Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/25/2025 5:33:53 AM

First name: Christa Last name: Knittle Organization:

Title:

Comments: A forest wildfire in 2020 severely impacted my community in Springfield, OR. The air was so bad that people couldn't go outside for days. I know people who found temporary housing here, after they lost their homes in the fire. This fire and many others worldwide are caused by climate change. To mitigate the climate crisis, healthy forests are vital -- especially as they sequester carbon dioxide. Oregon's mature and old-growth forests are most effective at storing atmospheric carbon, so they need stronger protection. The regional tribes are experts at this, so they must be more involved in decision-making. For example, they have proven practices of controlled burns, which prevent forest fires. We also need to maintain logging at or below current levels in order to protect biodiversity and safeguard clean drinking water. There should be no more thinning, clear-cutting, or other logging increases.