

Schroader, Kathy



From: Orjiako, Oliver
Sent: Monday, March 28, 2016 8 30 AM
To: Albrecht, Gary, Alvarez, Jose, Anderson, Colete, Euler, Gordon, Hermen, Matt, Kamp, Jacqueline, Lebowsky, Laurie, Lumbantobing, Sharon, Orjiako, Oliver, Schroader, Kathy, Wisner, Sonja
Subject: FW Forests, Land-Use & Climate Change, Species Extinction, New CC Chapter in GMP, UGBs, Securing Forests, More Raw Open Land
Attachments: Letter to Politicians, Public re Forest, Open Land, Wildlife Refuge, Species Protection Climate Change & Land-Use 3-27-2016 pdf

FYI and for the record Thanks

From: P Z [mailto:miki_z@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 27, 2016 6:52 PM
To: Orjiako, Oliver
Subject: Forests, Land-Use & Climate Change; Species Extinction; New CC Chapter in GMP; UGBs; Securing Forests, More Raw Open Land

Hi Oliver

Thank you for speaking with me about my concerns about the effects of Forest loss and Land-Use on Climate Change, and the unceasing and unnecessary expansion of Urban Growth Boundaries in Clark County. A chapter in the Growth Management Plan of Washington State is urgently needed, as I wrote to the Growth Management Hearing Board in Olympia and others. I looked at your and other 2 authors' 'Growing Healthier' report from April 2012, which I found very interesting, particularly that the temperatures in Pacific Northwest have already risen by 1.5 degrees F since 1895, and still rising. It is Forests that keep the temperatures cool and the Climate stable, among so many other functions -- and we are senselessly losing them in 2 ways: the irresponsible clearcutting on private, state, and federal Forest Lands all across Washington and Oregon States, but the frightening loss of Forests via development -- needlessly -- even with the population growth problem. This is because we fail to build upwards, where 98 or 99 percent of buildings in Clark County are still 1-2 stories high and with still plenty of vacant lots available, and we are even today building brand new dwellings -- again only 1-2 stories high -- and so this irresponsible development tells me that population growth has become an excuse by this county to cater to developers, with huge shortsightedness for the future -- because of the vast 'clean-industry' and higher quality jobs -- including Biological, Zoological, Botanical, pharmaceutical, herbal, mushroom industry, NASA, etc. -- and more sophisticated industries than developers, loggers, and real estate brokers that will be lost if the remaining Forests and Open Raw Lands are developed over and the clean Air, Water, Rain, and Species are lost in the wayside along with them, and the quality of Life for all. In the process of seeking a bite from an apple, we lose the whole apple. It is precisely these Things that former Republican Oregon Governor Tom McCall spoke about, for Oregon and the U S, a man who had a true vision who understood that Environment must take precedence over jobs and everything else, because without it, there will be no jobs and everything else. We must set our sights higher -- to a broader vision where a healthy Environment is the foundation of our existence. Please accept my letter that I spoke of and submitted to various people and places. Also feel free to share this and my enclosed PDF letter with anyone. I will welcome any thoughts, questions, or suggestions that you or anyone might have.

Best regards,

Paul Zemanek

March 27, 2016

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RE: Clark County and counties of Washington State – irresponsible sprawling development; forever-expanding Urban Growth Boundaries; irresponsible clearcutting of Forests on private and public Lands; failure to establish significant Wildlife Refuges; failure to give permanent protection to Forested Lands and Farm Lands in the counties, URGENT need of Land-Use Reform in 21st century in Washington State to protect remaining Forested areas, Farm Lands and remaining open Countryside from development, for the sake of Climate, Air, Water, Species, and people of this and future generations

To ALL Concerned.

Having worked as a zoologist (University of Washington, Seattle), also as a doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine (Oregon College of Oriental Medicine, Portland), and a caregiver for my brother with leukemia, I have been poignantly aware how inseparable man's health is from the health of the Environment around us and from the Planet as a whole. How often do we hear our doctors say they have no special remedy to offer us, and encourage us to do the Basics – “make sure you get plenty of rest, exercise, nutritious food, plenty of pure drinking Water, and fresh Air”? I am not Chinese, I came from Eastern Europe as a young boy, but I subscribe to the wisdom of the ancient Chinese who viewed the role and obligation of a physician on several levels. the lowest form of healing is to treat the disease, higher form is to treat the person, and at the highest level to treat the society. And these are my worries for the Environmental viability of Clark County, for the state of Washington, for the Pacific Northwest region, for the United States of America, for the North and South American continents, and for the Planet as a whole – which ultimately affect all people We are losing vast tracts of Land to irresponsible development and conversion, we are losing it quickly, and we are losing it unnecessarily – which is a problem prevalent in Clark County, in adjacent counties, and all across the state of Washington. And along with these losses, we are losing precious Forests and Flora and Fauna Species, vital Farmlands, Open Spaces – because they have not been given the permanent protection in this State that they deserve, and that people deserve. And as a consequence of these losses, we are directly and profoundly contributing to Climate Change which includes unstable regional and Global surface temperatures, Extreme Weather (droughts, floods, Landslides, Forest fires, winds, hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.), Species Extinction, ocean-current changes, rising sea level, polluted Air and Water, erosion, silting of rivers, salmonids and other fish die-offs, and so on – all which ultimately make people ill And these in turn cause damages and medical expenditures requiring billions of dollars to fix and treat, but that don't treat the cause Therefore, to prevent further losses and as a treatment measure, there have to be changes made in Land-use practices, including stopping constantly-expanding Urban Growth Boundaries, giving permanent protection to all remaining Forestlands and other Ecosystems, Species Habitats, and Farmlands from development; securing more Wildlife Refuges permanently, securing more vast tracts of Open Raw Land across the state permanently; and stopping the constant conversion of Forestlands and Farmlands amongst themselves, particularly the conversion of Forestlands and Farmlands to development and other uses – while there is still time I have spoken with many people in Vancouver and in Clark County who feel the same way, including people who work in government offices who work with the Land. So I don't stand alone when I say that there has to be permanence given to Land-use if we wish to permanently protect the remaining Environment and impart permanence to our quality of Life

Climate Change is more than just about fossil fuels that we hear from politicians and the media. It is foremost about Forests that nobody talks about and is only rarely mentioned – and yet among many other functions these are the key regulators of CO₂, Global temperature, and Climate – which the local people, the politicians, the developers, the loggers, the realtors and all those who work with the Land and whose decisions profoundly affect the Land, still don't seem to understand; and don't want to understand because it is convenient not to understand. And yet the Climate and their actions on the Land affect them and their families and all people equally. Therefore, regional and Global Climate is damaged today not just from fossil fuels but from deForestation which is the greater threat. And deForestation comes in 2 primary forms: clearcutting on public and private Forest Lands and tree farms, and even greater destruction of converting Forest Lands to other uses, primarily development and farm Lands. DeForestation still occurs not only on public Forestlands – that is, municipal, county, state DNR Lands and federal National Forests – but on privately-owned Forestlands of individuals and timber companies. But even greater destruction to Forests than clearcutting comes from development through urban sprawl because of failure by local, state, and national governments to protect these precious and priceless Lands. Since the 1990s, I have witnessed in my own Clark County in southern Washington State *irresponsible management of population growth, irresponsible development, and irresponsible clearcutting on private and public Lands*: where the so-called '20-year' Urban-Growth Boundaries are expanded every 3 to 10 years (1994-2004-2007-2016), where Raw Land containing Forests, Farmlands and open Green Fields have been grabbed and developed over when the cities have hardly touched the first line of defense against a growing population, which is to build up with high-rise buildings rather than out with 1- or 2-story constructions as is the current practice, and where privately- and publicly-owned Forest Lands look like they have been bombed by a squadron of B-52 planes every 10 years. All across Washington State are sales of 20-acre, 100-acre, or 350-acre Raw Open Lands, many of them filled with trees and sections of Forests. I have spoken to some realtors who tell me they have hundreds such sales going on, and there are dozens of realtors in the state. The consequences of this irresponsibility are serious, they are severe, they are Global, they impact us all, and they are permanent.

If population growth would be managed properly, the Forests and the Countryside and Species would not be senselessly ravaged as they have been. But with irresponsible development, it becomes clear that those entities behind it are using population growth as an excuse to personally profit by it at the expense of the precious Land, and ultimately, the people. The end result of irresponsible development is destruction of Earth – Her Ecosystems, Her Climate, and Her Species.

(And time is come that Thou) destroy them that destroy the Earth
– Revelation 11:18, 24 Elders speaking to the Lord God

Does Life only exist in man? Can man survive without the wholeness of Nature around him? Even if we manage to get a handle on completely shutting off fossil fuel burning, we will still have lost the game if we don't protect the remaining sections of Forests and stands of trees and the Flora and Fauna Species that still remain. And we do this by stopping sprawling development of Forested areas and Farmlands and open Raw Wild Lands which starts by stopping the incessant expansion of Urban Growth Boundaries and development of open Raw Land and Forested areas – as has been going on in Clark County, Washington for the past 4 decades. And we also do it by stopping the current destructive Forest-clearcutting practices on public and private Lands. The Planet has been in Forest-deficit for centuries, and still the deficit continues to grow, which in the last 50 years has culminated unsurprisingly with the Planet showing Her disturbing symptoms that we know as Global Warming, Climate Change, Extreme Weather, and Species Extinction – with or without the skeptics. Trees don't grow everywhere, not even in Washington and Oregon States, where half of these states are shrubby and arid. Therefore, living in still the most richly Forested part of the Continental United States – the Pacific Northwest – that was blessed with the tallest, grandest, and

unprecedented and unrelenting Extreme Weather events including hurricanes, flooding, snowstorms, tornadoes, droughts, Forest fires, and now they hope that they can at least live out their lives in a place that is still relatively undamaged with little thought to future generations. However, the Vancouver-Portland area, the Clark County, and Columbia River Gorge, and Washington State is not the same place today that attracted my family to move here in 1973. It is a place from which many local people have already departed because it is a home they “don’t recognize any more”, with crowding and Farmlands being developed over and open Wildlands disappearing. The only open Spaces in the Vancouver are the sterile lawn landscapes of some churches, golf courses, and cemeteries. As UGBs expand this portends the future.

There is always a price to pay for irresponsibility and/or ignorance. Because Nature has no boundaries, irresponsible development and irresponsible Forestry practices hurts the developer and his family, they hurt the logger and his family, they hurt the politician and his family, they hurt me and my family, and they hurt people far away, including those on islands that have been inundated, by rising sea level who have been forced to flee to other countries, they hurt people and animals in the Arctic, and they are hurting all people and all Species across the Globe.

Let’s face it, Prune Hill is not only an eyesore but an ulcer for the Ecos of Clark County, the state, the Pacific Northwest, as well as the nation and the Planet. There is nothing beautiful about a pile of buildings that replaced a section of a Forest where trees should be standing and doing Good for the Planet and the people but are no longer there. Anyone who devours a Forest like that cannot have any sort of understanding of what Forests are all about, or have a feeling for them or for Nature in general. Because developers act as if Forests and open spaces didn’t matter, one cannot expect restraint from them – that is up to the laws that people – not just 3 or 5 commissioners – enact. Each Forest, each stand of trees down to a single tree represent a section of one of our lungs, and every time you clearcut a stand of trees or an entire Forest you remove a chunk of lung from your body until it grows back. And every time you develop over a Forest you remove this chunk of lung but it never grows back. With each missing piece of lung tissue the body loses a portion of its ability to receive oxygen into the blood and tissues. With each missing piece of Forest the Air loses oxygen and gets more polluted, the Land loses the capacity to clean the Air because it is Forests that produce Rainclouds and Rainwater – as each tree transpires (sweats) Water into the atmosphere that can be seen as mist over Forested areas during daytime. A single mature (200+ year evergreen tree in the PNW transpires an amazing 3000 gallons of Water per day – Source University of Washington College of Forestry Library, Seattle)

This is more pronounced with people who suffer from lung diseases. But in time with this practice we will all suffer from lung diseases and there won’t be any way to reverse it with all Forests destroyed by buildings and roads. When we lose the Forest and the open Countryside, we are losing more than just a pretty sight that brings a sense of tranquility and rest to the soul – which we also desperately need – we weaken the Planet’s functions to maintain a stable Climate and stable Global temperatures that keep Extreme Weather events at bay, to maintain the Species we need for food and medicine, the purity of Air and Water we need to breathe and drink, etc. Prune Hill will forever serve as a reminder of irresponsible development, underpinned with greed and ignorance. The population pressures in Washington and Oregon States and Pacific Northwest in general come from 2 sources – overpopulation from unregulated reproduction, and from people moving in droves from the East Coast and California because of unlivable conditions. What are these conditions? – Extreme Weather on the East Coast from failure of generations of people to contain their development to centralized regions with high-rises and failure to protect the Forests and open Green Spaces. And in California, the urban sprawl is no different – causing unbearably long commuting times to get between any 2 places, Air pollution, and stress, and ran out of open Land. All this was unnecessary had the people grouped to agree on centralization with high-rise development of urban places, and render permanent protection from development to Forests and as

most beautiful trees in the World, largely because of the rich thick soil and favorable location and conditions undisturbed for millennia, we have a moral responsibility not only to the local and regional populations, but to all people of the United States, the North American Continent, and to the entire Planet, to protect the Forests and their Species that are still with us today.

What we ought to be doing is reForesting the Farmlands and other areas that were traditionally Forests, and even to aForest new areas wherever possible just to compensate for what has been lost through development, instead of destroying stands of trees and Forests section by section as we are still doing incredibly and regretfully today. Carbon dioxide CO₂ is already unprecedented and rising exponentially on this Planet. We know this from the Greenland and Antarctic ice cores which scientists from 6 Continents have been drilling and studying for the past 50 years that clearly show to any objective viewer who's ever looked at them, that CO₂ levels are higher than any time in the past 800,000 years, even when the Natural 100,000-year cooling-warming cycles of Ice Ages and thaws are taken into account. But the cheapest and most effective method of absorbing the CO₂ from the atmosphere is not with new technologies or to reinvent Forests, but by ensuring that all Forests and stands of trees remain standing so that together they can continue to do the functions for which they were intended and brought into this World. The excitement of new wiz gadgetry is not shared by me. It may help with absorbing CO₂ and some jobs, but it will do nothing for the Forests' Flora and Fauna Species, for purifying Air and Water, for generating oxygen and Rainwater, for binding Soil that prevents erosion and keeps Rivers and Lakes from silting, or cooling the atmosphere through shade and transpiration – all these things the Forests do and have been doing for millions of years on this Planet, in addition to absorbing CO₂ so effectively, because of their exceptional and unparalleled design. Because of regional and Global Forest-deficits, we need to ensure that all the remaining Forests and stands of trees remain standing and functioning, which means taking the effort to make darn sure that we hang on to all the remaining Forests and tree stands in the Pacific Northwest and on this Planet.

