Forest Defense is Climate Defense – Courtney Rae, Bark Defenders of Mt Hood, Assoc Director

Info used by Bark to educate the public

CO2 O.4% of air = C

ecosphere needs C to move with abscundance of C in plants and animals; minimal amount in air

accumulation of C deep within earth – long process

gas (methane) = marine carbons

coal = above ground plants

the rate at which we are extracting deep Carbon (burning of fossil fuels) releases C into atmosphere; deforestation by itself would have increased C in atmosphere due to reduced sequestration; problems (contribution of C in atmosphere) = burning/emissions; deforestation; ocean “issues”

We have deforested 50% of landscape

1950 1/3 of ??

near extinction of beaver = we lost riparian areas

whaling = movement of whales stirs waters; when remove whales, cease to move nutrients and experience decrease of plankton; therefore the decreased capacity of our oceans to sequester C occurred long before burning of fossil fuels

in past: C as high as 2000ppm, but we couldn’t survive. Movement of C into deep earth happened in Carboniferous. Fossil fuels that we burn now were created/moved into deep earth during Carboniferous period. 100s of millions of years ago.

logging releases 2/3 of C attributed to forests; rhetoric “regeneration harvest” = clear cut = taking 85% of trees under the misnomer of “forest health” or “fuels reduction” even though often more fuels left on landscape

impact of road building needed for logging operations = wildlife impact, also erosion and compaction resulting in major impact on water

5% of C emissions from our forests come from wildfire; 85% of C emissions from our forests come from logging; wildfire is not the ultimate problem; deforestation/logging is greater problem. Thinning, logging continues to be the answer to wildfire, when really we should be encouraging metal roofs, safe space

Trump removed the need for climate impact in NEPA; don’t need to analyze impact of deforestation, or prescribed burns, or impact on water

85% of the C from logged products is emitted – only 15% continues to sequester C in the final product. rhetoric that wood products continue to hold the carbon, but so much product is waste; and buildings are not standing for 100s of years

We have reduced the ecosphere’s capacity to sequester carbon by 50%

Timber industry is small portion of GDP (only 2% in OR) – low economic value relative to the devastating impact on climate.

Forest Plan – no mention of climate change, limited consideration of water- drinking, agriculture, recreation. In our GMUG comments include carbon sequestration as the primary goal. increase time between harvests; shift land designation (no logging category)

New document re: impact of logging vs wildlife – get within month from Courtney

Biomass (burning wood products) is NOT renewable energy; wood replaces coal in power plants and replacing natural forests with plantations. Don’t cut the trees and burn them

Katya: chaining – dragging chains to kill Juniper/pinyon and replant with non-native grasses.

See slide to promote management: riparian ecosystems are some of the most C dense ecosystems

NEPA undermining accepting comments until August ? expect an action alert in July from Broads.

Stand 4 Forests

Dogwood alliance, Rachel Webber

Center for Sustainable Economy (Oregon)

“adaptive management” question from Robyn: Agency can do whatever they want; USFS funding largely for timber, so “restoration” still might have to be packaged as logging project. How to work funds? Agencies do this with intent to follow up with X, but really have no intention to do X. Bark has looked at every single management plan – do very different actions for different projects. More specific examples I can cite in my comments and show how they haven’t been effective might be helpful.