

To those who are ready to improve our timber management system in the state of Oregon:

Rural counties need revenue from timber harvest as they had in the past (60%).... monies which come from timber cuts should benefit local counties!!! (not the owner corporations of Wall Street!!) These taxes returned to communities can really help local jurisdictions in the way of fire preparedness, other job creation, improving public facilities, improving watersheds--LOCAL benefits, not a benefit to investors around the world....

As well, unfortunately watersheds in local counties in Oregon are being taken advantage of by timber companies----erosion from steep slope logging is going unchecked in our state which has harmed drinking water systems....DEQ should have the power to enforce and improve regulations in logging to protect drinking water.... our citizens have not been protected from unnecessary logging roads and from erosion and from pesticide runoff.....

Our forests are needed by US, not as crops to be harvested for the benefit of large corporations. Leaving forests in place helps with carbon maintenance and climate change. The forest practices in Oregon have become too lax. Rethinking all of this has become necessary.

Please improve HB 2379 and vote FOR HB 2379elimination of the Oregon Forest Resources Institute and Oregon Forest Resources Institute Fund. Our forests are fast disappearing and rather than "manage" them, we need more in the way of preservation which is determined by the needs of our citizens, not by the needs of timber companies, etc (big business or even loggers....). (I don't know what happened to the protections we used to have for the spotted owl, but even this is an issue!!!!)

Thank you for your time and please help us!!!!

Catherine M.Ellison (former forest fire lookout)