

On April 8th 2018, the Register Guard printed an opinion piece from the logging industry making wild claims about the carbon and climate impacts of logging and wood products. That piece can be found here: [Sustainably Managed Forestry is Carbon Neutral](#)

Oregon Wild is encouraging our Wild Ones to respond with letters to the editor, offering fact based analysis of what happens when you clearcut an Oregon Forest.

The R.G. accepts letters that are 200 words or less here: [rgletters@registerguard.com](mailto:rgletters@registerguard.com)

[Click Here](#) for Oregon Wild One's LTE page with more tips.

For this specific project, keep these tips in mind:

- Plan for your opponent's argument, but don't make it for them.
- Keep it simple, and don't use too many numbers or data points.
- Be accurate. Support your letter with facts, statistics, citations or other evidence.

### **Forest Carbon Messaging Points:**

*Pull pieces, facts, or ideas from these statements:*

"Of course those who profit from forest destruction would claim it is good for the planet, but independent research, not funded by the logging industry, consistently shows that logging, especially clearcut logging, is hurting the climate, and endangering Oregon's communities."

"Studies show that logging, especially clearcut logging, is one of Oregon's largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions."

"Up to 85% of the CO<sub>2</sub> stored in a healthy forest is released into the atmosphere during logging and wood-processing. Contrary to industry claims, wood-products used in buildings only sequester a small fragment of what they once stored as forests. Additionally, most wood products have a very limited "shelf-life" compared to the forests they started in, which can store carbon for several hundred years."

"Recent research from OSU documents that *"Pacific temperate forests can store carbon for many hundreds of years, which is much longer than is expected for buildings that are generally assumed to outlive their usefulness or be replaced within several decades"* - confirming that one of the best ways for Oregon to store carbon is to stop clearcutting our forests."

"Contrary to the logging industry's wild claims about forests and carbon, Oregon State University researchers have said that: *"Recent analysis suggests substitution benefits of using wood versus more fossil fuel-intensive materials have been overestimated by at least an order of*

*magnitude*” - But this isn’t news, we all know that the corporations harming our ecosystems are experts at claiming they only want to protect them.”

“Not only is logging bad for our climate, it’s bad for our streams, which is where most Oregonians get our drinking water. Research from Oregon published in 2016 once again proved that clearcutting causes wild swings in stream-flow, scouring and flooding the stream initially, and then reducing summer streamflow by half for decades! In addition to causing headaches for our drinking water systems, this destroys salmon habitat and endangers downstream communities. Other OSU research shows that, on average, 74% of Oregon’s stream network is vulnerable to clearcut logging under Oregon’s outdated logging laws, which allow logging directly over those streams.”

“It’s interesting that the industry would brag about sequestering 169 cars worth of emissions in a year. A 2015 report issued by The Center for a Sustainable Economy and The Geos Institute tells a dramatically different story. According to Dr. Dominick DellaSala of Geos Institute, *“Oregon’s clearcut forestry practices are polluting the climate with the equivalent emissions of over 2 million vehicles or 7 coal-fired power plants making forestry one of the biggest polluters in the State at a time when Oregon is seeking to drastically cut its global warming emissions. It’s time for forestry to be proactive like numerous other businesses in the State in being responsible for a safe climate and ecologically healthy future.”*

**Citations, where you can find more information. These do not need to be included in the body of your letter, but may be useful to provide to the Editor along with your submission:**

[Carbon Research, OSU, 2018](#)

[Stream Flow Research, OSU, 2016](#)

[Forest Carbon Paper, CSE/GEOS, 2015](#)

[Stream Network Protections Research , USFS, 2016](#)