And so speaking here for Clark County and Washington State specifically, but addressing all counties of Washington State, and the entire Pacific Northwest, the United States, the American Continents, and all nations and places on Earth. in order to achieve this end we need to 1. Permanently stabilize Urban Growth Boundaries to prevent endlessly subdividing urban-sprawl that ravages Forests and stands of trees by annexing more and more county's Raw Lands into urban boundaries 2. Stop the current 2016 planned expansion of UGBs in Clark County 3. Construct vertically with 10+-story high-rise buildings within the existing 2007 UGB in Clark County, stop the horizontal low-level house and business constructions inside and outside the UGBs 4. permanently protect from development all remaining Forests and stands of trees on private Lands, municipal Lands, county Lands, and state Lands in Clark County and Washington State with permanent boundaries and a matching permanent designation such as 'FFORREST', that includes currently-designated 20-acre, 40-acre, and 80-acre Forest Lands in eastern Clark County that are being clearcut by private individuals and/or companies, Lands that remain in risk of development – let Prune Hill serve as an example and a warning 5. stop all-out clearcutting on public state DNR and federal National Forests and on private Forest Lands and switch to mandatory progressive 10 percent per 20+-year logging cycles that allow trees to live 200+ years to maximize functions of CO₂-absorption, transpiration, Old Growth Habitat, mushroom industry, etc. We do these things now or there won't be a second chance because the longer we wait and the larger the populations grow, the harder it becomes to secure these things. Outside of Alaska and despite its 95 percent loss of original Forests, the Pacific Northwest is still the most Forested area of the United States, but with current Land-use practices it is nevertheless currently on the path of looking like the urban-sprawling East Coast and California – areas from which people are flocking to the PNW. They flock here for the same reasons for which they have left their home Lands – that is, they and their ancestors have decimated the Forests and sprawled the urban areas in their neighborhoods that consequently diminished their quality of Life with polluted Air and Waters,

and that should be enough,” as some have told me, because it is not enough for the reason I cited. If say 90% of any given state is developed over, and even if there is due diligence to protect the few tiny state and federal Wildlife Refuges, and the state and federal Forests, you risk losing most of the state’s species. The Encarta Encyclopedia calls Australia’s low population density (3 people per square kilometer) its ‘greatest Environmental asset’ and quite true. But even with one of the lowest population densities of any nation, by 2001 Australia had already lost 750 known species of birds to Extinction since the European settlement (95% of population), 70 percent of which were unique to Australia, another 45 are Endangered or Vulnerable. Of mammals, 19 are Extinct and 58 Threatened. Of the 22,000 Plant Species, 90 percent of which are unique to Australia, 83 are Extinct, another 840 or more are on the brink of Extinction. One of the main causes of this wipe out is the many pets and domesticated animals the Europeans brought to the continent that displaced the Native Species. In contrast, while Australia with a density of 3 has 895 Threatened Animal and Plant Species, the nearby New Zealand albeit a smaller Land with a higher population density of 14.4 has 155 Threatened Animal and Plant Species. On the flip side, the most populated China and India have lost significantly less Plant and Animal Species than the United States or Australia.

So far, here in the Pacific Northwest people have noticed a shift in the Winds, the Rains, and temperatures which have become more unstable in the last 20 some years, portending the uncertainty of what is to come. And now a new form of government has been voted in as of January 1, 2016. instead of the 3 county commissioners in the past, we now have 5 – all Republicans – but unlike before, only 1 of those 5 has the power to set the agenda, the other 4 representing their respective districts only get to vote on the issues that the one commissioner gets to choose. This is not a democracy, it’s not even an oligarchy, but an autocracy. Issues as important as Land-use should be voted on directly by every person they affect – which is everyone – not only by 3 or 5 or 10 or even a 100 or a 1000 individuals. At the same time, the leadership, the guidance, and regulation must come from the government. The term county ‘commissioner’ has this year changed to ‘counselor’. But as a counselor gives only ‘counsel’ or “advice”, and yet Clark County’s ‘counselors’ have the exclusive authority to not only decide on issues that decide the fate of the Land, the Environment, and the people, but to set the agenda of which issues to discuss, the term ‘counselor’ becomes a misnomer. A ‘commissioner’ who takes a ‘commission’ – or “a fee paid to an agent for a task in commerce” – is more fitting to the truth. Although in my view, they as ‘advisers’ and the people given the power of decision by vote is how it should be.

The DNR (Department of Natural Resources) tells us that Washington State alone has 5 Extinct, 15 Extirpated (locally Extinct), and 24 Endangered animal species – that is more Extinct plus Extinct-in-the-Wild species than all of Brazil, China, and India combined. *Extirpated* means “completely get rid of, kill off, or destroy something undesirable” (Encarta). This is shameful. Unsurprisingly, the United States of America leads the world with 234 Extinct (EX), 4 Extinct-in-the-Wild (EW), and 206 Critically Endangered (CR) Animal Species. In comparison, French Polynesia is 2nd (71--11--35), Mauritius 3rd (40-0-9), Australia 4th (36-0-92), Saint Helena 5th (27-0-6); Mexico 6th (25-6-192); Brazil is 15th (9-1-70), China 28th (4--1--78), and India 55th (1-0-73). In contrast to her southern neighbor, Canada is 24th with 6 EX, 0 EW, and 7 CR Animal Species. If we think that these Extinctions don’t impact us, we must think again. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife – a federal agency – doesn’t even keep a list of Extinct Species, an employee at the local office told me ‘we are not concerned about what doesn’t exist, but what still lives’. It’s a similar tune I heard at Vancouver’s Community Development office that provides mapping of Urban Growth Boundaries – ‘we don’t have old UGB maps because we only care where we are going’. I asked, “How do you know where you’re going if you don’t know where you’ve been?” The story of Plants is equally startling statewide, nationwide, and Globally. The state of Washington currently lists 19 Extinct, 189 Critically Imperiled, 114 Imperiled, and 19 Vulnerable Plants. Is it any wonder, when Washington State “does not regulate Plants”? That means the state

many open fields as possible. One only need to drive, or better, yet, fly over the East Coast and Los Angeles at night to see the continuous light-display of a sprawling Countryside, not only in California and the East Coast but almost the entire country. It is difficult to find a black chunk of space anywhere

“And let me assure you, we are going to take our fight, for economic justice, for social justice, and for Environmental sanity, for a world of peace.”
– 3-1-2016 Senator Bernie Sanders in Vermont, presidential race 2016

I know that most of the county commissioners and mayors in Clark and nearby counties who have and still unrightfully control the fate of these precious Lands, know hardly anything about what Forests do for the Climate and for the greater Ecology, because of their track record and because I have spoken to some of them in nearby counties – who have not even heard about the IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) or the IUCN (International Union of Conservation), the 2 main global bodies researching and delegating Climate Change and Threatened and Endangered Species, respectively. Unfortunately for the Forests, the Climate, the Species, the Air, the oxygen, the Rainwater, and the drinking Water; the local county commissioners and mayors have been either in the pockets of developers or developers themselves, and realtors, which is also unfortunate for us and our families, and for them and their families, though they realize it not or do realize it but don't care because short-term profits is all that matters. The results speak for themselves with constantly-expanding Urban Growth Boundaries, failing to establish any county Wildlife Refuges – the 3 refuges that do exist are of the Federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department that constitute a mere less than 3% of the county (no credit to the county); allowing Forested areas to be developed like Prune Hill in eastern Clark County, allowing switching and juggling of Green Spaces by developing one and opening another; and giving away open Raw Land before they exhaust constructing high-rise buildings within current UGBs, and repeating the same mistakes over and over again of constructing single-family and low-story dwellings and businesses on newly-grabbed Raw Land. In the 1990s the 3 Clark County commissioners voted to breach UGB of Vancouver across 164th Avenue even though people in the meetings asked them not to. This pushed development into the Columbia River Gorge, beginning with leveling the richly-Forested Prune Hill overlooking the Columbia River – all unnecessarily because there were and still are plenty of areas within the city to build, with some 98% of all buildings today are low-story, mostly 1-story or 2-story single-family dwellings and businesses in Vancouver and no high-rises in the rest of the county. The UGB system in Clark County for all its urban areas started in 1994, then expanded in 2004, then quickly in 2007 again, and now 2016 again – which were supposed to be ‘20-year UGB’s. There is an obvious need for Land-use to have permanence about it just because neither the Land nor the Sky nor the Planet is growing and yet all people and all Life on Earth depend on it. Growth management, protection of Forests, Farmlands, open Green Spaces, and untouched Raw Land that is perfect ‘as is’ requires permanence – a planning of at least 200 years into the future, not 20 years, let alone 9 years, let alone 3 years. And with the ongoing serious threats facing the Planet and to all of us, we are driving the future into a sinkhole. For when the Environment goes, people go with it.

“To keep doing the same things and expect different results ”
– Albert Einstein’s definition of insanity

As with trees and Forest Ecosystems, Flora and Fauna Species do not dwell everywhere, they are not uniformly distributed across the Land. Habitats and micro Habitats are scattered all throughout in different pockets and localities, some small some large, which is true in the Pacific Northwest just as it is true in the Great Plains, the Amazon Rainforest, the Steppes of Europe and Asia, the Savannas of Africa, or the Eucalyptus Forests. And therefore, it is not enough to just say “Oh we have the National Parks and National Forests, and a handful of state and federal Wildlife Refuges,

thus far has not made any provisions, no laws that force the counties or state to evaluate properties for Plants – Endangered or not – before being developed or converted to Farmland or other use. I find this unbelievable, and grossly unacceptable. There is only 1 botanist (I spoke with him) working for the entire state checking these things. Unsurprisingly, the U.S. of America also leads the world in Plant loss: 23 EX, 27 EW, 114 CE. China is 2nd with 3-1-73, India 3rd with 6-2-60; Saint Helena 4th 6-2-15, French Polynesia 5th 6-0-26, Brazil 6th 5-1-74; and Cuba 7th (4-1-30). Extinct and Threatened Species include only those known to us. Countless have disappeared without ever been identified. One may ask, ‘Which Plants have already disappeared that may have been the cures to future illnesses or pandemics?’

The List of Vanishing Flora and Fauna of Washington State

(State list) Washington State DNR’s ‘Partial List 2013’ cites 5 Extinct, 24 Endangered (Federal status), 15 Possibly Extirpated, 99 Critically Imperiled, and 95 Imperiled (State status) animal species in the state at http://www1.dnr.wa.gov/nhp/rcfdesk/lists/animal_ranks.html

WASHINGTON STATE

ANIMALS (Federal list)

28 Endangered. 7 land mammals, 7 whales, 7 birds, Sea otter, 2 frogs, 2 turtles, 2 butterflies, Mardon Skipper (insect resembling a moth)

11 Threatened. 5 land mammals, 4 birds, 2 turtles

8 Sensitive. 1 whale, 3 birds, 3 fish, 1 salamander

113 Species of Concern: 12 land mammals, Pacific Harbor Porpoise, 23 birds, 37 fish, 2 frogs, 1 toad, 3 salamanders, 3 snakes, 1 lizard, 1 millipede, 1 earthworm, 9 mollusks, 10 butterflies or moths, 9 other insects

133 Monitored species: 19 land mammals, Dall’s Porpoise, Harbor Seal, 34 birds, 8 fish, 2 frogs, 1 toad, 4 salamanders, 4 snakes, 2 lizards, 7 mollusks, 45 butterflies or moths, 5 other insects.

(Source: Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife <http://wdfw.wa.gov/>)

PLANTS. 19 Extinct, 189 Critically Imperiled, 114 Imperiled, 19 Vulnerable. (State Rank)

“Washington State does not regulate plants!”

MOSESSES (as of 2012): 60 Critically Imperiled, 9 Imperiled, 3 Vulnerable

LICHENS (as of 2014). ‘Proposed’ 28 Endangered, 13 Threatened, 11 Sensitive, 23 Monitored, 1 Possibly Extirpated (*Sulcaria badia*) (Source: Wash State DNR <http://www1.dnr.wa.gov/nhp/rcfdesk/plants.html>)

14 Extirpated (locally Extinct) Species of Oregon and/or Washington

<u>Wildlife Species</u>	<u>Oregon</u>	<u>Washington</u>
1. Bighorn Sheep	Xa	Xa
2. Bison	X	X
3. California Condor	X	X
4. Sea Otter	X	Xa
5. Trumpeter Swan	Xa	Xb
6. Yellow-Billed Cuckoo	X	X
7. Gray Wolf	X	
8. Grizzly Bear	X	
9. Merlin	Xc	
10. Sharp-Tailed Grouse	Xd	

11. Wyoming Ground Squirrel	X	
12. Pronghorn Antelope		X
13 Upland Sandpiper		X
14. Short-Tailed Albatross	X	X

Those who give lip service to Climate Change have not looked at the hard data whatsoever, because they don't want to. Calling it "controversial", "unproven", "philosophical" and "pseudoscientific" becomes convenient when they have personally something to gain from it – which is typically favors, money, or both – but at the expense of the Land and Species on which we depend for food, oxygen, Rainwater, purification of Air and Water, and the Flora and Fauna Species She nurtures. In effect, they are helping to destroy Earth and everyone with Her Do we really want all food imported from far-away places, out of season, and dependent on foreign farms that we have no control over – causing more allergies, less variety, and increased prices? The main worry is that, unlike politics, economics, or any social issue, once Forests, open Wild Lands, and Farm Lands are bulldozed over and Species become Extinct – it's permanent. Environmental degradation is a one-way road. These folks perhaps understand on a superficial level, but they don't understand the basic functions of Forest biology and how Forests impact Climate and how Species impact us, and they don't want to understand, and yet they seek seats of power and want to make crucial decisions on the Land that impact everyone.

Even at this point of rising Global temperatures that are raising sea level, erratic Climate with Extreme Weather events that already killed tens of thousands, and displaced hundreds of thousands of people in every part of the Planet, with every event costing billions of dollars, and the hardship, and driving Flora and Fauna Species toward Extinction, even here in Clark County and Washington State – the Forest Haven of the Continental United States of America, 'we' are not only clearcutting private and public Forest Lands that are disgracefully showing more bald Soil than green, but 'we' are developing over Forests and significant stands of trees that makes the damage permanent – Forests that are critical for maintaining stable Climate, for keeping Global temperatures steady, for providing Rainwater through transpiration (sweat), for manufacturing oxygen, for purifying Rainwater via their extensive and complex root systems that control erosion and keep salmonids and other Life forms in Rivers and Lakes healthy, and which offer a place to rest for man – all these things that threaten the quality of Life for people not only in the Pacific Northwest but for people everywhere on this Planet for this and for future generations that follow because Climate, Ecosystems, and Species Extinction have no borders.

