

After 40 years of living and working in the desert on the dry side of the State of Washington we were able to retire to the Oregon Coast in 1999. I first came through Clatsop County in 1947 as a youngster and do remember the scars from the burns of the 30's and 40's.

We feel that the State forested lands of this county and others are not being managed with appropriate long-term views of the health of the forests, the wildlife, and the citizens. We seemingly have taken a narrow and shallow view of the value of the forests and have overcut our way into a box.

We need to have a long-term conservation plan for the forests to, down the road, arrive at a situation where sustainable cutting practices will not only provide adequate logs for the mills and create and sustain healthy forests, not tree farms. It not only can be done - it has been done where citizens decided to truly look out for the common good.

We need to develop a sound, permanent funding source for ODF so that their well-being is not in direct proportion to the number of logs being harvested.

We have been living with climate change for many years but, generally speaking, have put our collective heads in the sand and hope that the effects of warming will just somehow go away without our having to bite the bullet. Not so. Healthy forests are one of the great places for storage of carbon and that alone is enough of a reason for some serious consideration by the Board of Forestry.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened
Dr Seuss