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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a retired wood products industry researcher and trainer. I spent the better part of my career working with industry to help them produce high quality kiln-dried lumber for the housing market. I "retired" from that work early in 2000 after yet one more mill was closed do to lack of adequate "older" trees. Every time a mill closed because the owners couldn't get the trees they "wanted" to make the profit they needed, many people I'd worked with for years lost their jobs.

Since then, after becoming an Oregon Master Naturalist and working with various environmental organizations, reading and studying about the ecology of the temperate forest we're blessed with, and learning from members of various tribes in the Willamette Valley, I've come to believe that we "white folks" don't fully appreciate the value of older, mature forests for the health and wellbeing of society and don't fully appreciate the wisdom the Native Americans have to offer to the long-term health of the forests.

Given the current political climate and the rapidly changing natural climate, I ask the Forest Service to consider both the well-studied ecology and the knowledge Native Americans in the Forest Service plans for the future of the Northwest Forest Plan.

Given that the older trees in the remaining forests, especially the Douglas-firs, western hemlock and western redcedars are some of the oldest and most ecologically-valuable "plants" on the planet, it will be a shame for the Forest Service to allow any more of these plants to be cut for any purpose. Some of these trees may be close to 1000 years old. We humans won't be around in another 1000 years. We deserve to save a few of them for the generations of humans that will come along after us.

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