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Comments: Many of us are extremely concerned about the health and balance of our planet. We need to keep the NW Forest Plan in place and add more regulations to ensure the future for the next generations. This issue is important enough to reach out to everyone in the country, to get their thoughts, and I do not think that this comment period with very little public outreach has done that. The climate is continuing to change, and we are seeing the effects across our nation. What we do to our forests in the Pacific Northwest will affect a much greater area.

Protecting our mature and old growth forests will help with carbon sequestration, protect critical wildlife habitat, keep our fresh water sources intact and help our forests and planet stay cooler and moister. Many studies have shown that the logging and excessive thinning are creating a more hazardous fire prone situation. The research done for decades by scientists that are not paid by the agencies or timber companies, without an agenda and push for more board feet, need to be acknowledged and asked to the table to reevaluate how we manage the forests for all of our sakes, for our survival. I have attached a letter signed by many of these scientists, stating the reasons. This is too important an issue to ignore their findings. See attached video.

One issue that must be evaluated at length concerns our precious fresh water sources. Attached is an article, Freshwater supplies are 'abruptly' depleting across the globe, NASA warns. As the West coast dries out and more areas are facing drought, these riparian areas need more protections, not less. It is our right to have this security and our future depends upon it.

There are many very intricate balances in the forest that are not apparent, some aren't yet even known about. I am attaching articles; one talks about a crucial fungus that grows on the tree bark and has prevented certain spongy moth outbreaks that could devastate entire forests. As the ecosystems become hotter and drier, the fungus declines, and we could have forest die offs. This is just one example of what will happen if essential balances are ignored. Without adequate moisture, most life suffers. Much research and thought needs to go into this. Why wouldn't we take extra measures to ensure that this does not happen. So many of us are trying to warn you about this. Please do not put profits above the health of our important natural systems.

Researchers are regularly finding out more about how natural elements and systems can contribute to more a sustainable ecology. In intensive research, mycelium is showing exciting potential in several energy applications. When transformed into carbon, mycelium from certain mushroom species demonstrates higher electrical conductivity and storage capacity than other bio-based carbons. This makes mycelium a candidate for greener supercapacitors. See attachment. This should be given a chance. Deforestation and compromising the forests compromises our abilities to discover and incorporate better ways to achieve goals and maintain a healthy environment.

Other countries are trying to bring back their natural forests as they have now found that the diversity of species and dense canopies don't allow the sun to dry out the forest floor and are bringing back the streams and more balanced animal populations. See attached video.

We are all beginning to understand how important the older mature forests are for storing carbon.

Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are surging "faster than ever" to beyond anything humans ever experienced, officials say. See attachment. If larger old growth has the greatest ability to store carbon and convert carbon dioxide into oxygen, shouldn't we make it a priority to protect it?

Taking away the protections in place is short sighted and dangerous to us all for so many reasons. Let us take the time and look at all of the research to make sure we do not do irreparable damage.

Forest bathing is an old Japanese tradition of neutralizing and healing the body to bring it back into balance. Many are now just becoming aware of how important this is for human beings to experience nature for their physical, mental and spiritual health. The same peace cannot be achieved in a distressed forest. Not only is it important for humans but for all creatures in the forest. So many species are threatened. We must protect their right to exist in peace as well.

There is only about 4% of intact old growth left in the US. Why would we need to go into these areas when the

agencies have touted that forests are a renewable resource. Many agree that there are overgrown forests and plantations that need to be thinned. Why don't we prioritize that for wildfire safety? Are we naive to think that the goal is safer forests, abundant fresh water and a healthy balanced ecosystem as opposed to more profits? This kind of thinking is on its way out. Please listen to all of the people trying to warn you. We don't have any more time to make bad decisions about our forests. It can't be about providing jobs and money anymore. Jobs and money can be found elsewhere. Healthy mature forests cannot and need to remain intact.

My files are not attaching. Here are the links--

This video the 14:45 mark talks about what they are doing in areas of Europe to restore their forests to make them less fire prone and restoring streams. They are planting the original diverse forests species and creating dense canopies to keep the sun from drying out the ground. We should learn from them. I recommend taking the time to watch the video. Cutting edge ideas from experts that have their nations best interest at heart-for health, safety and sustainability. This is so important that we need to pay attention to what more progressive countries are implementing after research and experience.