Forests = Rainwater + Oxygen + Pure Air = Healthy Lungs



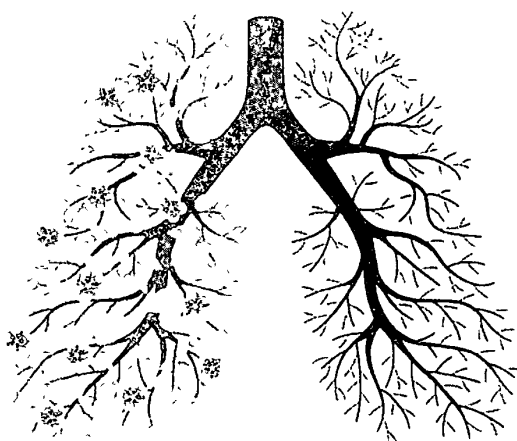
The photo at left taken in February 2016 is of a pink dogwood (*Cornus florida*) from our front yard which I took to show people how trees – and in huge numbers as 'intended' Forests – interact intimately with the atmosphere, and to convey how the intricate branching of trees look identical to the intricate branching of lungs – which is by no coincidence. This continuously-splitting pattern maximizes the oxygen O₂ and CO₂ gas exchange in both trees and lungs; they just do it in reverse trees manufacture oxygen which we

inhale, and we exhale the carbon dioxide waste which trees inhale by which they grow and thrive
People with lung diseases – asthma, emphysema, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, etc. –
require extra clean Air and oxygen – all provided by trees. In form and function, trees are the
antithesis of carbon-spewing smokestacks

The ultimate purpose of other Creatures is not found in us. Nature cannot be seen as something
apart from humanity, or merely the place where we live...All Life is a 'kind of universal
family' ...Be protectors of God's gifts! – Pope Francis, 2nd encyclical *Laudato si'*, 5-24-2015

Pope Francis who has only 1 lung since youth must deeply value the gift of breathing and the
purity of Air, and what polluted and oxygen-deprived Air means to sufferers with lung diseases

THE LUNGS AND COPD



COPD prevents proper air flow through a Consumer's
lungs In lungs with COPD

- Airways may be thick and inflamed, blocking the passage of air
- Mucus can clog airways
- Airways and air sacs lose elastic quality, which is called emphysema
- Walls between air sacs are destroyed, like branches of a tree losing their leaves
- Difficult for oxygen to get TO the lungs and carbon dioxide to get OUT of the lungs

A Proposal

If we refuse to coexist with the animals and plants that surround us, we will be wiped clean from this Earth by the very forces that we refuse to recognize and respect By looking at the satellite images of Clark County and photos of developments areas east toward the Columbia Gorge, it tells me that the developers and those city and county officials who allowed encroachment into those Wild areas of East Clark County and around Gifford National Forest, either don't understand the importance of Forests and their impact on the animals and plants that inhabit those areas, or they don't care. There was no need to spread the development that far when there were other non-Forested areas and high-rises in central part of Vancouver have not even begun to be built outside of one or two buildings. If the pictures don't alarm a viewer of the situation, I don't know what does. The Washington State is not the beautiful state it once was in recent memory, and it's getting less beautiful every year Let us give protection to the Environment in Clark County, in Washington State, in the Pacific Northwest, and in the United States of America by making Land-use permanent. Let's put forward protection before it's too late. Let's inject permanence into Land-use.

1. Establish Urban Growth Boundaries and fight to keep them stable.
2. Never expand Urban Growth Boundaries, and only as a last resort after high-rise construction has been exhausted within existing UGB.
3. Don't repeat the same mistake of constructing new one- and two- story buildings
4. Designate permanent Wildlife Refuges – at least 20 percent per county

5. Designate permanent Green Spaces (e.g. open fields) and non-Forest Ecosystems – 30 percent of county. Necessary to protect potential regeneration capability of Ecos
6. Give permanent protection to all Forests and tree stands on private Lands from development (if we want Climate, Air, Water, Species, and people to stay healthy permanently).
7. In addition, make Environmental education mandatory for all who influence and impact the Land – politicians, employees in community development departments, developers, realtors, loggers, etc – regarding Forests and Climate, Species Extinction, and regional and Global Ecology.
8. Land is so important, so critical – because of what it does for the Climate through Forests, as Habitat for Species, for Rain, Rivers, all that we absolutely depend on – therefore, all issues concerning Land-use should be voted on by all people who are the ones directly impacted by them – which means everyone – and not just by a handful of politicians, and developers who profit by them.
9. If these things are not done, the Forested and Wild areas will be permanently lost, our quality of Life and longevity permanently decreased, our only food option will be to permanently import, and his survival will hang in the balance permanently.

For these reasons I find it pertinent to propose that the current 2007 Urban Growth Boundaries in Clark County should remain unchanged – ideally even be reverted to that of 2004 boundary – for the very reason that the city of Vancouver and others have not exhausted the 1st line of defense against population growth, which is to build high-rise buildings. If we are really serious to contain urban growth to slow down the ravaging of the Forests and the Countryside, then let's do it. but not to pretend we are doing it by expanding UGBs every 3 to 10 years, and failing to protect the Open Land and Forests from development. Europeans of a much older civilization have contended much longer than we with growing population pressures, and when people travel there they see towns and cities condensed with high-rises in small central area of town, surrounded by undisturbed green of Forests and open fields. Secondly, the county should give a permanent protective status to ALL remaining Forest Lands and stands of trees – public and private – ‘from development’ If the Land and Forests are not expanding, and we need them for food, medicine, Air, and Water, why should we be? Such a designation could be a FFORREST that in the statute would have a permanent ban from development. For centuries this Planet has been in Forest deficit, and it is in the last 50 years and even more so in the last 20 years that these symptoms have been made visible to us with Global Warming, rising sea level and Extreme Weather That is why it is critical to prevent further Forest loss, and even stands of trees wherever they are, even more important in the long run than cutting fossil fuels. Thirdly, the county should give permanent protection to at least 20 percent of the county's land for Wildlife, as opposed to the zero that the county managed to achieve thus far over the 127 years since Washington became a state (November 11, 1889)? If the country of Bhutan can protect 65 percent of its entire Land from development, why can't the counties and states of this great nation – of America the Beautiful – protect a mere 20 percent? Why couldn't we safeguard another 20 percent for Raw Open Green Spaces from development? Is 20 percent too much for a species that represents 0.00000001 percent of the species on Earth? If we can preserve the house of American soldier and president Ulysses S. Grant, why can't we do these things for the Nature that nurtures us? If we don't do these things now, we will not get a second chance.

FFORREST

FF = Flora and Fauna Species (Habitat)

O = Oxygen (from leaves, maintain steady 21 percent level in atmosphere)

R = Rainwater (leaves transpire ~ 3000 gallons Water/day/mature evergreen tree in PNW)

RE = Reverse/Regulate Erosion (extensive root systems bind soil, purify Rainwater/Rivers)

ST = Stable Temperatures (cool Air via transpiration, Rain & shade = act as heat sinks)

There are only 2 paths that can save this Planet – God and reason. While God may intervene to fix what man has destroyed and to prevent what he is about to destroy, He may also decide not to intervene and to leave it up to man to test him where he stands on protecting His Creation, and to let him bake in the mess he's created. I am hoping that you who are reading my plea will listen to reason, as the ears of the past commissioners have been deaf to the pleas of the Environment-conscious individuals. If the claims I present in this letter are not true or don't make any sense, please let me know how so. If they do, please make a step forward to secure the remaining Land before it's too late. I want to be part of the process to make this happen, to do my part. If this Land is not protected, it's not a Land I wish to live in.

It should not be the job of commissioners to just freely parcel out raw and Forested Land to developers on a first-come first-serve basis like candy at a dime store, just because it's easy. If one believes in the true value of Forests and Wild Lands, then one has to put a great deal more thought and effort into guiding development responsibly, but this hasn't been done and the Countryside and the people have paid the price for it, here locally and around the Planet.

When self-restraint is shown by “fencing in” or “enclosing” Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Forests, and cities (and human reproduction), the Environment is conserved – that is why the word *Environment* comes from *environ* “encircle” from Old French *viron* “circle”.

restore – Forest – self-restraint

To restrain oneself shows humility, respect, and wisdom

Rest = Sabbath = Peace

Quality of Life and Jobs in a Healthy Environment versus a Sick Environment

We still have a chance to set a different path here in the Pacific Northwest and help the nation, the continent, and the Planet at the same time. But we need to first get over the idea that growth per se is good, that it is good for the economy and people – because as Oregon's late Governor Tom McCall understood, these things on their own are not good but harmful and one must be selective in these things. We need to set our sights higher than catering to developers and loggers thinking that those are the only jobs around – because they are not, and by doing so you not only destroy the Land and a quality of Life but forfeit the potentially huge diversity of industries more beneficial for the Environment and people, industries that will be looking for Forest Ecosystems that supply rich oxygen, Species, moisture, clean Air and Waters – e.g. semiconductor, Biologists, Zoologists, Botanists, herbalists, medicine laboratories, Bio-firms, Ecotourism, NASA, mushroom industry, Flora and Fauna Species needed in future Space exploration – because once you destroy the Environment there is no going back. To achieve this, we need to give permanence to Land-use, that is: stop the incessant UGB expansion; construct vertically within existing UGBs; stop the urban sprawl, establish protection for the remaining Forests and other Ecosystems, open Green Fields and open Valleys, and stop clearcutting the private and state Forests and federal National Forests for the same reason. And the reason is simple: the Planet is dying, the Climate is out of kilter, our Land-use practices have not changed with the times, and either we want to survive or we don't. Either we make the fight now and do what is right for a viable future while we still have the choices available to us, or the Planet will quickly narrow these choices for us and bring Her fight to us. If we are truly serious in saving the viable functioning of these vital Ecosystems and our quality of Life, then we need to establish a serious plan and enforce it. But the current path is a dead-end.

The more open Raw Land we have in reserve, the more Zoologists, Botanists and other Biologists will have to work with in ensuring a viable future for local Wildlife. It's been common practice for Clark County to shift Green Spaces from one place to another, for the convenience of developers who have been given priority over Environment and Species

You can't have an acceptable quality of Life without a healthy Environment And you can't have a healthy Environment – Woodland Plant and Animal Species, Rainwater, proper level of oxygen, pure Air, pure drinking Water, cooling of Planet, pacifying Extreme Weather events, clean Rivers and healthy River and marine Life – without a healthy amount and condition of Forests. You can't have a healthy Environment with an endlessly urban-sprawling, subdivided Countryside And, similarly, you can't have quality jobs, meaning 'clean industries' and diversified jobs and a host of industries that require clean Air and Water and stable temperatures and Climate, and industries that have not yet been invented – if we are going to prioritize jobs of developers, loggers, and realtors over Forests and Species. You're going for the stem but you lose the apple; going for the branch but you lose the tree. Similarly, in a growing population, you can't have both the American Dream of a large house and an acreage which equates to urban sprawl, and a viable Climate and Environment at the same time which requires Ecosystems and Raw Countryside As Open Space runs out, one has to modify either population growth or the American Dream and Land-use, lest you lose the Land and all Ecosystems The former Republican Governor of Oregon, Tom McCall, exemplifies a leader who understood these basic principles – who introduced the Urban Growth Boundary to Oregon, Washington, and to the United States. A good concept, the UGB only works if it is kept stable – unlike in Clark County

Governor Tom McCall – A Man of Principle, a Man of Vision

Governor Tom McCall (Thomas William Lawson McCall), a Republican governor of Oregon (1967-1975), had a vision for his state that endures to this day, and from whom the world has much to learn. His vision was not shared by everyone, and was criticized by many, and yet it is because of him that Oregon today benefits from a healthy Environment He did not originate all his ideas but quickly grabbed the ones he felt were most beneficial, which proved him correct Oregon is a state that prides itself in stepping up to problems and finding new ways to solve them. McCall had produced a new approach to economic development that quality of Life and protection of the Environment should always come first “If we can only get through some periods of belt tightening while I am governor, forget about adding smoke stacks, forget about adding new jobs, and maybe we won't have as much bread on the table, sort of speak, right now, but if you want industry, you're going to have so much clean industry that it's going to be lined up in a long queue waiting to get into Oregon, because we're going to have the things that enlighten industry, warrants for its workers and for its people, when everyone else has destroyed them So it's a wise economic policy in the long run, to keep what you've got in the sense of your Natural endowments,” he said

Intel's headquarters are located in Santa Clara, California, and the company has operations around the world, but its largest workforce concentration anywhere – 18,600 employees – is in Washington County, Oregon (in the Portland metropolitan area's "Silicon Forest"), and Oregon's largest private employer

Question How long clean industries like Intel stay if Oregon and nearby Washington State continue to clearcut public and private Forests and to develop over these precious Lands?

'Keep Oregon weird!' – Oregon's motto on many car bumper stickers

The Oregon motto 'Keep Oregon weird' unintentionally fits with Governor Tom McCall's vision of protecting Oregon's Countryside from subdivisions, urban sprawl, and pollution. For

the intended meaning of the word *weird* for “odd, supernatural, of fate” from Old English *wyrd* “fate”, is also a homonym of Old English *weard* from prehistoric Germanic word meaning “to be on guard”, which is the source of English *ward*, *guard*, *wary*, and *aware* Do Washingtonians and Oregonians share the same vision of Governor Tom McCall – are they on guard, are they aware?

Governor McCall’s vision is a message of hope and of reason that Washington State and the rest of the world needs to hear at this crucial point in time. He was a man of courage who dared to be different, but different that in such a way sets the path to a viable future because it speaks to today’s Environmental problems and how to fix them, but more importantly, how to prevent them. Such leaders are rare and much needed today. Oregon was very lucky to have this governor and the world is lucky that it can learn from his legacy. Today, every mile of Oregon’s Coast is open to the public, the Rivers and Air is cleaner than it used to be, and every town and city has an Urban Grown Boundary that Governor McCall put in place. It is these UGBs that Vancouver, Washington and other cities in the state use today. But from my observation, as in Washington State, Oregon would benefit from more centralized high-rise developments in urban areas outside of Portland, just as it is doing in the Pearl District today. And Forests in both states on federal, state, and private lands should be restricted to progressive logging rather than outright clearcuts, say 10% per year or even better 5% per year, allowing a varied species of trees to mature to 200+ years, when their absorptive power of carbon dioxide begins to take off, which is substantiated by research of Dr Jerry Franklin of University of Washington’s College of Forestry in Seattle, Washington.

