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Organization: City of Yachats

Title: Mayor

Comments: As Mayor of the City of Yachats, I cannot emphasize enough how important it is to protect portions of the Siuslaw National Forest that comprise the watershed of our municipal water system. Two creeks, Reedy and Salmon, provide all the water for our citizens and the tens of thousands of visitors our city welcomes annually.

We and our neighboring cities have seen, that when foresters harvest trees in municipal watersheds, the water supply suffers. The unharvested Siuslaw municipal watershed area increases water storage and minimizes evaporation. This forest provides us with adequate water deep into the summer when demand is greatest.

Harvesting in municipal watersheds may benefit a few but potentially bankrupt multiple hotels, motels, restaurants, and gift shops in our city if we have to declare a water emergency due to insufficient flows. Visitors rejected because of a lack of water are unlikely to visit again.

Additionally, the monetary recreational value of the forest around Yachats, including the trail systems associated with Cape Perpetua, is far greater than the harvest value. The monies generated annually by the tens of thousands of visitors dwarfs the once in forty-year harvest value. People visit us to experience the untrampled beauty of the ocean and the forest. This is the lifeblood of our community.

Whichever Alternative the Plan adopts, it must fully protect the forest watersheds providing municipal water.

Larger, older trees provide the most cost-effective way to protect reliable water for our city.

Craig Berdie

Mayor, City of Yachats