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Comments: I have been a hike and nature lover all my life but I took trees for granted. When we got a bigger property, I tried to grow an oak tree. My first attempts failed. Eventually some grew. But slowly. Then I realized how much we undervalue our trees.

I recently took a trip to Greece and Turkey. Greece used to have dense forests that propelled the great Greek empire and navy to dominate the Mediterranean. But the forests were depleted and now Greece is rocky and dry and hot. It is difficult to grow crops and the forest would take hundreds of years to grow back.

Our country needs to return to using soil for building and relearn our skills on how to enrich our farm land without expensive chemicals. We need to let our forests remain or our country will become a hot and rocky wasteland. I went to Greece and Turkey to see the past of the ancient world but instead I saw the future of America - unless we change our ways.

I urge you to protect old growth areas in the revised Northwest Forest Plan. Protect some of what was here before our greed overtook these lands.