

Submitter: Trace Fleeman Garcia

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Measure: SB1546

Forests are not laboratories, nor should they be converted to such. The notion of a "research forest" is damnable and abhorrent, and represents nothing more than the encroachment of the industrial-scientific junta into the open, wild, and uncultivated (as God intended) spaces. Further, it is an intensification of the logging industry's grip on so-called "public lands," which already log within the Elliott State Forest as it is. Whether zoned for "research" or for "public enjoyment," any federal or even state control over the forest represents a continuation of the violent project of settlement. Indigenous people safeguard 80% of the Earth's biodiversity, and thus, I am of the firm opinion that the forest should be returned to the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, as it is their traditional, sovereign, and unceded territory. Western "research" can only synthesize a sterile form of what indigenous people already know -- traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) is central not only to the health of the forest but to the entangled web of relations, the very bonds which constitute it.

Trace Fleeman y Garcia

Oregon Institute for Creative Research