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Comments: I was born and raised in Oregon and live here today. I feel pride when people from elsewhere stereotype us as outdoorsy people who respect the environment. The other day, someone from the East Coast was relating how she got to visit the scenic Columbia Gorge. She was so impressed by the scale of the geological features and the forests. She was enjoying a sweeping view of forests when she spotted a clearcut marring the view. I'll never forget the shock she expressed that Oregonians would treat their wild places like plantations.

That outsider view was what I needed to realize that the current policies are already unacceptably extractive. It may be true that the NW Forest Plan is ready for updates to include new science in the context of changing fire risk.

I understand that BLM and the USFS have contradictory mandates - to both preserve wildlife and to generate a steady supply of lumber. Now is a time to promote economic development through tourism rather than logging.

In my opinion, Oregon would be best served by protecting old growth and letting reserves become old growth. I'm concerned about drinking water sources around rural Oregon towns drying up. The increasing fire risk is an obvious problem. And preventing the further decline of salmon runs is also really important for a number of reasons. Maintaining old growth and near-old growth reduces all these problems at once.

Oregon's forests are special and unique in the world. Please update the NW Forest Plan with pride in the abundance and biodiversity we inherited.