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Comments: Over the past 60 years I have witnessed the decline of the familiar and dearly loved forests of my childhood that my family routinely visited. Not one bears any sign of peaceful co-existence with human activities. In nearly every place the giant trees that brought peacefulness and delight in my childhood are gone. Nothing left to visit but dense stands of brush. This disrespect for the beauty, vitality and necessity of intact, healthy forests will bring about the decline of our civilization. Not in my lifetime, but likely 4 generations removed.

Our forests are disappearing without us having to lift a finger. We have ecological disasters approaching that could turn them into grasslands. We need protections that address this. Logging destroys the tree canopy provided by intact forests, promoting declined rainfall, hence a decline in habitat for all species that once thrived under prior protected conditions. With global warming decline in rainfall will happen even in intact old growth forests without any logging. Amazingly, the thousands of satellites in orbit right now plus those slated for the future will all eventually fail, fall and burn up in the atmosphere upon re-entry and contribute to forest loss. This month it has been found that the burn products, specifically Aluminum Oxides, are contributing significantly to the further destruction of the ozone layer. In my region, all trees bear marks of stress, even those watered regularly next to homes. Nearly all plants with leaves in this area fold and or twist their leaves in order to avoid direct sunlight midday throughout summer. It is very possible and likely forest health has declined primarily due to ozone depletion and only secondarily to drought and global warming, with beetle infestation a distant third.

The future of our forests is very clear. They will become forgotten memory, just as all the forests that made the ships that sailed the seas. Ever look at pictures of Afghanistan? We could have moonscape here too. Just keep up the current accomodation to predatory capitalism.