

Jamie McLeod-Skinner
Eastside Screens Letter
July 28, 2022

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?**
 - a. Yes.

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?**
 - Yes. While I appreciate the science-based approach and the request for flexibility on making a professional determination proposed by the Forest Service – and think it is a better long term solution – we have seen some poor decisions made in recent years that have undermined public confidence in that decision-making. Sticking with the clear 21-inch Rule during the near future provides room for accountability to stakeholders and offers an opportunity for the agency to rebuild that confidence.
 - a. I also think there should be a consideration process to waive the Rule in specific circumstances, if specific criteria is met and there is an open and advertised public review process to consider the agency request *prior* to a tree being cut.

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?**
 - No, not additional lands simply for logging. We do need to engage in wildfire safety and forest protection practices that will protect our communities and engage best practices in the long-term management of our forests – but those are designed, discussed, and publicly reviewed plans, not simply logging contracts. While some of our public trees are harvested, we need to maintain our heritage trees/forests and ensure sustainable practices in the sections of our forests earmarked for harvest. Otherwise, it's a return to the conflicts of the 1980s.

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?**
 - Absolutely. Public engagement and input is an important part of our system of government, especially when the proposed action(s) may have an impact on stakeholders and the public at large. As a member of Congress, environmental stewardship and oversight of sustainable harvesting of our natural resources will be a priority for me. That's why, when asked by Democrat leaders who make committee assignments, I have expressed my interest in serving on the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Energy and Commerce Committees, all of which play a role in how our forests protect and serve Oregonians.

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Oregon's 5th Congressional District
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