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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear folks of the Forest Service,

I am writing to you from the high desert of Central Oregon, where our old-growth Ponderosa pines are the survivors of the world's highest-producing lumber companies of the 20th century--Shevlin-Hixon and Brooks-Scanlon. These trees are the red-orange pillars of this land, telling the long story of what once was, hosting insects, ants, twig nests, owl fledglings, grey squirrels, golden-mantles, porcupines, raccoons, and more songbirds than I can count. They are the forest's service. They give and allow life to live within and upon them.

All old trees give comfort to me. They've lived for hundreds of years, witnessing societal changes, record snows, droughts, winds, etc. and still they stand, root, reach their branches wider to shade and hold life. I cannot deny that the trees--the way that they are-- teach me ways about life and my own resilience.

Old-growth trees have immense importance in protecting the web of life from the worst effects of climate change. Their services are ecological, biological, and downright soul-making. A walk--or better, a wander-- in a mature forest where there are multi-generations of trees and diverse plant and animal life is a great relief from the pace of our technological society. Everything slows down.... sings... glows... The effect of beauty on our souls cannot be understated. I believe it's the very thing that increases our desire to exist!

So logging these few remaining sanctuaries for wildlife and the wildness in us humans doesn't make sense. We can't afford it, nor can the future generations afford the soil depletion, monocultured forests, and species collapse that is inevitable with unchecked and unconscious logging.

I pray for old-growth and slow-growth. I directly oppose changes to the Northwest Forest Plan that include a doubling or tripling of current logging levels of Oregon forests. I support the comprehensive conservation efforts of the Northwest Forest Plan.

From my soul to yours,
Madeline