

Dear Board of Forestry,

I have been reading John Muir's book, "The American Wilderness". In the late 19th Century, he was passionately advocating for the protection of our forests against short term economic interests.

I highly recommend that you read what he has to say about the value of keeping our forests healthy and protecting the fraction of old growth forests that remain in our Pacific Coast forest and watershed.

Also, please review the DEQ report regarding the Oregon Coastal Drinking Water Protection Planning done in July 2015 and then not published due to pressure from logging interests.

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3251066-CoastDWPP-DraftFinal-July2015-v3.html#document/p1>

And so here we are, over a century since John Muir's advocacy still struggling to maintain a seriously diminished (since his time) healthy forest and environment.

The Board of Forestry is in a unique position to exercise an overview of forest management for the long run, and for all of the inhabitants who live in the forests, and are affected by them, which is to say, all of us.

I want to give you a heads up regarding the basic environmental quality of life here at the coast.

Logging interests, both public and private, threaten the quality of water as well as the health of our coastal estuaries, rivers, and the protection of the forests which maintain the health of our air and water. This month, for example, private logging companies have clear cut areas next to our water supply and plan to spray toxic chemicals without any notice to the communities that will be directly affected by it.

We ask that you work with us to take a fresh look at the logging subsidies that are granted to both public and private companies that put our communities at risk for the sake of short term financial gain.

There has got to be a mandate for the management of our forests and waterways that takes into account the long term legacy we leave to future generations.

Please representatives turn your attention not only to economic development , but more importantly to the preservation of current and future forests here that can sustain future generations of not only humans, but all life that makes this coastal community home.

I am counting on you to look to the long run and work to protect our forests and environment. The time is now.

Thank you in advance for representing our concerns here,
Susan C Walsh
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