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Comments: Our old-growth forests are more valuable as intact ecosystems than as timber to panel the offices of the uber-wealthy.

Intact old-growth forests are international tourist destinations that actually make money for the federal government. But they can't do that if you cut them down.

Old-growth forests are God's way of holding mountainsides in place and preventing soil erosion. These forest ecosystems literally filter and protect drinking water for communities in Oregon and Washington State. Mature forests naturally store carbon, survive and thrive despite centuries of wildfires, and constitute humanity's last hope for mitigating climate change. Cutting them down will worsen the biodiversity and climate crises.

I'm old enough to remember the time before clearcutting-when individual trees were selectively logged, and the forest itself was left intact. Now, in this era of liquidation logging, it is paramount that the federal government immediately prioritize the preservation, protection, and expansion of our old-growth forests under the Northwest Forest Plan, and recruit more habitat and forest reserves, to protect streams and enhance carbon storage.

It is imperative that our old-growth forest not be shortsightedly "harvested" by insatiable cut-and-run timber corporations. Here in Oregon, the rapidly diminishing timber industry represents less than 3% of our economy-we've got more nurses now than loggers. It is time to put an end to the preferential treatment extended to timber corporations. You have allowed the, to decimate our woodlands, polluted our rivers, and kill our fish and leave taxpayers to pick up the tab for the cleanup and restoration.

Stop feeding the beast: start protecting what is left of our timberlands.

The timber industry has ably demonstrated that they are irresponsible and anti-human, spraying poisons in our watersheds that are banned in civilized nations, and telling us it's too expensive not to poison our drinking water. If they can't make a profit without poisoning people, maybe they should find a different profession.

Enough is enough. Stand up for old-growth forests now. With each passing decade, the magic and wonder of the Pacific Northwest's old-growth forests becomes increasingly spectacular to be hold, as humanity spends more and more time looking at their so-called smartphones. Our old-growth forests rejuvenate the soul and replenish the milk of human kindness-an increasingly rare commodity today, not unlike the old-growth trees themselves. In the name of the children and the children yet unborn, please protect this irreplaceable natural resource and preserve it forever.

Don't let them take another ancient tree. Not one.