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Comments: I have really struggled with where to start with my comments. I have been watching this hipocracy for years and each group has their own tunnel visioned agenda which will come down to who has the most money and most lobbyists, as it did 30 some years ago, before the NWFP was first put in place.

I have worked in forests in Oregon from Sumpter to the Pacific Ocean since 1978. The problems then were already obvious but nothing was being done about them.

The eastside lodgepole pine forests were already grossly overstocked with thousands of bug killed deadfall. The only old growth lodgepole I have ever seen was in Yosemite. The railroads cut most of it for railroad ties and it was never reforested. It takes wildfire to open lodgepole cones and then you get 10's of thousands of new seedlings sprouting wherever there is good soil. With no maintenance or pre-commercial thinning you have lots of trees dying by the time they are 15 years old, leaving massive amounts of fuel for wildfires from lightning strikes, so they constantly burn and reburn. Prescribed burns in a hundred million acres to allow it to grow big enough to have a market value will never happen, nor is it cost effective, so the wildfires will continue.

In my opinion the 24 million acres in the NWFP is headed for the same demise. No maintenance = wildfires=carbon causing climate change and burned up cities. I live near the Willamette National Forest. In the Detroit Ranger District where the 2020 Labor Day Fires burned 200,000 acres, the OSU Fire Ecologist survey showed there were only 10 major fires from 1800 to 2000. From 1700 to 1800 they showed 18 fires, which they assumed most were cultural Indian fires. In the past 20 years, since 2002, I recall 4 mega fires, all started in the NWFP area. The genius scientists say these fires are all a result of lack of fire suppression in the last 100 years. 3 of these fires started from lightning inside wilderness areas and burned for weeks with no aggressive firefighting and no fire management on site. Do you know the USFS manages its fires from computers in Boise, Idaho? The fourth fire in 2002 was a lightning strike in a bug kill area that started 20 years earlier right along Hwy 20 and the USFS made no attempt to do anything about the dying trees. This negligence by the USFS is a huge problem for wildfire resilience and climate change. This is only one small part of this 24 million acre area. The wilderness areas haven't had any maintenance or burning since before the Indians were put on reservations in the 1800's. There are tens of thousands of acres that were logged in the mid 1900's that have never been pre-commercial thinned and full of deadfall and ladder fuels waiting for a lightning strike to set them off. I started thinning my new forest plantations when they were 20 years old and they only had 500 trees per acre. Those 60-80 year old Forest Service plantations probably had 1000 trees per acre in their early years.

Millions of tons of carbon are released into the atmosphere from each of these megafires, adding to climate change. And how many spotted owls (a "critically" endangered species) were lost in each of these fires?

And as for climate change, have you heard of carbon sequestration? How many tons of carbon will an acre of forest sequester per year? Dead trees don't sequester any and the USFS rarely replants burned areas. So how many years of carbon sequestration do you think you lose until those forests regrow naturally in 20 or 50 years? This is why we have climate change.

If you Google the causes of climate change, deforestation is right there with carbon from fossil fuels. Fossil fuels isn't the number 1 cause of carbon pollution. Industrial manufacturing is. But nobody talks about that because Big Money squashes that.

Two years ago the Willamette National Forest Management Plan said they were managing for a natural forest.

To me that means no logging, no pre-commercial thinning, no road building, no tree planting, no fire suppression. I assume the rest of the forests in the NWFP have the same management plans.

Ever thought about what your yard would look like if you didn't trim your shrubs, or mow your lawn for 30 years? And this is only one small part of this 24 million acre area in Oregon, Washington, and California. Portland, Seattle, Olympia, Tacoma, And Eugene. You could be Paradise or Pacific Palisades, California. Saving the old growth is fine but prescribed burns and cultural burns aren't the answer. Fires know no boundaries!

I mentioned no road building earlier. What about the hundreds of miles of roads the USFS vacated in the 90's saying they had no money to maintain them. Now they have lost hundreds of miles of roads for fire fighting access.

As for wildlife, the USFS writes in their annual assessments on each ranger district that the deer and elk numbers are diminishing because there are no clearcuts and consequently, no feed for them. And what happens to all the endangered spotted owls and other critters when you let these fires burn for weeks?

I'm pretty sure that less than 1% of America has grown a forest and knows that they take regular maintenance just like your lawn, landscaping and garden, fruit tree orchards, etc., so I expect the hypocrisy to continue as long as the lobbyists and environmentalists continue to pad the pockets of Congress.

Who put this program in place to begin with? I recently read in the Oregon Capital Press that the environmental groups in Oregon have \$2 billion in their accounts and I can assure you they will want to continue their natural world agenda, and their lawsuits to prevent any logging.

When the pilgrims came here there was old growth coast to coast. The pioneers cut trees and sent them to England, who used them for masts on ships to build the world's most powerful Navy. And the cutting moved west and built cities and homes for a growing America. Washington's old growth was all sent to San Francisco to build that city, and then the movement got to Oregon. The cutting continued and shipped lumber all over the U.S. because the rest of the country was all cut and never replanted.

Then the marijuana growers, tree huggers, enviro's and lawyers came, and after ten years of lawsuits and no timber sales to bring in money, the Feds threw up their hands, shut it down and came up with the NWFP.

Yes, they saved the old growth only to "Let it Burn" up in wildfires. Just the 2020 Labor Day Beachie Creek/Santiam Fire burned 182,400 acres of forest land, with a value of \$6.23 Billion, 3,069,000 Board Feet of timber. Only 18,400 acres were salvaged, 314 million Board feet, mostly all private timber. This was one fire of the 919,000 acres of forest land that burned in Oregon 2020 Labor Day fires. USFS and BLM acreage was old growth. How much forest management and reforestation would \$6 billion do?

So, my predictions are that the greedy lawyers will continue to sue to shut down every timber sale, the salmon population will remain about the same, even though \$10's of billions are spent building \$500 million cooling towers and taking out dams. Cities will continue to burn from overstocked forests and lack of fire suppression with this "let it Burn" like the Indians did" agenda. And wind turbines and dead trees don't sequester carbon, and the "Let it Burn" hypocrites will continue to dump billions of tons of toxic smoke into the atmosphere and continue to blame it all on climate change.

OPB says the 21 members of the new advisory committee are experts. I'm pretty sure not one of them have ever grown a forest so what are they experts at? None of them have any forestry management training or experience. You should have a good portion of people on your advisory committee who are experienced foresters and know the things that those of us who have been growing forests have known for years. People who own thousands of acres of timberland like Weyerhaeuser, Freres Lumber, and Frank Lumber, to name a few, who run their forests

as a business, not an environmental disaster!! It's a well known fact that thinned and managed forests are more resilient to wildfires. Saving our cities from wildfires seems a lot more important to me than saving a minute amount of endangered species that most of the country doesn't even know exists. We should be focused on saving the people and not just the endangered species that might inhabit a forest.

fires know no Boundaries!