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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Georgia Krantz, born and raised in Oregon and having spent most of my adult life on the east coast. I came back to Oregon 10 years ago to help my father care for my dying mother and chose to stay here, not only to be with my dad, but also because of Oregon's stupendous forests. Forests that never cease to astound me and enrich my life in infinite ways. It was shocking, the first time a friend took me to a "forest" on the east coast. A bunch of young trees with little accompanying undergrowth; no birdsong; no signs of insects; no gorgeous smells of life and decay. No magic. Oregon has real forests - old forests - dense and messy forests - forests that contain and sustain the kind of richness and biodiversity that make a forest worth visiting. Without these old growth and mature forests, I would not live in Oregon. And it's not just my life that is impacted in this fashion. Countless humans and other species depend on Oregon's mature and old-growth forests for their essential well-being and very existence. To neglect this fact is to neglect reality. To increase logging in Oregon's mature and old-growth forests is to ensure the death of not only myriad species, but also a veritable lifeline for the rest of us.

Enter an accelerated rate of climate change. The carbon storage capacity of Oregon's mature and old-growth forests is extraordinary; without which, we can look forward to really grim outcomes. We should be grateful for such protections and working to expand them, yet the Forest Service is thinking about timber targets. The whole idea that increased timber supply and profit trump the health and sustainability of our state and the planet, is absolutely inconceivable to anyone who is not beholden to industry. And "beholden to industry" - to the insidious degree evidenced by the proposal to escalate logging - has no place in conversations about the future of our forests - and our lives.

Another reality that I find crucial to the issue of the fate of Oregon forests is that more logging is not going to positively impact the local economy. The evidence is clear, that "for today and the foreseeable future, NWFP lands will support more jobs, businesses and sustainable economic activity in local communities if left unlogged than if managed, as proposed, to provide a predictable increase in timber supply." (Ernie Niemi, "Deficiencies in the Socioeconomic Elements of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment (NWFP, March 2025").

Frankly, I often wonder why the Forest Service is called the Forest Service. Isn't the Forest Service supposed to work in service of the forest and the people who care for it? As a resident of this state, I would like the Forest Service to start working for the forest. To stand up to the stranglehold of industry and the tyranny of the Trump administration and put the brakes on this frenzied momentum towards greater timber production. As such, to resist the barbaric destruction of the prodigious life forms and lifelines contained within our national forests and embrace the fact that the NWFP is performing as it was intended, to preserve and restore the kind and quality of forests that Oregonians want and expect in their state.

It is a calamity, what is happening here and I - like most Oregonians - am sickened by the prospect of more logging and the permanent loss of species, landscape, climate protections, beauty and joy.

The NWFP is a 100-year plan; leave it to do its job.

Sincerely,

Georgia Krantz