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On Behalf Of:
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Measure, Appointment or HB4105
Topic:

Clearcutting is an industrial superfood. It is fast, safe and cheap. It is a process for printing money. It is the perfect process for impatience in immediate maximization of extraction. Who could say no to such a logic?

Perhaps anyone interested in the continuance of abundant life and awareness that water is life. Or one who wants to avert the disaster of raging forest fires and the increasing cycles of fire, drought and flood that clearcutting creates. That includes me, for my body is made of water, just like the trees and the salmon and all of life. Trees hold water on the land.

We cut the forests for wood, but as a woodworker the quality now produced is low indeed. The wide rings of fast growing wood are so unstable that they cannot grow an 80 inch two by six board free of knots suitable for making a door style. They must be ground up and glued together again. And new housing takes so many nails to keep them together that they cannot be remodeled. Why? The young wood is unstable.

Soil is the engine of the forest, and the forest makes the soil, which is a slow process involving rot, dead tree bodies, water and yes, fire in moderation. The Indians knew that and maintained the forests with fire, and that is why we called this place the New World, not because it was new, but because it was just kept like new. The indigenous people understood the way nature worked, as opposed to cutting for the maximum momentary extraction rate.

If anybody can speak on this, it might be me. My nursery school teacher's husband was Ernie Baxter, a fire boss and family friend. The father of one of my best friends in high school was the head forester for Southern Pacific RR forests that managed the logging of 7 thousand square miles of timber during the building boom after WWII. And no. Raging 200 mile crowning forest fires were not the result of his work... his plan was 200 year rotations with multi tiered, multi species, multi-use forests. He kept stands of old timber to snuff fires should they start. He would run fires into "the timber" to snuff them, and increase their value. He produced fine lumber and improved the soil, the engine of the forest which creates that very soil itself, naturally. And no, he was not cut and run, he worked against clearcutting and wrote the book: The Forest and the Trees. Trees, big trees hold water on the land. Any carpenter who totes wood can tell you trees are water tanks, holding water in stem, roots and soil. Baby trees, not so much as adolescent trees are just a giant

thirst.

The head forester for SP, Gordon Robinson had a forestry teacher Frederick Baker who went to the Gobi Desert to find where it had once been a forest. Inside a walled city there, he found deep forest soil. Today we can collect Gobi dust on this side blown across the Pacific from there. No forest, just dust. Did those Chinese foresters screw up? Just like our clear-cutters today making deserts down the line. One can only imagine their logic.

Wood is good. Grow it as nature intended and the indigenous people understood; like a garden, not a crop. It will feed us all and not burn in a roaring rage. The soot from clearcut plantation forest fires settles on glaciers and they melt quick, resulting in famine from the seasons going off kilter. If one cannot grasp that the soil is the engine of the forest, then get out of the business. Simple as that. Otherwise we just watch deserts expand.