

I have lived on the North Oregon Coast for almost 28 years and over those years have watched the decimation of the local watersheds and forests along the Nehalem River and farther into the Coast Range. For many of those years I have worked as a volunteer with the Watershed Council and as a member of the local land trust. Efforts at preservation and restoration in the face of a tidal wave of insane logging practices makes us feel like we are barely treading water. Why doesn't the Oregon Board of Forestry promote more enlightened policies regarding forests? The science is really out there for those willing to look. The Forest Practices should be promoting longer rotations to create larger trees and more intact forests. Lumber from Oregon forests should be used in Oregon as value-added products before being shipped anywhere out of the country. Forest practices should require much wider buffers along streams. Huge clearcuts should be outlawed along with the failure to protect steep slopes. The indiscriminate use of poisons with minimal consideration of people and drinking water will someday be looked upon with horror and be regarded as what it is -- crazy. Who thinks that that is right? Who thinks that that is necessary? Only those who are interested nothing but the bottom line \$\$.

Oregon should be moving toward the preservation of its forests by encouraging cap and trade and carbon sequestration in some form. That is also being done successfully elsewhere, generating income, lowering CO2 emissions and preserving the wonders of forests for generations to come. My dream is that someday, before it is too late, those with the power to make the decisions will wake up and see the value of a forest for the FOREST'S SAKE.

or

We can continue to denude, erode and poison the slopes, send the logs to China and make the CEO's of the hedge funds even richer than they are now ... kinda like being a colony producing raw materials for some far off empire.

I appreciate any help you can offer.

Regards,  
Barbara Rippey