

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/8/2025 9:57:18 PM

First name: John

Last name: Damour

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The state, county and national Forests belong to the people. We need to have our voices heard. In the next 25 years if there isn't any immediate and drastic action our forests are going to look very dismal. Fires are destroying our beautiful forests at an alarming rate. What kind of legacy are we going to hand down to our future generations of great grandchildren, great great grandchildren and so on. We are the stewards of this vast forest land. We need to do everything in our power to preserve it. One thing that can be done is to treat the forest so there isn't such a hot fire that it incinerates everything in its way and makes it virtually uncontrollable. The aftermath of such intense forest fires also leaves a land that is looking like a moonscape where the topsoil is burnt away, making it very difficult for reforestation to occur. Thinning the forest under proper forest management can greatly decrease the devastation that these fires cause. The quickest and the most economical way to thin the forest is reintroducing sawmills to our local area which makes it possible for logging to begin again. What the problem is at this point is that there is not a commitment by any of the publicly owned lands to guarantee enough board feet of timber for a long enough period of time for a sawmill to be economical. One of the biggest factors from reaching this goal is United States department of Fish and Wildlife, the Forest Service and the state's concern over the spotted owl protection. Under the endangered species act about 30% of the forest on the east side of the Cascades is set aside for spotted owl habitat, which cannot be logged. Recent surveys using hundreds of audio devices throughout the forest has demonstrated that there could be just six pairs of spotted owls in the eastern half of the Cascades. Also, the Bard Owl, the aggressive competitor of the spotted owl is quickly invading their territory and will very soon eliminate the spotted owl from the forest. The spotted owl will not become extinct as northern California has a natural habitat for the spotted-owl and studies show that it is flourishing there. Releasing this land to logging would likely provide the extra stumpage needed to support a timber operation. So let's create jobs and bolster our economy, by setting up a sawmill or two in our local area. We do need the sawmills to be located on this side of the mountains as it is not economical to haul logs to the west side of the mountains to be processed. Also, in terms of being green as possible, we should also think about the greenhouse gases that are being admitted by the logging trucks that are hauling the logs such a long distance to the west side. Processing trees into lumber, sequesters the carbon for years to come, which again keeps the carbon from escaping into our atmosphere, which happens every time there is a Forest fire. As an example California's wildfire carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions from 2020 was approximately two times higher than California's total of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions since 2003. The Pacific Northwest is faced with approximately the same scenario every year. So is it going to be six pairs of spotted owls or saving our majestic Forest lands?