“He (McCall) was standing up to pulp and paper mills saying you have to clean up your act. He was constantly taking on (challenging, opposing) the notion that any development is good development which ran counter to this traditional Republican notion that government should get out of the way of business...Demarcation line was Vortex I (Festival of Life) ‘Victory to the Vietnamese’ – said a large banner at Vortex. After that McCall became an unstoppable force in his 2nd term – the bottle bill, Land-use planning, cleaning up of the Willamette, energy conservation, all the things McCall became famous for happened in a very short time in his 2nd term. The most well-known pronouncement McCall ever made came soon after his reelection. “I urge them to come many many times to enjoy the beauties of Oregon, but I also would urge them for Heaven’s sake, don’t move here to live!” What Governor McCall was saying is, ‘You have to understand we are trying to protect our livability’, which is still the issue today in Oregon and Washington, and every other place on Earth. Speaking about litter, “I think that Oregonians are simply too proud a people to smudge this magnificent spot, this Sunset frontier with careless abandoned debris. We can do better, our past and our future demand that we do do better. So the challenge has been given to us all, and I would say to you ladies and gentlemen let us now be about the task.” The Land-use bill was one of the most important of his career. Oregon was growing fast, 300,000+ people moved here between 1960 and 1970. Schools are crowded; roads are inadequate, subdivisions going in causing sewage in the streets because there was no planning for the sewage system. Developers were buying up some of the state’s best Farmland to subdivide. McCall was intimately concerned about the urban sprawl. “The interests of Oregon for today and in the future must be protected from grasping wastrels of the Land. We must respect another truism, that unlimited and unregulated growth leads inextricably to a lowered quality of Life.” All counties had a growth management plan but they were, sort of speak, ‘all over the map’, so much so that one county, Clackamas, eliminated all of its zoning requirements. The impetus for a comprehensive plan came first from the rural sector from farmers who wanted to farm their land rather than parcel it out to developers. Governor McCall took the plan to the people. McCall always saw Land-use planning as a team effort. Cities and counties must be empowered to do their own planning but it must be under the purview of state guidelines. It was a controversial idea; the solution was several years in the making through countless hours of hearings, meetings, back rooms give and take, and occasional arm twisting. But in May 1973, Governor McCall signed the Senate Bill 100, Oregon’s

unprecedented Land-use planning law. It featured a new concept, the Urban Growth Boundary, requiring cities to contain most of their urban development within a defined area. McCall cofounded an organization to protect it, 100 Friends of Oregon. "I am an adviser to '1000 Friends of Oregon' which is the only single purpose, that it takes care of one bill, which is the Senate bill 100."

Governor McCall is best known for his Environmentalism. But the masterwork he presented to the people was a tax plan, Measure 1. So important to him that he named it the 'McCall tax plan'. This was not a sales tax, it would limit property taxes and shift school funding to the state. It would raise corporate and personal income taxes with the bulk of the increase going to the wealthiest people. The McCall tax plan would have helped to stabilize support for schools, and would have likely averted the more drastic property tax limitation measures that voters passed in later years. It failed however, deeply disappointing McCall. He kept setting his sights higher and higher. In fact, by the time McCall left the office, he wasn't talking anymore on must how to protect Oregon, but how the entire nation, and in some ways the World could be more Environmentally conscious. He took the story to the East Coast, to Huntington, West Virginia in July 1974, as he received a national award from the Imak Walton League. In a speech he said that energy conservation, not more dams, was the best solution to the energy crisis, contradicting the proponents of a new dam on Middle Snake River that they said would equal 650 million barrels of oil. "There are at least \$650 million barrels of oil worth of conservation measures lying in the bushes untried," he told them. He said one such measure is the bottle bill which not only cut down on litter but has saved energy and raw materials by requiring the reuse of recycling of beer and soft drinks containers. McCall became one of the most outspoken advocates of sustainability at a time when it wasn't really being discussed, and that's what made him not just a hero in Oregon, but also a national figure as well. "We will rededicate ourselves to the improvement of our Environment, to the profit of all generations to come," he said. "Big business and big labor will always own Congress on the bottle bill, but the people have power too, out where the winds of freedom still blow." When no longer governor, at an event putting up a new Welcome to Oregon sign on the California border, Mr. McCall expressed it well, a passionate relationship that we all ought to have for the Land: "Oregon is demure and lovely, and it ought to play a little hard to get. And I think you'll all be as sick as I am if you find it nothing but a hungry hussy throwing herself at every stinking smokestack that's offered." — Brenth Walth, McCall biographer

In other words, the new people who wish to settle in Oregon – or Washington – should put up with living in high-rise apartments to preserve the integrity of the Nature for which they came; to not advertise homes in distant newspapers to lure new migrants; to favor locals who have lived here for generations and appreciate the Land, and be selective of industries that come here. If the newcomers to the Pacific Northwest don't want to live in high-rise buildings, well, then they are part of the problem. But have they been asked, has it been proposed to them, have we tried to build up? That is, are we controlling growth or is growth controlling us?

In fall of 1982, a Land-use ballot measure threatened to absolutely wipe out everything he had done in Land-use planning, which he saw as the key to helping Oregon grow in a way that made sense Environmentally and also economically. He watched his tax plan go down in defeat after investing 50 months of hard work, but even though ailing with prostate cancer, he wouldn't let the Land-use plan go down in defeat as well. He went out and spoke against the measure. "This activist loves Oregon more than Life. He can't have both very long. But the tradeoff, the tradeoff for me is perfectly okay. But if the legacy we have helped give Oregon which made it twinkle afar, well if it goes, I guess I wouldn't want to live in Oregon anyhow", said McCall. Oregonians honored McCall's appeal and voted the measure down. The people heard what McCall was saying and there hasn't been a serious challenge to the Land-use planning after that. And within a couple months of that election, McCall was dead. What he was able to do as governor was shift the

attention from the old way of doing things to a new way to consider what the state was going to look like in the next 20 years instead of in the next 20 minutes. The expectations for leaders changed forever after Tom McCall. It wasn't good enough just to hold office. You had to lead, you had to look ahead, you had to be a thinker about the future in Oregon to be considered a success as a leader. And that's the result of Tom McCall (Oregon Experience, OPB, Jan 2016)

In contrast, the legacy of Clark County's developers-commissioners, such as Vancouver's big from-developer-to-mayor-to-developer Al C. Angelo Sr., is that they took from Nature and never gave back, looking for opportunities to develop Raw Land – Forested or not – as quickly and with as much profit as they could with no thought for the Environment and the future. Results suggest that this applies to the vast majority of developers. Instead of tearing down existing single- and low-story buildings and changing them to high-rises, Angelo took the easy route and bought prune orchards and other Raw Lands, some that were Forested. From what I heard from different people, when as mayor of Vancouver (1966-1969) he found out about the plans to build the I-205 bridge over the Columbia River between the area of Sandy Boulevard in Portland, Oregon and 112th Avenue in Vancouver, Washington; he bought up vacant Open Land in the Cascade Park area in the 1970s and 1980s that began the subdivision-development frenzy not only east towards 164th Avenue, but beyond 164th to 192nd Avenue, and beyond 192nd – the area of Prune Hill (part of adjacent town of Camas) – and farther east up the Columbia River Gorge. Over the last couple of decades, the Camas government allowed an assortment of many developers to buy up and subdivide Prune Hill. In around 2010, a deck installer told me that Prune Hill where he worked is “a logistical nightmare”. On January 22, 2015, Vancouver's Columbian newspaper wrote an article on the Internet about a major Landslide fiasco affecting several homes, and that it was ‘heard’ that ‘the developer is no longer in business’

The website *alangelo.com* states: ‘Currently, the Al Angelo Co. owns and leases over 700,000 Square feet of commercial space and 2500 residential units on the west coast.’ The obituary of Al Angelo on *obits.columbian.com* says he died at 87, and is survived by 5 children, 19 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. In 1940s, ‘Profits went into buying a prune orchard at West 26th Street and Fruit Valley Road, where he (Angelo) and a crew built 52 two-bedroom homes, which quickly sold at prices between \$5,800 and \$6,100...The Al Angelo Co. remains family-owned and headquartered in Vancouver. The firm currently has major real estate holdings in rental housing projects and commercial buildings in 22 West Coast cities and six states. He also enjoyed making the drive to the Columbia River Gorge back to his farm in Cape Horn where his siblings still own the 150 acres they were raised on. He also loved to fish and hunt, especially in Eastern Oregon.’ In other words the developer keeps his 150 acres of Open Land but develops all possibly available Raw Land in everybody else's neighborhoods. Angelo is gone, he could not take his wealth with him, yet we are stuck with the mess he helped create. Similarly, the Walton family, richest in the world, develops their massive Walmart stores all over the Globe; yet they keep their own rural Bentonville, Arkansas free of subdividing development. Arkansas alone has 87 Walmart stores, but the 2010 census showed Bentonville's population to be still only 35,031.

Divide and Conquer

The partial history of Prune Hill is described on *cctrh.org*. ‘By early in the new century (1900) Clark County was the prune capitol of the world. As the prune orchards disappeared, with prune growing relocating to California, other agricultural and pasture uses took over on Prune Hill. In 1990, the approximately 1500 acres of Prune Hill was still part of unincorporated Clark County, though nearly surrounded by the City of Camas. The beauty of the views, proximity to Vancouver and Portland, as well as the availability of large parcels of land, made Prune Hill an attractive location for development. As part of the agreement with the Boundary Review Board permitting the City of Camas to annex the 1200 acres for high technology, the city agreed to annex Prune Hill



in the near future. Therefore, in 1990 the City of Camas annexed the land. Sharp Microelectronics purchased 120 acres in the newly annexed area, and opened a laboratory in the lower western slopes of Prune Hill in early 1990. Underwriter Laboratories also purchased approximately seventy-five acres along NW Lake Road for construction of a testing facility. Due to the steep slopes the southeastern slopes of the hill remained Forested with only a few homes until recently.’ “Farms and orchards have gone to the wayside, Sharp and Underwriter are still there” said to me a real estate person who sells homes there. It’s not good enough to strip a

Hill of its trees and ravage it with buildings just because it’s ‘an attractive location for development.’ To divide Nature, such as breaking up Ecosystems or Raw Lands, is a recipe for Environmental disaster. To conquer Nature means certain death for mankind.

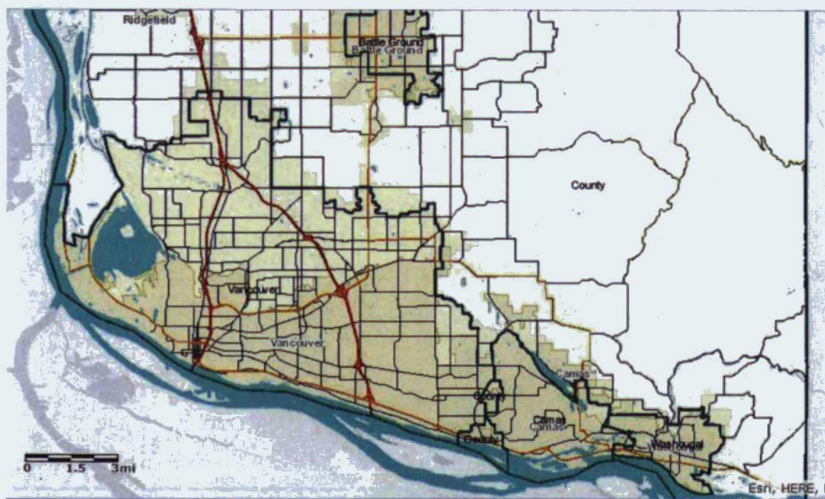
And it was in this climate that Clark County started the Legacy Lands Program (LLP, clark.wa.gov/mapsonline) in 1985, when the I-205 bridge was built and they saw how quickly the Raw Lands, including Forested Areas went “wayside” to pot. Its intent was to conserve the Land, while maintaining its “recreational value” – hence, not for sole protection of Ecosystems, Open Land, and Species. Legacy Lands is a mix of some 150 to 200 individual properties scattered all across the county adding to about 3000 acres. Of the county’s 419,840 acres, this amounts to a mere 0.0071 or less than 1 percent (0.71%) of the county. Even adding this to the less than 3 percent of the 3 Wildlife Refuge areas, it still adds up to less than 4 percent of the county. Somewhere between 25 and 50 percent is the amount of these 3000 acres that are Forested, ranging in size from less than 5 acres to 100+ acres, the largest being 150 acres, and the largest contiguous parcel being 300 acres. Trails and Environmental displays are part of LLP with some road construction allowed. The little amount of Lands that LLP are, even the recent acquisition of 250 Forested acres in eastern county from state DNR will be logged for revenue. The DNR gifted this parcel to the county because there was already development brewing around its borders. And despite some coordination with local non-profit organizations and occasionally the Fish and Wildlife Department, there is no monitoring of Flora and Fauna Species on these Lands, which tells me that there is no prime interest in preserving these Lands for the Natural inherent value they contain. Some of the parcels are monitored by the private Audubon Society, but that’s it. Furthermore, there is no ‘permanent’ protection of these Lands either. Like Green Spaces in the county, the Legacy Lands can also be shifted around and replaced with other Lands “of equal market value and recreational value” as long as those private or public entities which gifted the funds for those parcels (who receive a ‘deed of gift’) will agree – already the fate of some parcels. Little funds exist for this LL Program, federal and state grants are occasionally applied for from agencies including the Federal Recreation and Conservation Office in Olympia. The city of Vancouver has its Parks with lawns that contain merry-go-rounds for the children and tries to meet all uses, but they are not true Wildlife Parks. The county of Clark also has Urban Open Spaces,

what are “leftovers” from development, those tiny areas that are “undevelopable”. Is this the best that Clark County can do? Is it the best we can do? No – we can obviously do better. Where there is will, a way can be found – funds and other things – to secure the right amount of Land and give it permanence. But there has to first be will to do these things.



With regard to the county’s Legacy Lands Program, I cannot help but to think that at this point in time, it is more for show than substance. It is just to show that the county has a program to protect the Countryside, the Forests, the River salmonids and other fish, when in reality the amount thus far is so fragmented and so little that it hardly

makes a difference. However, the LLP has to be credited that it is a step in the right direction. I would caution that with the lack of understanding of the Ecosystems’ connection to the Climate, the Species, Rain, and their impact on our future, this program will not travel far enough to where it needs to go. Unless the county conserves the amounts such as I presented in this letter, there is no proof that the county is serious about protecting of what remains of the Clark County’s Environment, particularly with the county’s dubious track record.



These views of Clark County above and left (southern part) show the 1994 UGB around the city of Ridgefield in upper left, Battle Ground to the right, with Vancouver (the 5th largest city in the state), Camas and Washougal at bottom right in Columbia River Gorge. Shades of gray outside of this UGB are current 2007 UGBs, expected

to be expanded in April 2016 – *again*. The red lines are freeways I-5 at left, and the newer I-205 branch at right. The white is still county Land, with Forested areas on the right in the foothills of the Cascade Range, and Gifford National Forest in adjoining Skamania County to the right (not seen). Taken from <http://gis.clark.wa.gov/maponline/>

The message to developers, Landowners, loggers, and politicians and all who affect the Land is this. For the politicians – If you don’t want to work for the common good, and you just want to

enrich yourself and your developer friends, then as Senator Bernie Sanders says: “Get out of politics!” – Because you are there to serve the public and you are doing more harm than good and we don’t need you and we don’t want you. The message is the same to loggers, developers, Landowners, and all who work with the Land and affect the Land – If you don’t want to do what is for the common good of the Environment and the people, and your priority is only to serve yourself at the expense and detriment of the Environment and the common good, then: ‘Get out of logging, get out of development, get out of Landowning, and get out of whatever business you are in, and don’t harm the Land before you leave!’ If you are doing a job or own a business that harms the Land or some aspect of the Environment, find another job! Find another business!

