



CITY OF BEND

Holly Jewkes, Forest Supervisor
Deschutes National Forest
Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District
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Bend, OR 97701

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MAYOR PRO TEM
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Megan Perkins
Rita Schenkelberg
Barb Campbell

CITY MANAGER
Eric King

Dear Forest Supervisor Jewkes,

As the immediate neighbor of the City of Bend, the Deschutes National Forest is intricately linked to so many aspects of our residents' lives, providing a wide range of public values including clean air and water, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, recreation opportunities and enhanced quality of life.

Large, older trees in the Deschutes National Forest provide a disproportionate share of these public benefits, especially in their ability to capture and store carbon. While big trees larger than 21" in diameter make up only 3% of our forests, [they hold 42% of the forest's carbon](#). Ponderosa pine trees are capable of storing vast amounts of carbon for up to 800 years. And, as a tree grows, it stores exponentially more carbon.

For this reason, we respectfully urge the Deschutes National Forest to adopt a formal policy against cutting ponderosa pine trees over 21 inches in diameter at chest height and fir or other large trees over 24 inches in diameter. Leaving big trees standing will benefit Bend, and the entire planet, for years to come as these rare older trees continue to mature, increasing their capacity to capture and store carbon emissions, cleaning our air and reducing global climate change.

The City of Bend is committed to mitigating the impacts of climate change and has prioritized preserving Bend's natural environment as part of the current City Council goals. The Council workplan includes a strategy to preserve Bend's natural environment, including clean air and water, wildlife and trees, through partnerships and policy. As part of this, the City will be updating the Bend Development Code and other relevant standards to protect large trees within the City. The City is also implementing the Bend Community Climate Action Plan

to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions within City limits, and large trees in the region play a critical role in sequestering local carbon emissions.

Council acknowledges and appreciates the work of the Deschutes Forest Collaborative Project, which has spent years making thoughtful recommendations to the Forest Service and working collaboratively to mitigate wildfire risks for the City of Bend and other communities in Central Oregon. We understand that this work requires trade-offs; given the urgency of taking action to prevent catastrophic global climate change, we ask that the carbon sequestration potential of big trees take precedence over other factors that would lead to them being removed.

The large diameter pine trees in the Deschutes National Forest that were recently cut down are simply irreplaceable and their loss will be most deeply felt by future generations, who will not enjoy the many benefits these trees could have provided for centuries to come. Please join us in committing to protecting our biggest, oldest trees for their carbon storage potential, as well as the many other intrinsic and immeasurable benefits they provide to our community.

In partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gena Goodman-Campbell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gena Goodman-Campbell, Mayor Pro Tem
and The Bend City Council