

Oppose HB 2659

Who came up with the fictitious terms “natural forest,” “non-forested,” and “semi natural forest?” Forests everywhere in the world have experienced the hand of man or Mother Nature at her most destructive. Arson and escaped fire, lightning strikes, hurricanes, tornados, wind, ice, hail, snow. When settlers first arrived in Oregon, native Americans were burning meadows to encourage grass to attract deer. What about birchbark and cedar canoes, longhouses, and rainwear? Those sandals found in a Central Oregon cave and dating back 10,000 years were made of sagebrush bark. Our earliest residents were using native materials and manipulating the landscape to meet their needs.

There is no forest that has not been modified by humans, now or ever.

Oregon is a state that struggles to cover expenditures of needed and desired services. To remove a source of income is going in the opposite direction. One has to wonder at the educational level of the persons who designed this bill. I'd like them to explain how this bill is a good thing for Oregon.

Clearly the creators of this bill do not own forests. They want everyone to sit in a cubicle and peck away on a keyboard while looking at forested hills and/or breathing smoke when they burn. Because unmanaged forests will eventually burn—as evidenced by the state of the largely unmanaged Federal forests. 85% of all fires are in Federal forests.

I suggest taking some classes in science and economics.

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