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To whom it may concern:

I'm writing in regard to the Western Oregon Plan Revision.

I am very concerned about the long term health of the forests of Oregon. First and foremost we need clean and plentiful drinking water, clean air, intact ecosystems where all life forms can thrive and wood products to support the economy.

To increase the cutting of old growth forests in Oregon is not a long term, ecologically based sustainable option!

Let's keep out very limited stands of old growth forests / living and functioning ecosystems. We can log a small percent of the trees for specialty lumber and wood products that are all used in Oregon to create finished products that we market to the world for a premium price.

Yes, let us proceed wisely and manage our forests for long term ecological health. Monocrop tree plantations of even age is not a healthy ecosystem.

Please, no more clear cutting and toxic chemical sprays. There are viable options.

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Our old growth forests are some of the last old growth temperate forests remaining in the world. Let's not be delusional and waste what is left. We have a great responsibility to future generations to pass along healthy ecosystems.

In the spirit of the forests and a healthy society.

Howard A. Houseknecht

P.S.

I've lived in Oregon for thirty one years. worked with the Forest Service and planted approximately 20,000 trees and climbed trees for cone collection for eight years; providing millions of seeds for future trees.

I've seen the vast destruction throughout the Pacific Northwest's forests.

It is time for a new course - ecology based management - of course the forests of the world have done quite well without humans!!! So, may we proceed with caution.

Thanks -