

Dear Chairman Witt and members of the Committee. My name is Scott Russell and our tree farm is located in Columbia and Washington County. First I have to comment on the infinite patience of the Chair Witt and committee members to adapt and make this new way of testimony function. Good Show!!

Please do not destroy OFRI. What is needed is more OFRI. It is obvious to those who grow timber that the folks calling for the elimination of OFRI, do not know how Douglas Fir trees grow. Even before humans entered the landscape, trees grew after disturbance by fire which cleared the forest of trees. The trees grew back in large areas cleared by the huge fires. Clear-cut logging imitates this process.

Destroying OFRI is not the answer to logging in watershed areas. Communities need to own and manage the watersheds which supply their water. Perhaps Federal moneys could assist with the purchase of these lands. But even these forests need management. Left untouched, will relegate the water shed to the natural cycle which will burn hot and not provide clear water for many years.

I urge the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources kill this misguided HB 2357
Thank you.