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First name: Kelsey

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, my name is Kelsey, I've been born and raised in Oregon and I love our forests. It is hard to put into words how much they mean to me, or the feeling I get surrounded by old growth trees, but it is very real and very meaningful to me. I love hiking and backpacking, and I know when I am having a particularly tough time, getting out into the woods shifts my perspective for the better. Forests are proven to help with mental health, this is backed by science. I also feel their importance as carbon storers is so important right now and I'm honestly shocked we are even considering an uptick in logging. Not to mention that old growth is more fire resistant! I remember what 2020 felt like. So much ash falling from the sky. Lives lost. You can't get old growth back in many lifetimes, if ever. I feel like keeping our forests extensive and accessible is one of the great things that makes Oregon Oregon. People come visit to see our amazing forests! I feel like appreciation for the woods is bipartisan, one of the few things that feels that way right now and is desperately needed to find common ground. I would also like to say I strongly support tribal stewardship. I would love to see actions that have both tribal stewardship and protections for our forests and particularly our old growth. Thank you.