

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/13/2025 12:21:07 AM

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Comments: The March 2025 White House Timber production expansion action states that the United States(US) has an abundance of timber resources adequate to meet domestic needs and blames policy for prevention of full utilization and a reliance on foreign producers. As far as I know we are not yet at risk with our timber trading partners unless this administration wills it to be so. The action claims a failure to exploit domestic supply as wrong for our nation. The action claims onerous federal policies. I strongly disagree in the language of policy reversal; there are important supplemental considerations.

The administration seems dismissive of years of cooperative inter-global softwood trade and climate considerations. They now also seem to believe we should include exemptions for environmental and legal reviews.

In terms of logging our forests, studies post- catastrophic fires demonstrate that cutting trees doesn't stop these types of fires. As a family member who experienced a devastating climate fire loss in 2020 Oregon I read much of the research done post-fire. Analysis has shown that areas logged on private lands are not less fire prone, five year old clear-cuts burned hotter than federal lands. Public lands logged within the past five years burned with the same intensity as those that hadn't been cut.

Timber production addresses only a small part of the US forest picture. As a US citizen I am concerned about more that local jobs and exploiting timber production. The larger diameter trees (say greater than 21") of the Cascade Mountain crest in Oregon and Washington provide valuable carbon storage. Wide spread harvests of these trees would release a large amount of carbon dioxide when it is important we keep additional carbon out of the atmosphere. Larger timber provides significant buffering and biodiversity in order to mitigate future climate extremes. The increased biomass of these trees removes fossil fuel emissions.

It is imperative that climate and fire dynamics are a consideration in any responsible timber production plan. It would be shortsighted and irresponsible to move forward with a single perspective disregarding research and study.

If there is to be increased timber harvests in order to provide present jobs and domestic timber sources, the costs of fossil fuel emissions by the harvest's machinery, development of roads and release of carbon dioxide along with habitat fragmentation must be weighed in light of the benefits. A premium must be placed on retaining larger diameter trees that provide valuable carbon stock of these forests and carbon accumulation from the atmosphere therefore protecting our ecosystem for future generations.

Thank you,

Annette Cooley

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