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Right now Japanese whalers are in the processes of harvesting 1000 whales in the south Atlantic. The meandering Paraguay-Parana River that sustains South America's Pantanal, the world's largest and most biodiverse wetland, is being dredged and chanalized to provide access to soybean plantations in the La Plata Basin in southern Brazil, courtesy of Archer Daniels Midland and Cargill. And the Boreal forests of Canada, breeding ground for more than 100 bird species, are being harvested at a rate of 2.5 million acres per year for paper production. Each of these processes and hundreds more like them are being carried out in the name of economic development, a good thing in essence, however, without a sense of perspective we all will lose big time.

On the first page of Garry Meffe's *Principles of Conservation Biology* it says that "Biological diversity, the grand result of evolutionary processes and events tracing back several billion years is itself at stake and rapidly declining". On that note I'll make my point. Oregon Heritage Forests has asked citizens to write, in defense of some truly magnificent national treasures, some of the remaining stands of virgin timber on BLM holdings. I am sure you are aware of the details of the Western Oregon Plan Revision. The plan as it stands is not good, visionary, or inclusive of any views but a select special interest. As such, it is divisive and will not strengthen the nation or lead to a long-term wood resource acquisition solution. These last remaining stands are treasures and we should think carefully before we sacrifice them. I remember reading in *Cadillac Desert* that the head of the Corps of Engineers was pushing for damning the Grand Canyon on the grounds that the economic benefit for the Hydro Electric power it would generate would be in the nations best interest. Thank God Americans objected. Like wise I'm sure glad there is a Yosemite Valley and groves of Giant Sequoias, all thanks to John Muir.

But if these tracks are harvested or not the question remains, business as usual or a fundamental change? Michael Novacek's *Terra*, Fred Pearce's *When the Rivers Run Dry*, and Jared Diamond's *Collapse*, elucidate what business as usual will lead us to. McDonough's *Cradle to Cradle*, Peter Barnes' *Capitalism 3.0*, and Paul Hawken's *Natural Capitalism* offer ideas for a brighter future. Thankyou.

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