However, there is a way that developers – particularly the rich developers who profited from the Land and at the expense of the Land – can give back to the Land, the Environment, and to the community from which they have taken. They can help the local and state government establish new permanent Wildlife Refuges, secure more Open Green Spaces permanently, secure Forested areas permanently, and help the government to buy out low-story properties so that high-rises of 20 stories and higher can be built in their place within existing UGBs to prevent further subdividing the Countryside. The mayors and Clark County commissioners too owe the Land. They have the obligation to give back to the Land what they have taken away from the Land in the past decades by doing the above and by freezing the UGBs. What better way is there to give back?

The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the Earth.

– Abraham Lincoln, the Gettysburg Address, Pennsylvania, Nov 19, 1863

In a country ‘of the people, by the people, and for the people’, the people shouldn’t resort to going to meetings begging for these Things for they barely have the time let alone energy for it. Instead, they should demand Them and dictate their wishes to the government through raising the issues and directly voting on these issues – this is the true power of the people, the power of the decision-making process in a true democracy of which Ralph Nader spoke of. This way no politician is held accountable for the good or bad consequences of the decisions made but the people themselves. And the people will not feel disenfranchised as they have been. The role of politicians should be to flush out the issues, bring them to the forefront of the public, and argue them. But the decisions should reside with the people whom the issues impact. While most people don’t have the stamina for meetings, they do have the energy and time to vote and will vote when the voting is rightly given to them. Asking for these so-called ‘Things’ – are as basic as wanting to breathe clean Air, to drink pure Water, and eat nutritious locally-grown food. For these Things are as important and fundamental as Life itself. Therefore, because Land-use is an Environmental issue, a Climate Change issue, a Species viability issue, an Air issue, a Water issue, and health issue, issues that surpass all politics, all ideologies, and all economics, and affect all people equally, we should come together and agree on putting remedies forward without bickering. These issues and what’s at stake should be clear to everyone, and courts should be the last resort where to settle them.

Climate Change surprise: Biosphere contributes to warming

by Story Hinckley, 3-10-2016

“When we consider these three gases (CO₂, N₂O, CH₄) together, then we find methane CH₄ and nitrous oxide N₂O together are two times larger than the sink carbon dioxide CO₂ offers. In terms of global warming potential, methane and nitrogen oxide are way worse than carbon monoxide”, says lead author Hanqin Tian of Auburn University to The Christian Science Monitor in a phone interview. Humans have planted trees and crops, adding to the biosphere’s carbon sink, but we

have also created factory farms for cattle (methane producers) and used tons upon tons of chemical fertilizers (nitrous oxide producers). In all, the team concluded, human-driven methane and nitrous oxide production far outweighed the impact of human-driven carbon dioxide uptake. "In other words, the terrestrial biosphere, through human action, is now contributing to climate change rather than mitigating climate change," says Stanford University's Carnegie Institution in a press release. The authors also point to a better path forward. "Given the large footprint of agriculture in Southern Asia," they write, "improved fertilizer use efficiency, rice management, and animal diets could substantially reduce global agricultural N₂O and CH₄ emissions And if massive wildfires and deforestation continue, even longstanding carbon dioxide sinks may be a thing of the past." "This study should serve as a wake-up call to governments, policymakers, and individuals around the world," said Dr Michalak .

Tian and his 22 co-authors point to several other agricultural practices and waste disposal methods that are responsible for the change Rice cultivation, livestock waste, and landfill emissions are major methane sources, and agriculture fertilizers are a main source of nitrous oxide. And human-induced greenhouse gas emissions vary by region. In North America, Northern Asia, South America and Europe, where carbon dioxide emissions often are the highest, the biosphere's carbon dioxide sinks pretty much balance out the methane and nitrous oxide emissions. But in Southern Asia and Africa, the biosphere's emissions far surpass its sequestration capacity. "We must expand our focus," she says, "and devise strategies that target the biogenic emissions of these other greenhouse gases if we are to change the course of climate change. Southern Asia has about 90 percent of the global rice fields and represents more than 60 percent of the world's nitrogen fertilizer consumption," the study's authors write, and the region is responsible for more than two-thirds of all methane emissions and about half of all nitrous oxide emissions derived from agriculture or waste. – csmonitor.com

While I agree that N₂O and CH₄ are stronger trappers of heat and that together they are 2 times larger than the CO₂ Global sink, I disagree with the author's solutions. I believe that it is wrong to blame SE Asians for eating rice and to switch them over to eating meat when the problems were created by the industrial nations in the first place and the solutions exist in the very sources of the causes that the author explicitly stated – wildfires, deforestation and 'tons upon tons of chemical fertilizers'. Wildfires are already a symptom of a symptom – i.e. a symptom of increasing Global temperature and droughts which is from Climate Change which are combatted by not only planting and replanting trees and Forests, but more importantly, not to destroy them through development in the first place. Where are we going to plant trees if development covers every inch of space? One can just as well say 'why don't we convert meat eaters in industrial nations to rice eaters, since livestock waste too is a 'major methane source'? It's not good enough to just say that North America, Northern Asia, South America, and Europe 'pretty much' offset their carbon emissions with CO₂ sinks. The major CO₂ sinks are Forests along with every tree and every tree stand, but also every open Green Field on the Planet that contributes to the overall CO₂ sequestration. How much Forests have these places already lost and continue to lose? Instead of focusing on rice fields, the focus should be on the continued loss of carbon sink – the Forests. These 3 places, mainly the United States, Central and South America, are still losing Forests at unprecedented rates to development – which is a lot scarier than even unprecedented clearcutting on private and public Forest Lands. A civilized and advanced nation like the United States should know better. And Northeast Asia, meaning China, is still building large dams whose reservoirs emit huge amounts of methane, and building coal plants as their citizens in Beijing are suffocating in smog. It's not only emissions we need to focus on, but rather and especially the CO₂ sinks because once Forests disappear and the loss of this major carbon sink becomes permanent, then even if we completely cut emissions the Planet will never recover. That N₂O and CH₄ are overpowering the Planet's Forests in absorbing CO₂ is yet another signal to us that Earth is in serious Forest deficit – which goes back to the solution responsible development, stopping urban sprawl by securing permanent Urban Growth Boundaries and building vertically not horizontally, securing remaining Forests

with permanent designations, establishing new Wildlife Refuges and Open Green Spaces also with permanent designations, and switching clearcutting Forestry practices once and for all to gradual or sequential harvesting with 200+ year growing cycles to protect the integrity of the Forest Ecosystems – that protects the Species and offers hope of a viable future to man This is ‘Environmental sanity’ We know what to do. But will we do it?

Being skeptical is good as long as you don’t close your eyes to the evidence Climate Change and whether it’s manmade is one thing, but there is no room for skepticism in Species Extinction, rising Sea level, deForestation, pollution, oxygen level, and urban sprawl – things that are visible and can be measured. But even Global Warming and Climate Change have been established on things measured – not by someone’s hunch. There are the records being consistently broken in regional and Global temperatures, the frequencies and magnitudes of Extreme Weather events, the changing ocean temperatures and patterns of Air and ocean currents, the drilled ice cores from Antarctica and Greenland, the rising and quantified fossil-fuel burning since the Industrial Revolution, and so on. I still fail to see, which part of Climate Change is it that’s “debatable”, “controversial”, “philosophical”, or “pseudo-science”? I fail to see because the skeptics don’t say.

It’s amazing to me that even in the 21st century with access to advanced education, there are still some locals who call Climate Change “philosophical” In November of 2015, a Catholic priest at the Saint James church in Vancouver, Washington refused to say a prayer for the Climate and the Planet when I asked him to because “Climate Change is controversial” he said Is Species Extinction too “controversial” and the sea level rise, and the increasing records in high temperatures, hurricanes and tornadoes? Or the changes in weather in the last 20 years, even here in the Pacific Northwest with all-or-nothing rains, 50 degree fluctuations in temperatures between day and night, steadily increasing record high temperatures, droughts like the one last summer, and extreme winds – things we have not experienced 30 years prior – are these just normal cycles of Nature? If we trust doctors and do the tests they advise, and believe astronomers who give us proof of new discoveries in Space, and believe physicists who discovered x-rays, gamma rays, radiation and the Atom bomb, why don’t we believe Climatologists and biologists who too spend their lives researching these things just as doctors, astronomers, and physicists do? And if not them, why not believe our own eyes and ears and follow our gut? Because it’s convenient not to? Why do we keep expanding Urban Growth Boundaries (UGBs) – already for the 4th time this April since 1994 in Clark County of Washington State when we haven’t even exhausted the 1st line of defense – which is building high-rises – not even within the first 1994 UGB? Why is ‘Wildlife’ a foreign word in Clark County commissioner meetings and never spoken of in this city and county? Why has not Clark County set aside for permanent basis Forest and open Raw Land that benefits the Environment and people, when already 5 animal and 19 plant species are Extinct, 14 more animal species have been driven out, 189 other plant species are Critically Endangered, and 114 more plants Imperiled in Washington State alone, when the county gives protection to a tiny fraction of less than 3 percent of its entire surface area to Wildlife – Richfield Wildlife Refuge, Steigervald, and Vancouver Lake Lowlands, the first 2 belong to the Federal Department of Fish and Wildlife, the 3rd to the city, county, port, and state – so nothing really achieved by the county? It is because it’s convenient to do so, because developers make more money building single-family dwellings than a high-rise, and expanding the UGB is more money in their pockets. But what happens when the Raw Land is exhausted and all the Forests are gone – has anybody given any thought to that? Have the city mayor, the county commissioners, the community development center, and our legislators ever had such a discussion? Why do the dumb thing and develop as far as one can and destroy every section of Raw Natural Land and drive more Species away before building up? And when UGBs get expanded 4 times in 22 years (1994, 2004, 2007, 2016), where is this leading to? And when Raw Lands – especially stands of trees and Forests – are being not only clearcut but developed all over the place, what kind of future is that? Do they care?

These very serious matters concerning Land-use that affect all the people – not just locally and regionally, but people across the continent and the Globe, why doesn't the public ever vote on them, why not let the public have a voice instead of just having concerned citizens attend commissioners' meetings that hasn't amounted to nothing over the years? Why hasn't the city of Vancouver offered its citizens to vote on whether to be or not to be medicated with fluoride in the public Water, when Portland just across the Columbia River have already voted and voted against it in recent years? Why not give the people a real voice of true democracy, by letting them vote on these crucial issues? And before they vote, explain to them and write down in voter's pamphlets not deceptively but honestly what's at stake? Just because people sitting on acres of Farmland and Open Space and Forested areas want to sell out to a subdividing developer doesn't mean they should. As a Zoologist and doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine, I know that people's health is entirely dependent on the health of the Environment, but seeing the Environment going to waste in the past decades is frightening for me to see. And I don't stand alone. If one doesn't want my opinion, then listen to Oregon's former Republican Governor Tom McCall who spoke out passionately how "the Environment and quality of Life" are inseparable and must always come first, because without the Environment there can be no people. With a clean, healthy Environment a much broader job-base can be created and more quality and quantity of jobs than without one – which means a protected Environment with not just borders but stable borders of cities, Ecosystems, and the Countryside.

On mainstream television I often hear the word 'sustainable' with reference to money – sustainable yields, but not once about our sustainable Land-use practices. It is spoken about only occasionally on PBS – the Public Broadcasting Service channel.

Are trees and their production of oxygen and absorption of CO₂ philosophical? Are food, Air, Water, Climate, Species Extinction, droughts, hurricanes, and flooding controversial? If these things that Forests do are real, and the pervasive local, regional, and Global deForestation and fossil-fuel consumption are real, then why would Climate Change not be? If Climate Change or that it's manmade, if that is the problem – or both – are still controversial and philosophical in some people's minds, those who conveniently still have not looked at the data; which is the better of the two: to follow these skeptics and to gamble with everyone's future, or to follow safer path and listen to the scientists? Is it not 'better safe than sorry'? Which is better – to bet that these skeptics are right and scientists wrong, or to just do what scientists are telling us to do, even if they are wrong? Which is more sensible: to do nothing as skeptics proclaim, or follow a proactive path just in case the scientists may be right? Which is leading us to a potential Environmental Collapse – if the scientists are wrong or if the skeptics are wrong? If the skeptics are wrong and Climate Change is real and it is manmade and we can divert our course, then doing nothing leads to a disaster for the Planet. If the skeptics are right and scientists are wrong, then by doing what scientists recommend we will only have lost money and effort – but not the Planet. But if this money and effort won't improve Climate Change, the precautionary measures taken are likely to slow down Species Extinction and deForestation, and hence, Global Warming and overall Climate Change. Would these skeptics bet all their money and their house on a single roll of the dice? If they wouldn't, why are they telling us to bet it all – the Environment: something much priceless that far exceeds all their wealth and houses combined – on their hunches when they haven't even bothered to look at the science? If the skeptics are wrong and scientists are right, and we follow the skeptics, then we will needlessly face an end when in fact we could have prevented it. Despite the disagreement, there is no excuse for irresponsible development, irresponsible deForestation, for not securing remaining Forests and farms, and for not securing a set amount of Wildlife Refuges. Forests and Raw Open Land must be protected despite disagreements for the sake of the Species for their sake, and for all they do for the Planet.

Instead of following the lead from the East Coast and southern California – both urban-sprawling megapolises, we should learn from their mistakes and do things differently, to set a different and better course. If we don't, we will lose all these precious Ecological Treasures which we were freely gifted. Our first priority must be the Environment, because without that there can be no people. And with people who think and act smartly, there can be a healthy Environment. But it is not the course we are currently on. The key aspect to secure permanent health for the people of Clark County, the State of Washington, the region of Pacific Northwest, the nation of the United States of America, the continent of North America, and Planet Earth – is to secure permanent health of the Environment – the Climate, the Ecosystems, the Species. Expanding UGBs instead of Wildlife Refuges (like the less than 3 percent in Clark County) and Green Spaces, and developing all available Raw Land and Forests before exhausting vertical space within existing Urban Growth Boundaries, is far away from this goal. Nothing destroys the Environment more than these things. Land-use has to have permanence to it if we sincerely want to permanently remain here. If the Land is not expanding, why should we be? Land-use concerning confinement of urban areas and demarcating Forests and Wildlife Refuges and setting aside a minimal amount of Farmland and Open Wild Spaces and responsible Forestry practices are the foundation of stewardship. The planning of future must not be for a mere 10 years, not even 20, but rather for 200 years. If the Iroquois Native Americans saw the need to plan future for the next 7 generations of 210+ years, why do we see the need for only 10? The Climate, the Forests, the Open Lands, the Species, food, the Air, the oxygen, the Water, the Rivers, the Lakes – whether a Republican or a Democrat, a Christian or an atheist, a politician or a biologist, these Things affect us all directly and profoundly, working for us every minute of each day. The responsibility of stewardship belongs to all of us.

