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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Max Stratton, I am passionate about the subject of conservation in our country and have long admired Mt. Hood for it's crucial role in fostering healthy Eco-systems in the Pacific Northwest as well as providing a natural safe haven for several species which have been or otherwise would be endangered by any kind of large-scale destruction of its bio-diversity.

It is my belief, based on my own research and the expert knowledge of field scientists and environmentalists, that the Anvil Vegetation Management Project is falsely (and illegally) utilizing the concept of forest management for something more nefarious and destructive: commercial logging. The very industry that kick-started and confirmed the importance of our nation's conservation movement to begin with, and one that still ranks as a leading contributor of carbon emissions worldwide.

Mt. Hood has long-served as a personally-relevant location for me, having been told of its many wonders by my father who first visited as a boy over 60 years ago and returned many times over the course of his adult life, never failing to find amazement with every trip. It's old growth forest ranges are a genuine wonder of the world and we are lucky to have them in our presence. It is particularly concerning, then, that commercial logging interests under the dubious guise of "Emergency Actions" are now threatening that very wonder for their own gain.

While I am not an Oregonian by birth, I feel that everyone in this country and abroad has the right to enjoy and protect these lands from corporate interests that serve only a few among so many. We have valuable knowledge and advice from numerous ecologists, conservationists, and concerned citizens near and far that such destructive, short-sighted 'projects' that lack transparency or genuine scientific input will ultimately work against the greater good in both the natural and developed world alike.

Though forest management can indeed be an effective and important process to preserve both human and natural health and safety, under the current reports released by the Forest Service regarding the amount and area of land in question, I do not believe them to be accurate or necessary of such a response at this time.

On a planet with so many of its natural wonders at risk, we must realize the hidden dangers of such a project and halt it immediately and permanently. I do not wish to see our country's natural world suffer any more at the hands of human greed disguised as "management". Instead, with a little collective foresight and factual research, we can realize a better way forward together, working in harmony with these beautiful lands and therefore benefiting a lot more from their preservation than their destruction.

It is imperative for the Forest Service to maintain a more transparent research process going forward and utilize the collaborative proficiency of independent ecologists, botanists, wildlife conservationists, and Indigenous voices to better understand and protect the natural world around us.

Respectfully,
Max Stratton