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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Kylie Johnson, and I am a senior at Sherwood High School. I served as Oregon's Youth Governor last year, and in my year of service I heard from countless young people. Today, I speak on behalf of them.

On behalf of young Oregonians, who grew up beneath Douglas fir canopies and above cushiony sword ferns, I am terrified of a future where Oregon is stripped of its beauty. I urge the Forest Service to make no amendment to the Northwest Forest Plan, so that my children live to see the magic of old-growth trees and spotted owl hoo's.

The proposed amendments B, C, and D threaten the beauty of Oregon by narrowing the definitions of old-growth trees from 80 years to 120 years, eliminating surveying best practices which protect endangered species, and opening loopholes which would increase logging by two-fold in the PNW. The proposed amendments murder the lush, biodiverse forests that sequester the most carbon of any forests on this planet. The proposed amendments obliterate entire ecosystems which make human life viable on this planet.

Today, you not only make decisions about the lives of current Americans, but you make decisions about the very longevity of our species. Amending the Northwest Forest Plan, whether it be for the sake of profit or job expansion, will disrupt the carbon cycle, intoxicate runoff waters, put thousands of species into extinction by the end of the century, etc-and these inevitable effects of profit-based logging will hang human viability by a string, a string that is about to snap.

As a young Oregonian, I understand the crucial role that timber plays in Oregon's economy, supplying countless jobs for working class Americans and supplies for housing developments, to name a couple. However, it is only a matter of time before we run out of this "renewable resource" which we have depended on for so long. It is only a matter of time before we pay the debts of unsustainable logging, in the form of 'unprecedented' wildfires, droughts, heat waves, and invasive species. It is only a matter of time before unemployment rates and economic growth will seem benign in the face of environmental destruction.

I am fighting for a future where my children can grow up under glistening Douglas fir canopies, over cushiony sword ferns, and beside trees too big to hug by yourself. I ask you to fight for that future with me, so that Oregon's beauty lives long beyond ours.