Safeguarding the remaining Forests and stands of trees in the World from clearcutting – and especially from development – should be the top priority in combatting Climate Change because Forests are the pillars and foundation of Earth's basic processes, because prevention from loss is the cheapest way to do it, and is the easiest way to do it. While most everybody in the media speaks of only fossil fuels with a warming and erratic Climate, they ignore the more important part – the Forests. While fossil fuels currently contribute a great part of Global Warming and Climate Change, it is the Forests that have kept carbon dioxide and the Planet's surface temperature stable long before man has set foot on this Planet. And the key component of this safeguarding-Forests strategy is building high-rise buildings in centralized locations within the Urban Growth Boundaries of towns and cities. And yet in my part of the World – Vancouver, Washington in Clark County of Washington State – developers with the aid of local politicians and no help from the governors, have been doing just the opposite – profiting from stripping Forests in the Countryside, subdividing open and Forested Wild Raw Lands and developing them with buildings and streets, even before filling the centralized portion of the city with high-rises which still remains mostly single-story homes; and doing all this without giving the public any power of decision-making – which is the power of voting on these issues of-how to develop and where to develop. Trees and Forests don't grow in all parts of the World, not even in the state of Washington in the once-richly Forested Pacific Northwest Region of the United States of America – as half of the eastern parts of Washington and Oregon States are desert-like. It is therefore the moral responsibility of tree- and Forest-growing regions of the World like Washington and Oregon States, to keep these Forested regions standing just because of what they do, for the Climate, for the benefit of the Flora and Fauna Species, and for all people of today and for future generations. Sadly and not surprisingly, Washington and Oregon States have already lost 14 Animal Species to Extinction, about 95 percent of the original Forests since the time of Columbus to development, and 28 Animal Species are Endangered. This 95 percent figure of original Forest loss also applies to the entire continental United. It should then be no surprise then that the U.S.A. leads the world – and by a wide margin – in the number of Extinct Species (Plants: 23 Extinct, 7 Extinct in the Wild, 113 Critically Endangered) and also leads the world in Extinct Animal Species (234 Extinct, 4 Extinct in the Wild, 206 Critically End). India is 2nd in plants (6--2--60), Brazil 3rd (5--1--74),

French Polynesia is 2nd in animals (71--11--35); Brazil is 3rd in animals (9-1-70); and China 4th in animals (4--1--78). These are 2013 figures from the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) And despite the growing threat of Climate Change and Species Extinction, the cities and counties of Washington State continue with the same destructive Forest and Land-use practices that started these problems.

The problem of increasing population pressure on a community has 2 aspects to it: having too many children and unusual influx of people from other places, and figuring out how to accommodate the increasing population with the least impact on the Countryside and Nature which in turn impacts the populace. Preventing the first aspect is to prevent the problem altogether. But if we currently struggle with stabilizing the population, at least we should incorporate a thoughtful plan to the 2nd aspect – which is to develop responsibly. And thus far, in the city of Vancouver in Clark County of Washington State, we have failed in both. We can be assured, however, that if we keep failing, Nature will take care of things, one way or another.

The question has kept popping in my mind since the 1990s, ‘Why strip a hill of trees like Prune Hill at the Gateway of the world-famous Columbia River Gorge when 99 percent of Vancouver’s buildings are single-family single-story dwellings and with vacant lots still available in the city even within the old 1994 Urban Growth Boundary – even to this day? Why not tear down these single-family and single-story buildings in the central part of town and let the government reimburse their owners for a fair price or by exchanging them for an apartment in a high-rise building? That there is no space is no excuse. Why repeat the same mistakes of building the same low-story housing and businesses while stealing from Raw Land? And if this is not available, why develop a section of a Forested hill back in 1990s when vacant lots and open fields abounded within the same UGB even more than today? And why expand the UGB (several times) when there has not even been an attempt to build high-rises within existing UGBs? And if these low-story small dwellings scattered wide across the city cannot be attained, why build single-story dwellings on open fields as in Ridgefield, 7 miles (10 km) north of Vancouver – to repeat the same mistake all over again which keeps robbing the Countryside and the Flora and Fauna and all of us – especially here, the part of the country where there are as yet still some Forests left but which UGBs are quickly encroaching on? We have a moral obligation to keep these Forests and stands of trees intact wherever they may be – on private and public Lands – so they can continue their vital Ecological functions, a moral obligation to the Creator and to His Creation, and to the people of the county, the state, the PNW region, the nation, and the world, and to the Planet. Why strip a hill or a flat Land of a Forest when we have not even touched, let alone exhausted the 1st line of defense against a high population pressure – which is to concentrate growth in a central region of the city with high-rise buildings, as Europe has done and is doing, as Vancouver, BC has done and continues to do, and as Oregonians are doing in the Pearl District and are struggling to do in Oregon’s Countryside? Let’s be honest about it, this is irresponsible development! Do we not appreciate this Land that was blessed with Forests and the Flora and Fauna; do we not understand how Forests work for the Climate, how Species work for the Forests and other Ecosystems, and how our survival depends on both?

Bees are dying out in the world, mostly attributed to pesticides. The United States of America has thus far lost 50% of her bee populations. When in 1945, the U.S. detonated her first atomic bomb near Alamogordo, New Mexico; a newspaper reporter asked Albert Einstein if nuclear weapons might lead to the final destruction of civilization. “No,” Einstein replied, and suggested something less obvious. “If the bee disappears from the surface of the Earth,” he said, “man would have no more than four years to live. No more bees, no more pollination...no more men!” On television the Oregon Public Broadcasting channel said that as recently as in the 1990s there were 1 billion Monarch Butterflies in the United States, today down to 30-40 million, the monarch declined by 90 percent across the Country because the Landscape has changed so dramatically. “Just seeing

one is a blessing”, said a man in Oregon who plants milkweeds for them. Milkweed is the only plant on which caterpillars lay their eggs which the caterpillar eats as it transforms from a caterpillar to chrysalis to a butterfly – what many that have seen it call a miracle. Milkweed has very long roots with pink-red 5-pointed star flowers. Chrysalis is bright translucent green that turns black before it undergoes transformation into a Monarch Butterfly. The program stated that “Agriculture and urbanization just devastated the milkweed populations that were once abundant all across the country” Each year the Monarchs migrate some 1,800 miles (2900 km) between the Rocky Mountains of North America (as far north as Ontario, Canada) and central Mexico, finding the same hilltop or mountaintop each time, in whose Forests – in the barks of the trees – they clump together where they lay eggs. The same irresponsible development that is devastating Forests also devastates Species and Farmlands across the Country.

“I would like to ask all those who have positions of responsibility in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill. let us be protectors of Creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in Nature, protectors of one another and of the Environment.”

– Pope Francis, March 15, 2013, Inaugural Mass in Vatican City

At his Inaugural Mass on Tuesday March 15, 2013, Pope Francis focused on the Environment, urging presidents, princes, sheiks and ordinary people to protect the Environment, the weakest and the poorest, with a vision mapping out a clear focus of his priorities as leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics. The pope defined his idea of protection as ‘respecting each of God's Creatures and respecting the Environment in which we live. In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God's gifts!’

In his 2nd encyclical entitled *Laudato si'*, meaning “Praise Be To You” in Medieval Central Italian, with subtitle “In Care For Our Common Home”, dated May 24, 2015, the pope writes

There are certain environmental issues where it is not easy to achieve a broad consensus. Here I would state once more that the Church does not presume to settle scientific questions or to replace politics. But I am concerned to encourage an honest and open debate so that particular interests or ideologies will not prejudice the common good...Although the post-industrial period may well be remembered as one of the most irresponsible in history, nonetheless there is reason to hope that humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities. Pope Francis states that concern for the Natural world is no longer ‘optional’ but is an integral part of the Church teaching on social justice.’ He reportedly has said that the encyclical was not really an Environmental document at all, that the warming of the Planet is a symptom of a greater problem – the developed world's indifference to the destruction of the Planet as they pursue short-term economic gains; resulting in a ‘throwaway culture’ in which unwanted items and unwanted people, such as the unborn, the elderly, and the poor, are discarded as waste because humans no longer see God as the Creator. Thus, we see ‘other living beings as mere objects subjected to arbitrary human domination’ and do not realize that ‘the ultimate purpose of other creatures is not found in us.’ Pope Francis says that instead of viewing man as having ‘dominion’ over Earth, we must see that everything is interconnected and that all of Creation is a ‘kind of universal family.’ Nature cannot be seen as something apart from humanity, or merely the place where we live. He says that our social and Environmental crises are thus one complex crisis that must be solved holistically. Speaking about pollution, Climate Change, a lack of clean Water, loss of Biodiversity, and an overall decline in human life and a breakdown of society, “Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years,” he states

He ‘describes a relentless exploitation and destruction of the Environment, for which he blamed apathy, the reckless pursuit of profits, excessive faith in technology and political shortsightedness.

Laudato si' 'unambiguously accepts the scientific consensus that changes in the Climate are largely man-made' and states that 'Climate Change is a Global problem with grave implications. Environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day' and warns of 'unprecedented destruction of Ecosystems, with serious consequence for all of us' if prompt Climate Change mitigation efforts are not undertaken (Source. Wikipedia.org)

In my opinion, every county and state should protect 100 percent of their currently-Forested areas from development period Let us establish Wildlife Refuges that should be 20 percent or more of the Land rather than the less than 3% like it is currently in Clark County, and even less in other counties. And for Wild non-Forested areas (separate from Wetlands, Waters, and Mountains) such as Open Fields and Valleys, we should demarcate and protect on a permanent basis at minimum 30 percent – to be untouched from development If one thinks this to be extreme, then consider the Extreme Weather that already plays havoc with peoples' Lives all across the Globe, and costing billions of dollars for each event, because we have already created for Earth a serious Forest deficit that continues to increase with every irresponsible development and subdivision The percentages to safeguard from development must be higher now that we have reduced the Forests and the Raw Land by so much Is safeguarding 100% of the remaining Forests and stands of trees – not from logging – but at least from development too much to ask for the Climate, the Global temperatures, the oxygen, the Air, the Water, for our own lungs, and for the Species which we keep pushing away and which are departing from us at unprecedented rates in man's history? Is safeguarding at least 50 percent of Raw Open Land too much to ask for a creature that represents 0 0000001% of the Species on Earth that man is? If the people of Bhutan can protect over 65% of their Land from development, why can't we do at least 50%? Vancouver B.C in Canada is learning from Vancouver, Washington and Seattle how not to build. I spent a week in Vancouver B.C. in 2010 and saw the people building high-rises, not only in downtown, but all over to protect the Countryside. High-rises should not only be a thing of large cities but of smaller towns as much of Europe has done The places where to develop must be prioritized: starting with the first place to develop is the center point of a town or city – which is the downtown, single or two-story buildings should be replaced with high-rises, the government should make every effort to buy the single-family and low-story dwellings from the owners. After step 1 is exhausted, the 2nd option is to do the same within the Urban Growth Boundary Even under great increased population pressure, it would take decades to exhaust steps 1 and 2 And only after fully exhausting both steps is step 3 to be implemented, which is to enlarge the Urban Growth Boundary, and repeat step 2, which is to replace existing low-story developments within the new Urban Growth Boundary before touching any open raw Land Forested areas within an UGB should not be developed over – ever – but rather they should have a designated equivalent to a permanent protection. People who don't understand this and complain, don't have a clue about the functioning of a Forest and lack the basic understanding of Ecology, Climate, etc and I encourage them to attend classes to educate themselves. But for those seeking county commissioner positions, or a mayor, which has the responsibility for the welfare how Land is managed and used, the state and federal law should require them to have schooling in the Environment which includes the basic functioning of Forests and how they regulate Climate, Air, Water, and Streams, manufacture oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide, and how vital all the Plant and Animal Species are to the functioning of that and other Ecosystems on which we all depend. And all those who work with the Land – developers, loggers, realtors, miners, oilmen – need to have mandatory education in Ecology for the same reasons Because this is what has happened, no man who is aware of these things can do the irresponsible things that have occurred in this county in the past 5 decades. On the contrary, a person ignorant of these things will only be a hindrance to a society in courts and in lobbying governments, and cause a great deal of irreparable damage – as has been the case He cannot feel deeply for the Land like those who have come to Clark County's commissioner meetings in last decades to express their concerns

Never should development be sought outside the Urban Growth Boundary, not even with public input, otherwise the UGB is meaningless. If for some reason there is a development sought outside the UGB for extenuating circumstances, it should not be on any Forested tract of Land and have least impact on Wildlife, and this should in any and every case be put to a vote – again, not just to 3 individuals, the 3 county commissioners – but to the people. Forests should have a permanent protection and never be breached by development – because if you do, it is like taking chunks of alveoli tissue from your lungs, which gets into the core of biological functions – whether of a Planet or a person. And like a removing a section of a lung, it never grows back. If you do, you are robbing the future generations of health and a Life worth living. We are already witnessing the consequences of a Planetary Forest deficit today and therefore we should know better. This is responsible development, and commonsensical basic stewardship. On the contrary, Vancouver, Washington has shown irresponsible development, allowing developers to grab every available open Green Space and even Forested Lands like Prune Hill, expanding the UGB to cater to developers without even touching steps 1 and 2 let alone exhausting them! Vancouver, USA expanded its UGB —_times in —_ years without erecting a single high-rise building. If it has, I haven't see it or heard about it. This alarms me greatly because there is no future for anybody with this kind nonsense and stupidity. It is why so many people who lived here for generations have moved away because as they say, "I don't recognize the place!"

Furthermore, the clearcutting that's happening in the Mount Hood National Forest and in the Columbia River Gorge around the Gifford National Forest from what I can see on the satellite photos, has reduced the functioning of those Forests to a mere 20 percent capacity – at best – of a fully Forested mature tree system with more soil showing than green, which is frightening – pointing to greed and gross mismanagement. Like a lung, a Forest is a cohesive living and breathing organism. And as such it means that some 80 percent – or less – of its ability to produce oxygen, absorb carbon dioxide, produce Rainwater, cool and stabilize Atmospheric temperature, stabilize Climate from Extreme Weather events, serve as Habitat to Flora and Fauna, and control erosion has been literally ripped to shreds.

The public shouldn't have to beg for these things to happen, nor to give verbal or written input on every development that pops up whether by a meeting or email or otherwise, but to demand it as their full-pledged right. While these meetings and letters and emails look good on the outside making it seem that the people have a say, the commissioners and developers know that this only caters to developers and serves no benefit to the surrounding Countryside and to the general welfare of the people, because people work and don't have the energy or time or patience to keep doing this. The public meetings have therefore amounted to be just for show – a show of democracy, but without the power of the people to vote on these issues. The only way people have a real say is if they vote on whether to allow each and every development to proceed and where. And if the county doesn't want to do this, because it may find it 'cumbersome' for the public, why has it not developed responsibly? The public should vote on whether or not to expand UGB, to set aside Wildlife Refuges, to give permanent protection to all Forested areas, regardless of how many commissioner's set the county's agenda. If the Countryside and the Forests are to be ravaged and Species disappear entirely, let it be because of the will of the people and not the will of just 1, 3 or 5 county commissioners, or even a 100 or 1000 people. We, the citizens of the Pacific Northwest, have a moral responsibility to the nation and to the world to keep the remaining Forests and trees standing so they can keep doing what they were intended to do.

