

NO on SB 578

I have been in the mushroom business since 1984 it was a good business. Then in the early 90s the state passed a law to control yew wood and tagged mushrooms on to it with little or no input from people in the business. Well the volume of mushrooms was cut by more than half because the timber companies did not want to deal with the pickers or the liability of permits so they said no permits. Now you want to make it even harder for the pickers and buyers. There are laws on the books now they are not enforced and you want more why ?

All the picking in the world don't do the damage one day of logging does. The timber companies lockup public land so we cant get to it and then get upset when people pick on there land. We already need permits from the feds, state, private ,and now a license from you, give me a brake.

What you are doing here is wrong you should be helping the small guys not the big timber companies. You should be passing laws like no one can block accesses to public land ever. In the early 90s you could drive in the hills for days and never see a gate now you cant drive 5 miles and not see one and half the land behind those locked gates is public land. Why can private companys control so much public land. I thought BLM belonged to the people.

Stop the timber companies or as the oregon fish and wildlife calls them industrial land owners ,from spraying the herbicide they are using. This stuff is god awful, it kills everything but fir trees and sometimes even them, while elk and deer are starving to death in the middle of clear cuts were most there food use to be. There is no biodiversity any more, and I don't believe mushrooms will ever grow where this spray has been used .The timber companies are the bad guys here not pickers and buyers.

These are people trying to feed there family's, They are not making a lot of money if they make minimum wage they are doing good. Any one of them would trade what they make for what you make.

How many of you know what the laws are now?

There are laws on the books enforce them don't make more. Or even better yet take the laws on mushrooms off the books do something good for a change. Keep your noses out of our business a state worker don't know how to do our business or take care of the forest better than we do. We have been doing it for 30 years or more.

I have never lost a mushroom bed to over picking only to logging.

What you should be doing is making the timber companies open any roads to public land year round. Or better yet open their land year round to hunting, fishing, trapping and mushroom picking or lose their timber deferrals. My property taxes are higher to offset their deferrals so I might as well get something from it.

Thank You
Ralph Siegfried