healthy forest ecosystems, hopefully that can adapt as best as possible to a quickly changing climate chaos. We need a world system of governance to honors the sanctity of the trees and the biomass they contain.

Now, just three other thoughts:

Fire Resilience

Of course, those of us who have historic knowledge of forests have know for a long time that our "forestry" practices have been unsustainable. Just another boom and bust cycle, eh? We know that if Theodore Roosevelt hadn't become president, the likes of Weyerhaeuser would have given it his best shot to literally mow the entire Pacific Northwest. And then what? Then there is the history of corruption in the national and state forest bureaucracies (we hate to admit it, but of course, it's true). And the corruption still exists. So how do we embrace the truth of myriads of past crimes against nature and move forward, now that climate chaos is beginning to exacerbate the consequences? Rural communities like mine in the Upper McKenzie area; the residents, our electricity providers and the forest service, along with our elected representatives, exhibited a complete lack of educated and competent approach to fire prevention until we were forced to rethink our ignorance and incompetence by the Holiday Farm fire.

I would like to see the plan, first and foremost, completely ban any cutting or intrusion into all old growth forest areas, no matter where they area, and for ANY reason. In addition, a concerted effort should be made to carefully restore all the area around them to a 'no cut' status, to see if we can help these areas expands over time.

Second, there needs to be a complete ban on any clear-cutting in the Pacific Northwest. This is a practice specifically designed for profit motives, and profit motives need to be completely taken out of any consideration for restoring the trees and their biomass.

Third, every person who has an interest in working in the forest must be required to take, and pass, a series of classes on forest ecology, natural history of the Pacific Northwest, cultural, sociological and political history of all the stupid mistakes we've made and why past boom and bust practices have (almost) ruined the future for our children to experience a healthy forest, and proper behavior around trees, wild water, weather conditions, etc. I realize all of the above require a huge economic investment. However, at this point, as a species, we are swiftly not only creating our own collapse, but also taking almost everyone else with us. So it becomes puzzling to hear people try to avoid this fact. Any good leadership needs to tell the truth.

Adaptation to a Changing Climate

After a long career in the natural sciences, I was looking for a project and in 2019 found 8 acres across the road from the McKenzie River between Rainbow and McKenzie Bridge (it is just east of the Holiday Farm Fire). All old meandering river sandy loam, it had been almost completely clear cut, leaving only most 'undesirable' trees, overgrown with hundreds of small, unhappy incense cedar, and largely covered with invasive species like scotch broom and undesirable species like too much hazel and native blackberry. In 5 years I have, acre by acre, cleaned, almost completely covered with wood chips, and planted natives, basically removing impediments to the land being able to regenerate its health and vitality. In such a short time I am truly amazed and humbled at how

much the area wants to be abundant, and is swiftly being again filled with not only natives plants I didn't plant, but also animal life that wasn't here when I arrived. I have planted some drought-resistant trees in the most unhappy, hot areas, like true cedars, oaks, larch, and additional pines, but mostly the firs are thriving and spreading like hotcakes. So I know, with good stewardship, nature will never stop attempting to regenerate, until the climate changes so much it just can no longer survive (consider past collapses and extinctions). Again, the new forestry plan must acknowledge that honest, non-opportunist stewardship is the only way forward.

#### Tribal Responsibilities

I just want to say "IT'S ABOUT TIME!!!" here. Watching the careful preventative burns, the dams come down and fish begin reclaiming the freed rivers is such welcome good news. (I hate the gambling casinos though, and hope they come down soon, too. )

I think there are areas on my 8 acres that could use grass burning, and I wish there was a way for private property owners like me to have access to these good practices. Just a thought, as many of us could use the help.

Again, thank you to all the staff who are attempting to do the right thing moving into the future.

Let's keep striving to completely erase our old 'boom and bust' mentality, and treat nature with the respect, honor and love it so deserves.