
From: Ken Hall [mailto:ken.hall@oregonstate.edu]
Sent: Monday, January 07, 2008 5:51 PM
To: BIRCH Kevin R
Subject: Public comment on Federal Forestlands

January 7, 2008

Federal Forestlands Advisory Committee
Resource Planning Program
Oregon Department of Forestry
2600 State Street
Salem, OR 97306

Dear Chairman Hobbs and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed loosening of logging restrictions that are currently in place on federal old-growth forestlands in Oregon.

I am alarmed to hear that there is an effort to open up the precious little that remains of old growth forest under protected status. I find it incredible that there is an attempt to reduce the streamside buffer protections currently in place, even as the scientific data shows the importance of habitat protection for salmon populations struggling to recover. The same can be said for many other species on the threatened or endangered list, and the biodiversity argument should speak for itself.

As you are undoubtedly aware of the challenges we face in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, I will not belabor the point that preserving old growth makes more sense than logging it, and I trust that you are not buying the false argument that replanting trees somehow increases the carbon sequestration value of a forest.

As a recreational user of forests and one who also appreciates the unquantifiable (in economic terms) value of these lands, I urge you to be considering options for EXPANDING the restrictions on logging on our federal forest lands so that future generations may one day see the benefits of a more conservation-minded forest management policy.

Sincerely,

Ken Hall
Depoe Bay, OR