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Organization:

Title:

Comments: For the past 25 years, I've grown, hiked, and seen the amazing sites this state has to offer. Where it began was a Biology field trip from Chemeketa Community college. We went through many of the biomes of Oregon starting in Salem and ending in the Cascade mountains. I don't remember the exact route. But I do remember seeing some of the most ancient trees I have ever seen. Tall and wide Douglas firs, to scrappy pioneering Ponderosa's sprouting from volcanic ash. Each biome, each tree, was important to the system around it. And having healthy forests is critical, which means keeping the old ones to nurture the new sprouts coming in. If we allow what remains of our old mature forests to be harvested, so many people won't have the experience I had. And have that connection to our state lost forever. Please protect our old growth forests and don't allow harvesting of them. Instead increase their protection and expand the area they are in to allow more old growth forests to start without interference by us. Thank you for your time.