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First name: Paul

Last name: Howard

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Northwest Forest Plan

Hi, I'm submitting my comments on behalf of myself and my Wife. As a Veteran of 8 years between the USAF, USAF/AirNG and USN, I served for many reasons and to defend many things for the USA.

I'm 62, my Wife is 57, we both hunt, fish, backpack and hike in various places in Oregon at the Coast, the Coast Range, Cascades, Ochecoos, Blue Mountains, National Grasslands and BLM lands and surrounding states on occasion. A current theme over the past 25+ years is overall slow degradation of forests, grasslands, streams and rivers due to overuse, overgrazing, too much fire-suppression, over-extraction and yes, Global warming. We have also noticed fewer insects, amphibians, reptiles and birds. There have been a few exceptions of recovery and improvement where active rehab has been done.

We are in favor of logging where there has been an over abundance of tree growth due to fire suppression and thinning is beneficial and logging in tree farms growing 2nd and 3rd succession replanted growth (to a point, and that has soil limits), but we are Very Opposed to any more logging of Old Growth and big clearcuts near any water drainages - that is killing off fish by warming the water, allowing way too much sediment to be washed in, and especially clearcutting steep hillsides leads to water degradation very badly.

Also, economically, repeat clearcutting depletes soils just like an over-used farm field. As the soils get depleted, the trees and wood they supply become lower density and weaker structurally. This also leads to worse hotter more destructive wildfires and weaker trees more susceptible in disease and insect infestations. Clear cutting too much also leads to closing of mills and towns economies failing when there are too many trees cut.

There is no real "supply problem", the real problem is a "Demand Problem" worldwide and that is basically from 8+Billion Homo Sapiens running amok trying to take way, way too much from the forests, the oceans, the farmlands, the water sources (surface and underground both). We need to protect what we have left, not liquidate our assets.

Please Do Not encourage more roadbuilding, especially in roadless areas. Roads only exacerbate problems.

Please emphasize long term ecosystem conservation and lumber quality assets over short term logging profits for the Northwest Forest Plan.

Thanks.