

Dear Oregon Board of Forestry,

It is unbelievable -- 70% of Oregon forests are owned by huge multi-national corporations -- the rich shareholders elsewhere are becoming richer while Oregon's forests, wildlife, streams are ruined. Our local drinking water is becoming polluted, landslides are more frequent and natural habitat for forest creatures is ravaged.

The clear cuts that we see in the forests do not contribute to county or state expenses because of the elimination of local taxes on the timber industry, through the power of the multi-nationals in Salem. As a result, there is now a financial crisis in the Oregon Department of Forestry and in the counties.

The Oregon Forest Practices Act is the weakest of any Western state and makes Oregon an easy target for clear-cut logging. Now the timber industry is pressuring Oregon to adopt the philosophy of the multi-national corporations: to see the value of all Oregon forests in terms of IMMEDIATE REVENUE and to INCREASE the amount of clear cutting. Aerial chemical spraying and short-term rotation are included in the demands of the timber industry to be increased.

Please consider the well-being of the citizens of Oregon. We ask that you create restrictions similar to California's, Washington's and Idaho's so that the timber corporations don't destroy our beautiful Oregon Forests!

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