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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a retired elementary school principal and I believe that if every economic and political decision were made with kids in mind, we'd be living in a better world. I reside in Yachats, where I am currently the Co-Chair of the Yachats Parks and Commons Commission. I encourage you to prevent further destruction of watersheds in the region covered by this forest plan. Please do your best to preserve for our children's children the balance of natural beauty, livability, and commercial opportunities that exist on the Central Oregon Coast.

Forests cool the atmosphere by inhaling CO₂ through the process of photosynthesis and storing or sequestering it in roots, trunks, branches, needles and leaves. Half a tree's weight is carbon. Rainforests and other large terrestrial ecosystems made up of dense vegetation are known as "carbon sinks." Douglas fir forests of Oregon and the hemlock & cedar forests of Alaska store about twice as much carbon per acre as the Amazon and are regarded as among the most carbon-dense forests in the world.

I think that all of us on the coast are aware of the necessity of Water Conservation. Forests prevent erosion; they filter, direct, and store rain and snow as they pass into streams. 1/3 of forested land in 80% of Oregon's coastal watersheds have been logged in the past 20 years. Water availability for coastal towns is directly affected by the number of mature trees and the amount of logging in a given watershed. The timely distribution of water from stream flows at the bottom of the watershed is dependent upon the quality and quantity of trees within the watershed.

Herbicide and pesticide management strategies are designed to maximize profits. Due to their deleterious effects on the health of humans, fish, forest animals, and other creatures, the application of chemicals must be considered in the cost-benefit analysis that includes the health and safety of residents within the watersheds in which they are used. An intelligent balance must be struck between profitability and the health of our ecosystem. Limiting herbicide and pesticide use through rulemaking is problematic in Oregon due to Pre-emption laws that prohibit local control over these chemicals.

Please consider the needs of the forest habitat in proper balance with the needs of commercial interests and the needs of people who live in and adjacent to these forests.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan Sterling