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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have lived in Oregon for 5 years now. I moved to Oregon from Indiana, a place of occasional beauty interrupted by pesticide-infested agricultural wastes, subpar water quality, and a general disengagement from the natural environment. It is a breath of fresh air--literally--to live in a place filled with such awe-inspiring beauty.

I am extremely worried about the future of Oregon's forest, given the current political administration as well as bullish tactics from the logging industry seeking to extract as much value as possible from our unique and beautiful landscape. I have seen the data; I know how little economic benefit logging has to its workers and community, and how much it imperils our water, our fire resiliency, our booming tourist economy. I know, too, that the world is getting warmer every day, that our carbon output is putting the Earth on an inhospitable track, and that mature, diverse forests are one of the key ways we can slow global warming.

I have seen what years of industrial monopoly can do to a landscape. I have seen rivers sour, forests reduce to soybean fields, and wildlife reduced to roadway hazards. So I urge you to please protect our forests and limit the effects of negligent clear cutting. I urge you to look at the facts--look at the years of economic data--and do what's right for working class people rather than industrial plutocrats. I urge you to listen to indigenous communities, to the people who have already been relegated to the margins of our country, and how they are impacted by reckless logging. Above all, I urge you to protect, maintain, and preserve what makes Oregon--the place I now call home--special.

Thank you.

~Michael S. E. Wilson