



Our mission is to connect people to the natural world and cultivate a community of environmental stewards working together to build a greener and healthier planet through advocacy, action, and education.

July 28, 2022

Via Regular U.S. Mail and E-Mail ((bear1@aol.com))

Honorable Congressman Peter Defazio
405 East 8th Ave. #2030
Eugene, OR 97401

Re: What is Your Position on Protecting Large Trees in Oregon during a Climate Emergency?

Dear Congressman Defazio:

On August 1st, the Worthy Garden Club will be hosting a symposium on the science, ethics, and integrity of the West Bend Project and the need to protect large trees. We will feature several experts, such as Dr. Beverly Law and Dr. Dominick DellaSala. We have also invited leaders from the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Deschutes Forest Collaborative.

I would like to report on the response of you, and other members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation, to the effort to restore the East Side Screens, the rule that the former president abolished on his way out the door. As you know, the rule protected mature trees greater than 21" DBH from logging.

Can you please answer the following questions on a fast-track basis?

1. Do you agree that protecting mature and old-growth trees during a climate emergency is critical for absorbing and storing atmospheric carbon, filtering water, providing habitat for wildlife, reducing the risk of wildfires, maintaining soil stability, and cooling our planet?
2. During a climate emergency, do you support reviving regulations that protect large mature trees greater than 21" DBH in Eastern and Central Oregon on public lands?
3. Do you support the decision by the USFS to open more than 11,000 square miles of public lands in Eastern and Central Oregon to logging?
4. Do you support an effort to hold public hearings on the issue of how to best implement durable protections for the remaining mature and old-growth ecosystems on public lands in Central and Eastern Oregon?

We have written you several letters on this topic. (See <https://www.worthygardenclub.com/lorax>) We have attempted to work with your staff. We have met with members of the USFS and the collaborative. Unfortunately, we have not received a response to our concerns.

Protect Oregon's Large Trees

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Your constituents deserve to know your comprehensive and detailed position on this critical topic. Please respond to the above questions at your earliest convenience so we may present the same at the forest symposium on August 1st.

Sincerely,

Roger Worthington
President
Worthy Garden Club

cc: The Oregon Congressional Delegation