In 2012 I had the opportunity to see the ruins of Tikal and other sights in Guatemala and the Mexican Yucatan Peninsula. When the ancient Maya stripped the vast Tropical Rainforests to build their extensive sprawling cities, in around 900 AD the Climate changed – it stopped raining – the Classic Mayan civilization collapsed, forcing the entire populations to relocate north to Yucatan Peninsula near the ocean coastlands – permanently. Easter Islanders suffered the same

fate, when their deForestation practices forced them off the island – permanently Eventually new people came but the island remains desolate and devoid of the Wildlife it once contained The countries of Ireland, Spain, Sicily and others that were deForested by ancient Romans never fully recovered, and the Rajasthan Desert, one-fifth of India used to be a lush Rainforest before man abounded. DeForestation and poverty run together from which not even the rich are spared And so if the commissioners and developers wish to run the Countryside into Ground, they better prepare themselves and their children and their children’s children for a rude awakening. The irresponsible development and deForestation has to stop lest America turns into a heathland and one sprawling giant city.

‘There are no jobs on a dead Planet.’

– A sign in New York City during Climate talks in Paris, December 2015

Oliver Orjiako, the head of Clark County’s Community Planning since 1989 has been involved in the county's comprehensive growth management plan since its inception in 1994. Holding a Ph D in urban studies and a masters degree in urban and regional planning e he said in 2012: "Here we are in 2012, getting ready to update it (UGB) again " He lived in other areas of the U.S. like Boston and in Europe and has seen the difference between responsible and irresponsible development. He said here the UGBs were enlarged in 2004 by 56 acres with a primary focus on jobs. An update in 2007 expanded the boundaries by another 12,000 acres, 34 percent of which was Land for jobs. He explains that the next round of comprehensive planning would likely focus more heavily on the county's economy He also says that the state's Office of Financial Management estimates Clark County's population could grow to as high 700,000 by 2040. It was estimated at around 428,000 in 2011 (Source: www.zoominfo.com) Mr. Orjiako shares my worries. With John Wiesman and Sandy Mathewson, in April 2012 he published a ‘Growing Healthier’ document on www.clark.wa.gov stating in effect that Land-use is directly responsible for Climate Change and that the current mindset in Clark County with focus on jobs is not understanding the issues at stake and is off the course in ameliorating the Ecosystem decay and worsening of Climate Change. They write: ‘Decades of climate research have led nearly every scientific body in the world, and every major public health organization in the United States, to the same conclusion: global warming is accelerating rapidly, and poses a threat to human health and the health of the planet. It is critically important to slow the rate of climate change (mitigation) and to minimize its impact on human health, the environment, and the economy (adaptation). Weather is made up of short - term changes in the atmosphere, whereas climate is observed over years or decades.’ They present a graph showing how the annual average temperature (1895-2010) in Vancouver, Washington has risen 1.5 degrees F, ‘like the rest of the Northwest region’, in the past century I feel that this document regarding the effect of Land-use on Climate Change should be incorporated as a chapter into the local and state’s Growth Management Act.

An Urban Growth Boundary is just that – an ‘urban-growth boundary’. I strongly feel that the Urban Growth Boundaries should not be expanded at all, that the Clark County’s 5 commissioners should try harder to fill the existing boundary. But the city of Vancouver and other communities are trying to do this once again by April of 2016. The cities of Vancouver and Camas have already fused their borders from previous expansions, and little county land exists between the UGBs of Vancouver, Ridgefield, Battle Ground, and La Center. And they once again are expanding the UGBs unnecessarily which is irresponsible because they have not even begun to exhaust the first line of defense against growing population pressure, and that is, building high rises in the existing UGBs. Keeping this UGB stable is a key prerequisite for a viable future – which is one of sustainability And secondly, the communities and the county have failed to establish any Wildlife Refuges: the 3 that exist in Clark County are small and federal and even so, they represent a tiny fraction of less than 3% of the whole Clark County. And thirdly, they have failed to set aside and give permanent protection to Forested areas on private lands in the county from development with

a permanent designation, such as FFORREST which I propose. If we don't respect the Creator's Species of Plants and Animals and Ecosystems nor understand how they impact our quality of Life today, nor care about the future generations, then there is no future and the battle that developers and county commissioners want so desperately to win, if they do win then this win of few temporary and narrow jobs of short-term profits will result in a war lost for everybody that will end in Environmental collapse and a quality of Life not worth living even for them. It would seem that they would work with the rest of the community in saving what remains of the Forests and the Countryside and the Species for their children's sake if not their own. But it's not only 'their' Life and their Planet, it is 'mine' too, and 'my' family's, and others' families across this globe. It should therefore be a top priority of any responsible government to be reluctant and to postpone expanding an Urban Growth Boundary as long as one can – to give chance for people to come to their senses, instead of enlarging it at regular intervals as has been the current practice.

I also believe that the current government of Clark County is undemocratic – a handful of individuals who make decisions on such major Land-Use issues as Urban Growth Boundaries which should be put to the vote of all people, not just asking for public input at a meeting here and there. Along the same lines, whether people want more high-rise apartment and business buildings in the central part of towns and within UGBs should not be guessed by nor decided by developers or county commissioners but by all the people whose lives will be profoundly and directly affected by them. Let the commissioners raise the issues and teach the people what the stakes are, but let the people vote on them. This is what true democracy is. The new government since January 2016 of 5 county commissioners from previous 3 is even worse because now only 1 commissioner sets the agenda. What kind of democracy is this? It isn't. In addition, Washington State law allows cities to annex new Lands into their expanding UGB by either an approval of 60 percent from the Land owners in those proposed annexation Lands – which could only be 2 or 3 people, or an approval of 70 percent from the people living in those proposed annexed Lands – but not from the vote of the entire county populace, not even the entire Vancouver community. Nobody called me once during the 4 annexations that Vancouver did since it started the UGB in 1994, and not once did it come up in a vote ever. This is wrong and this law should be changed because it is not the practice of a democracy but oligarchy where a “small group of people together govern for their own purposes!” (Source: Encarta dictionary)

There is a battle being waged not only against people and future generations, but against the Countryside which is the Creator's abode. The people have been pushed so hard by county commissioners and developers that they doubt they can hang on to even a small stand of trees or an open Green Space, let alone a Forest. And for this we need the input and help from local legislators, from Governor Inslee, from President Obama, and all people of the state, the Pacific Northwest, and the country of the United States of America. The issue of Land-Use is that important.

Is man more important than the blood that flows in his veins and the Air that diffuses through his lungs? If not, then neither is he more important than the Environment that sustains him. If he thinks and acts that he is greater, then he will destroy the Nature that feeds him. Because the pillars of the Environment are the Forests, if he doesn't protect these, he will die.

Forests are more than buffer zones and more than pretty sites to look at and a place for man to rest himself. Because of the way they are shaped and what they do, they interact in a big way with the atmosphere every single minute of each day of every year. They are a house and place of dwelling for numerous Flora and Fauna Species, and the key mechanism for the Planet to regulate and stabilize her Climate, regionally and Globally – by producing Clouds that give us Rain and drinking Water (a single mature Evergreen tree in PNW transpires 3,000 gallons of Water per day into the Atmosphere), by keeping temperatures stable, by producing oxygen, by absorbing carbon dioxide CO₂ from the Atmosphere, by purifying the Air through Rain and negative ions, by

purifying the Rainwater through tree roots, that impacts Rivers and Oceans. Trees and Forests in their greater quantity are the single greatest mechanism and the cheapest way to fight Global Warming and erratic and extreme Climate Change through their absorption of CO₂, the chief Greenhouse Gas in the atmosphere that has been increasing since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution (1750) and skyrocketing in the past 100 years, and particularly in the last 40 years

Life for us will get harder and harder and more expensive with each loss of Forest areas. The U.S. lost 95 percent of her original Forests since Columbus, over 400 years ago. Similar is true for the Pacific Northwest which has been the richest Forested area in the continental United States, and contains the tallest and most spectacular trees in the World. I've traveled to Europe, Asia, and South America, and no place compares to the trees we have here. Yet we are carelessly letting these Forests slip away through conversion of Forested Lands to Farmlands, and conversion of Forested Lands and Farmlands to development. It's one thing to have pervasive clearcutting on the National Forests and on private Lands, but once a Forest is developed over – it is permanently gone and permanently stops functioning as a Habitat for the species and for combatting Climate Change that we so desperately need today, and will need even more in the future.

The U.S. EPA website says that 'The amount of CO₂ that is removed is subject to large uncertainty, although recent estimates indicate that on a global scale, ecosystems on land removed about twice as much CO₂ as is lost by deForestation', in other words, Forests absorb twice as much CO₂ as deForestation releases into the Air. That means that stopping deForestation would increase the CO₂ absorptive power of Forests by a whopping 33 percent! What the website does not say, is that not only does deForestation through development, conversion to farm-use, and clearcutting for timber actually release CO₂ into the Air through biomass decay, but deForestation also prevents a clearcut or developed-over would-be Forest from absorbing the CO₂ which it would if it hadn't been cut. Therefore, without any deForestation, the CO₂ absorptive power of Forests in the World would improve by a whopping 33 percent! – Or more

The population growth pressures are great in the Pacific Northwest, Oregon is the number one destination for Americans relocating from other areas, primarily due to Extreme Weather. The other reason is because of the attraction of Oregon, being able to keep it beautiful by regulating growth, thanks to former Governor Tom McCall who formed the Urban Growth Boundary in an effort to regulate growth and development. He believed the cities and counties should regulate growth and development but that it should be under the guidance of the state. The newcomers appreciate the state because of the failed growth and development regulations in their own states. With more Forests gone, the Extreme Weather will become more severe even here on the West Coast that we have already seen with droughts and winds. The U.S. of America leads the world in the number of Endangered and Extinct Species by a huge margin. Washington State already lost 14 Animal Species and 28 more are Endangered. We have seen Forests all around us being clearcut, but even worse, developed. We have seen how Prune Hill east of 192nd Avenue in Eastern Clark County sprung up overnight even after the urging of Environmentally-conscious citizens in the 1990s to contain development at the 164th Avenue that fell on deaf ears of county commissioners at their meetings, who neither listened to reason nor the public but only to their developer friends. The citizens cried out to protect the Forested eastern county and stop the sprawl. As a result, a huge fully Forested hill overlooking the Columbia River and at the Gateway to the Columbia Gorge got stripped and developed over, with more developments farther east as one can clearly see from the Oregon side and with the satellite imagery of Google Earth.com. There was no need to extend Vancouver or Camas cities that far out from either side when we have not even touched the first line of defense against population growth – building high-rise structures in centralized locations – how Europe has done for centuries and whose Forests in vast areas are clearly demarcated and still largely intact today. In contrast, the areas to the north of Vancouver, Washington are seeing the same trend of development – virtually all single-story single-family

dwellings that are following suit of Vancouver which has thus far not been doing anything differently from the East Coast or southern California, areas that have in effect become giant sprawling cities. Just north of Vancouver is Ridgefield, where large single-level houses and buildings are awaiting development. And continuing up the I-5 one sadly sees huge tracts of Open Land, much of it Forested, with big 'For Sale' signs offering 100-, 350-, and 600+ acres to developers – which are inroads to develop deep into the Countryside of Washington State.

It is easy to rob the raw Land and Forests and develop until there is nothing left – let's do the harder thing, to protect the Raw Countryside and the Forests that remain. While developers, loggers, commissioners, and realtors profit, the entire public loses out from losing irreplaceable Ecosystems, Species, Climate stability, Rain, Air and Water quality, including the families of the commissioners, the loggers, the developers, and realtors. And by not centralizing the development, urban sprawl causes further stresses not only on the Countryside and the loss of food-production from local farms but on the every-day Life of the people by forcing longer commutes, increasing not only CO₂ emissions but chances of injuries from accidents, and costs of maintaining vehicles.

There should be a law, a state law, a national law that automatically prohibits Forested Lands, whether public or private – from being developed over. It is unfathomable that such a law does not already exist. If it did, we wouldn't see the local and regional Forests decimated in the way they have been. Having lived in Europe, it is unimaginable for that to happen. The developers want to build – that's fine – let them do so by tearing out old single-story buildings and build high-rises in their place, and not by stripping Forests or stealing Raw Land. It should not be up to the developers to decide where they want to build, but the public telling them where to build through the government-enacted laws. This is because we all have a stake in this, it's a huge problem, and what the developers do affects us all directly and in critical ways. If they can't find work building in non-Forested areas, let them find other work, like the rest of us. Forests and Green Spaces are so vital that these things should be a concern to every single person.

I want to see the protection of the remaining Forests on private lands in Clark County, in the State of Washington, and in the Pacific Northwest, because we desperately need it. The Forests of this region serve not only the local inhabitants but the citizens of the whole Globe because Atmosphere, oxygen, Water, and Species have no borders and we depend on all of these Things. I propose that the private Forested lands in Clark County, such as in the Eastern County, what still remains, be allowed to log but have a permanent restriction on them to not ever be converted to any other use other than a Forest. There is an understandable urgency in this. While we have already lost so much Forest cover Globally and in the U.S., we can still protect the Forested areas that do remain with this basic minimal protection for the most vital Ecosystems on Earth – the pillars and foundation of Earth's functioning – a protection that they deserve. It's time to stop taking and start giving back. Those who are fortunate to 'own' a piece of Land have the right to use Her and manage Her that is consistent with the needs of the Planet, Her Species, and all people. They do not have the right to abuse and mismanage Her and do anything they want with the Land even if laws permit. Hence, for those Landowners who follow laws rather than their own conscience, such laws are necessary. Those in authority who allow and even push for such lax Land-use laws, who are ignorant of Ecology and have ulterior motives, are misguided and wrong and should be held accountable. What we have seen in Clark County and Washington State over the last decades is unacceptable abuse and mismanagement of the Land.

The issue of protecting the remaining stands of Forest in the U.S. is as basic as the Air we breathe, the Water we drink, and the food that we eat. It is an issue that has plagued the United States since her inception, and has not seized. It's an issue that has bothered me for a very long time, and is not getting better by what I see around me. Health of people can only be as good as the Environment around them. When Forests are removed permanently, the condition of man's health becomes

compromised permanently. One need not be a Biologist or doctor to understand the importance of maintaining Wildlife and Wildlands for the Planet and people. With America's Coastlands being threatened by rising sea level, deforestation becomes a threat to the U.S.A.'s national security because Forests are the main players in combatting Global Warming and Extreme Weather.

