

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/7/2025 3:51:31 AM

First name: Sarah

Last name: Fleming-Diaz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Donald Trump's push to expand the timber industry at the expense of old-growth and mature forests is shortsighted and dangerous. These forests are essential carbon sinks, helping to fight climate change while also making our landscapes more resilient to wildfires. Logging them would accelerate biodiversity loss and worsen the climate crisis.

These forests aren't just trees-they are entire ecosystems that provide clean water for communities and irreplaceable habitat for a variety of species. Instead of opening more land to logging, we should be strengthening protections under the Northwest Forest Plan to restore habitat, safeguard waterways, and preserve carbon storage.

My partner and I visit Silver Falls and the surrounding forests in Oregon and Washington every year, drawn by the incredible diversity of life found in these old-growth ecosystems. I love birding, while my partner is fascinated by mushrooms and insects-each species playing a role in an intricate web of life that takes centuries to develop. Destroying these forests for short-term profit ignores their long-term ecological and cultural value.

These forests are worth more standing. Let's keep them that way.