Wildfires - How can forests be saved in the climate crisis? | DW Documentary

<https://youtu.be/HRR00xTQ24Q>

Debunking Wildfire Myths with Dr Chad Hanson of JMP in association with The Dogwood Alliance

<https://youtu.be/UEcaZM6zINl>

Forest Apocalypse: A Tiny Fungus May Be the Only Thing Stopping Total Collapse on Earth

<https://www.businesstoday.in/visualstories/news/forest-apocalypse-a-tiny-fungus-may-be-the-only-thing-stopping-total-collapse-on-earth-213902-04-03-2025>

The US Forest Service is Cutting Down More Trees, Despite Their Ability to Hold Carbon

<https://lailluminator.com/2025/03/07/trees-carbon/>

Freshwater supplies are 'abruptly' depleting across the globe, NASA warns

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/weather/topstories/freshwater-supplies-are-abruptly-depleting-across-the-globe-nasa-warns/ar-AA1urKEi?ocid=socialshare&pc=HCTS&cvid=5ec6e3711afc47b2b458bb15b6332b34&ei=34>

Scientists Say the EPA Just Needs to Look Around the World to See the Growing Dangers of Climate Change

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/science/scientists-say-epa-just-needs-to-look-around-the-world-to-see-the-growing-dangers-of-climate-change>

Natural forest regrowth can be more effective than planting trees, study says

https://www.msn.com/en-us/weather/topstories/natural-forest-regrowth-can-be-more-effective-than-planting-trees-study-says/ar-BB1qHMQ2?ocid=wn_startbrowsing&cvid=8029be1415844022a3aa41f015ee51b5&ei=17

What We Can Learn from the World's Most Eco-Friendly Countries

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/lifestyle/travel/what-we-can-learn-from-the-world-s-most-eco-friendly-countries/ar-BB1IHu11?ocid=socialshare&pc=HCTS&cvid=cc9a7d7011c4427996bc5cf8f87f5eba&ei=71>

Natural forest regrowth can be more effective than planting trees, study says

https://www.msn.com/en-us/weather/topstories/natural-forest-regrowth-can-be-more-effective-than-planting-trees-study-says/ar-BB1qHMQ2?ocid=wn_startbrowsing&cvid=8029be1415844022a3aa41f015ee51b5&ei=17

BB1qHMQ2?ocid=wn_startbrowsing&pc=HCTS&cvid=8029be1415844022a3aa41f015ee51b5&ei=17

Bad management has turned forests into firebombs. Bring back the indigenous ways.

<https://calgaryherald.com/opinion/columnists/braid-bad-management-has-turned-forests-into-firebombs-bring-back-the-indigenous-ways>

215 million hectares of forest-an area bigger than Mexico-could grow back by itself, if we can just leave it alone
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/215-million-hectares-of-forest-an-area-bigger-than-mexico-could-grow-back-by-itself-if-we-can-just-leave-it-alone/ar-AA1tr75c?ocid=socialshare&pc=HCTS&cvid=a947c1c739fa4b5d9401a49df6bb5d73&ei=203>

Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are surging "faster than ever" to beyond anything humans ever experienced, officials say

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/carbon-dioxide-levels-surging-faster-than-ever-noaa-scientists/>

Scientists explore mushrooms as potential solution for problems with global energy storage applications - here's how it could revolutionize clean energy

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/scientists-explore-mushrooms-as-potential-solution-for-problems-with-global-energy-storage-applications-here-s-how-it-could-revolutionize-clean-energy/ar-BB1n6nuL?ocid=socialshare&pc=HCTS&cvid=abab48fc08b4498f8d8fbfcfdab2a080&ei=14>

Forests play a crucial role in clean drinking water

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/forests-play-a-crucial-role-in-clean-drinking-water/ar-AA1pizqj?ocid=msedgntp&pc=HCTS&cvid=c22c4324d90b41cfb9f898ca3cf4065a&ei=28>