It's hard to understand that the U.S. has the most laws of any nation on Earth, but fails to have the one that is the most crucial – restrict development and any conversion of Forests and stands of trees. I believe such a law should be put forth to the people in statewide and national elections – the people should have the freedom to decide their own fate. I am not sure how to go about making this law the law of the Land, but I know it is urgently needed. Life is hard enough than having to deal with this irresponsibility of developing Forests and its huge impact on the future

Population growth pressure is not the sole problem to blame – there has been little will, little or no attempt to build upwards and centralizing growth in towns and cities. Urban growth boundaries (UGBs) mean nothing if you keep expanding them – urban sprawl is faster when building one- or two-story dwellings – and you fail to permanently protect the vital Lands – the Forests – with solid laws. In Clark County, Urban Growth Boundaries did nothing to keep the Forest areas safe from development, particularly in the eastern part – because there has not been any kind of effort to concentrate growth in central areas with high-rises, nor have laws been enacted to protect the Forests, Wildlife areas, and the surrounding Countryside. Current results since 1994 show that the urban sprawl we see would have been the same had we not had any UGBs at all, they may have just delayed the sprawl a little, if any

It's not good enough to subdivide a parcel of Rural Land, be it a farm or a Forest, just because the owner wishes it. It's not good enough to level a Forested hill and fill it with concrete and asphalt just because it's legal and just because someone wants to make money on it. Every chunk of Forest or stand of trees is a chunk of our lungs, and every section of Raw Land is a strand from the Web of Life. Therefore, every chunk of Forest lost and every chunk of Raw Land taken is an act of robbing the Land, and one step closer to a sick Environment, which means increased chances of illness and premature death for each one of us. And when not even necessary, it becomes stupidity to do so

Scientists report that with Global Warming, animals are migrating farther north each year – in this regard they are Wildlife refugees. Since we are already experiencing the symptoms and warning signs of Environmental Collapse with Climate Change and Species Extinction, we know that we are in a deep Global Forest deficit. The Great Natural Depositories or Storehouses of Flora and Fauna within myriad niches of Open Fields and various Ecosystems on Land, in Air and Water, must by all means remain intact. They were intended for the Planet, for they maintain Her vital functions; and we exist because of the fruits of these Gifts. Either we secure more Wildlife Refuges and Open Spaces and give permanent protection to Forestlands from development and clearcutting or we in the Pacific Northwest too will join others – animals and people – in becoming Environmental refugees ourselves

There is always a price to be paid for convenience, and always a consequence to face for not paying. Population overgrowth amounts to having more children than the Environment allows, and/or the influx of excess people beyond the Land's capacity, which is to say that the excess of people is a luxury or convenience. It is not for the need to propagate the human race in fear of Extinction. So the price of this convenient population growth is to then dwell and work in high-rise buildings, much like Europeans have had to adapt to over the past 100 years, because they understand that their Natural Environment is their Lifeblood. To ignore paying this cost, to not proactively change our harmful Land-use practices to sustainable ones while still wishing to pursue the American Dream of irresponsible subdivision of Raw Land for single-family units with

2-car garages, lawns and acreages, that includes roads in the Countryside, is to compromise the basic functions of our existence, to decrease everyone's quality of Life, and ultimately to face the full impacts of an Environmental Collapse. The cost of the unwillingness to pay the price – of irresponsible development – is Environmental suicide. If we are not careful, we will pay the ultimate price and lose the Ecosystems and the Countryside, and we will also be the ultimate trophy. And for what? – for convenience, luxury; and for our failure to recognize it and deal with it.

How Land is protected and used is the foundation of stewardship on Earth. That is why the ongoing urban sprawl is nothing short of frightening. Every irresponsible development condemns us all in the eyes of the Greater Forces, prompting Nature to find us unworthy. People who have lived or visited a place like Europe are well aware of the big difference they see between the way townspeople in Europe or even Canada build to protect their Countryside, and the way that U.S. Americans build that doesn't. Every single person in Clark County has a personal stake in the Forests, the Raw Open Land, the Farmlands, the Open Green Spaces, the Flora and Species – whether he or she is aware of it or not – because of the big ways in which these Great Natural Depositories impact his/her physical, emotional, and mental health. And because Nature has no borders, the people they impact live far beyond Clark County's borders. And for these very reasons, every person in Clark County has a stake in every Forest and every tree stand of trees outside of Clark County just as every person outside of Clark County has a stake in every Forest and every stand of trees in Clark County. How well people in adjacent counties and beyond manage the Ecosystems and Land in their local areas affects us as much as our actions in our area affect them. The Countryside in Clark County has been ravaged by a not-completely-thought-through Growth Management Plan because of private interests of few developers and Landowners and a catering government who have prioritized money and personal gains over the Environment and the needs of the Planet. Not UGBs but our visions are ones which have to be made broader in order to see what is being squandered by such short-sightedness – which is a promising future. Holistic solutions to our Environmental problems are above all keeping the Forests and Raw Wild Land intact, undivided. Runaway subdivisions equate to runaway Climate Change and runaway Species Extinction. Stop the constant UGB reviews, stop the UGB expansions, and build up!

Those Landowners wishing to subdivide 'their' Rural Land do not appreciate the Land. They are not thinking what is good for Nature or for the common good, but only of themselves and for their short-term gain. Therefore, it should not be just up to those Landowners to subdivide 'their' Forest or Farmland or Open Space and sell it to a developer for profit just because they want to – but consideration should be taken for the common good of both Species and man and for the long-term future, not just short-term profits for one or two individuals at the expense of the Land.

Washington State borrowed the Urban Growth Boundary concept from Oregon, but changed it for worse by diluting it. The Oregon State agency LCDRC who has the power to reject proposed changes to counties' and cities' Urban Growth Boundaries and plans. But in Washington State, the Growth Management Hearing Board in Olympia has the power to repeal the proposals of cities and counties only when someone like a private group first appeals them. Such a system is like a cloth strainer with tears in it designed to catch only the largest boulders at best – inadequate. The Board in Olympia cannot on its own repeal a proposal like in Oregon. This is just one of the things that we need to change. Neighborhood newsletters should keep people informed of Land-use and other vital issues affecting them, not just where and when to drop off yard debris.

How can we be more proactive in stabilizing Climate Change, in preserving the Forests and Farmlands and Open Lands and protecting the remaining Species? How do we introduce a chapter on Climate Change in Washington's Growth Management Act that addresses these Things? How do we introduce a chapter on Climate Change into Washington State's Growth Management legislation? How do we introduce Land-use ballot measures in Clark County that preserve these

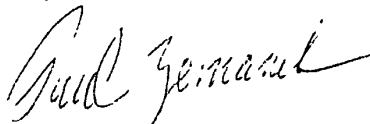
Ecological Treasures, the Climate, and people's future? Why do Clark County cities' Urban Growth Management Proposals with new UGBs get submitted to the state's Department of Commerce, which has a Growth Management Section but doesn't deal with Land-use – which shows an obvious priority of commerce over Environment – and yet we know that there are no jobs on a dead Planet? Why is the current Growth Management Plan still written in a way that caters to developers when it is a higher quality and diversity of jobs we should set our sights on? Why are we expanding the UGBs when we have hardly touched the vertical space of even the first 1994 UGB, when Land is finite, and Forests, Farmlands, Open Raw Lands and Species are going by the wayside and the Climate stability along with them? Why expand UGBs in Clark County *again*, and why at all, what will the small annexations achieve and for whom? How do we stop putting fluoride (which interferes with iodine absorption by the thyroid) in the public Water supply so that we stop medicating Vancouver's people without their permission? People in Portland already rejected this by a vote couple years ago? How do we put the power of decision-making on these vital issues back to the people where it belongs, whom they affect, and on which true democracy is founded upon?

Environment > people > money > things

The private interests of individuals should never supersede the common good, and they should never outdo the Environment – which IS the common good. As the well-known financial adviser Suze Orman repeatedly stresses in her books and on television – “people first, then money, then things” – “people, money, things” Even if there is an opportunity to make a great money investment, “if it doesn't feel right for you, don't do it”, she advises. If we add Environment to these priorities, then it becomes ‘Environment, people, money, things’, because as an Earthling, man is a byproduct of the Dust from which he comes and the Nature that nourishes him. Without the Environment there are no people, and without a sound Environment there can be no people living a Life worth living. If we put people, money, or things before the Environment, then all 4 are doomed

Clark County, Washington State and the Pacific Northwest is no longer the Forested and beautiful place that it once was as I remember it in the 1970s when I first came here, contrary to what people in other parts of the U.S. and the world think. I urge all of us to make the necessary changes to protect what remains. Please feel free to share this letter with anyone. My strength is in understanding what awaits us if the last remaining Forests are not secured from development, and more Raw Land and Wild Refuges not secured My strength is not in community organizing but I am willing to speak to and meet with anyone about these Things and do whatever is necessary. But let us above all understand what is at stake, and let us enact legislation soon before all of Clark County, the state of Washington, and U S America as a whole turns into a heath and one great city.

Very concerned,

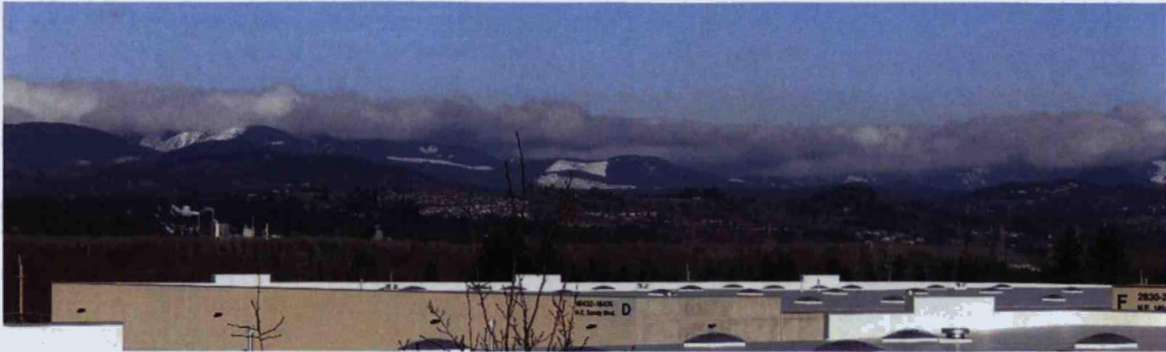


Paul Zemanek

Enclosed: Photos below

cc Governors Jay Inslee (WA) & Kate Brown (OR); Growth Management Hearing Board (Olympia); Clark County commissioners & community development, Vancouver mayor & city manager; adjacent counties' commissioners and mayors; other local, state and federal legislators, Friends of Clark County, Friends of Oregon; Forest/Wildlife agencies; President Barack Obama; Senator Bernie Sanders; Pope Francis, newspapers – Columbian, Oregonian, Seattle Times, The New York Times, Catholic Sentinel, IPCC, IUCN, other world newspapers-agencies-entities

DISLOCATED URBAN AREAS in SE CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON



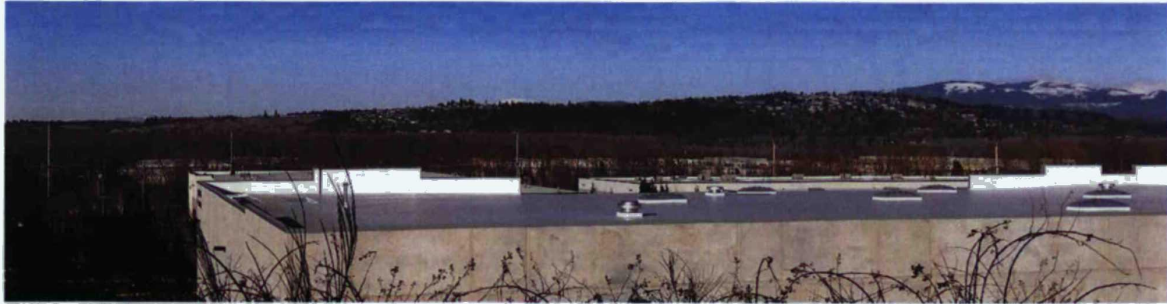
Looking toward NE from I-84 in Portland, Oregon; panorama from left to right of mostly SE Clark County, Skamania County, and perhaps little Klickitat County far right in Washington State, with Columbia River (not seen) flowing between cameraman and distant hillsides; Camas pulp and paper mill at left, town of Camas (Clark County) to right of it, with clearcuts in distant foothills of the Cascade Mountain Range. The infamous Prune Hill is little further left of Camas mill, not seen above. Photo taken 1-10-2016



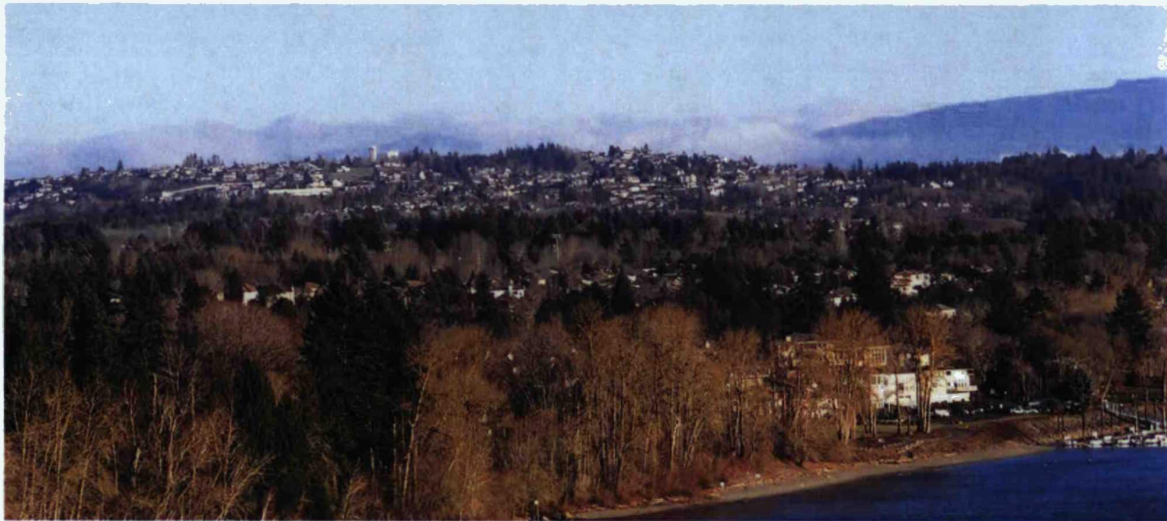
Close-up of Camas with clearcuts. The Forests are a mix of state DNR, federal Gifford Pinchot around the Cascade Mountain Range, and private timber Lands. 65 percent of the Gifford Pinchot lies in Skamania County, the rest in Klickitat, Lewis, Yakima, and Cowlitz Counties. 1-10-2016



Camas mill far right, Prune Hill at left, with 192nd Avenue (not seen) running left of it. 1-10-2016



Prune Hill at right with development inside Vancouver at left, looking north from I-84 in PDX 1-10-16



Close-up of Prune Hill above, and in distance shown below with Columbia River and Mount Hood at the gateway of the scenic Columbia River Gorge between Washington and Oregon. 1-10-2016



Looking east toward Mount Hood with Prune Hill at left, view from I-205 bridge on 1-10-2016.

THE FORESTS



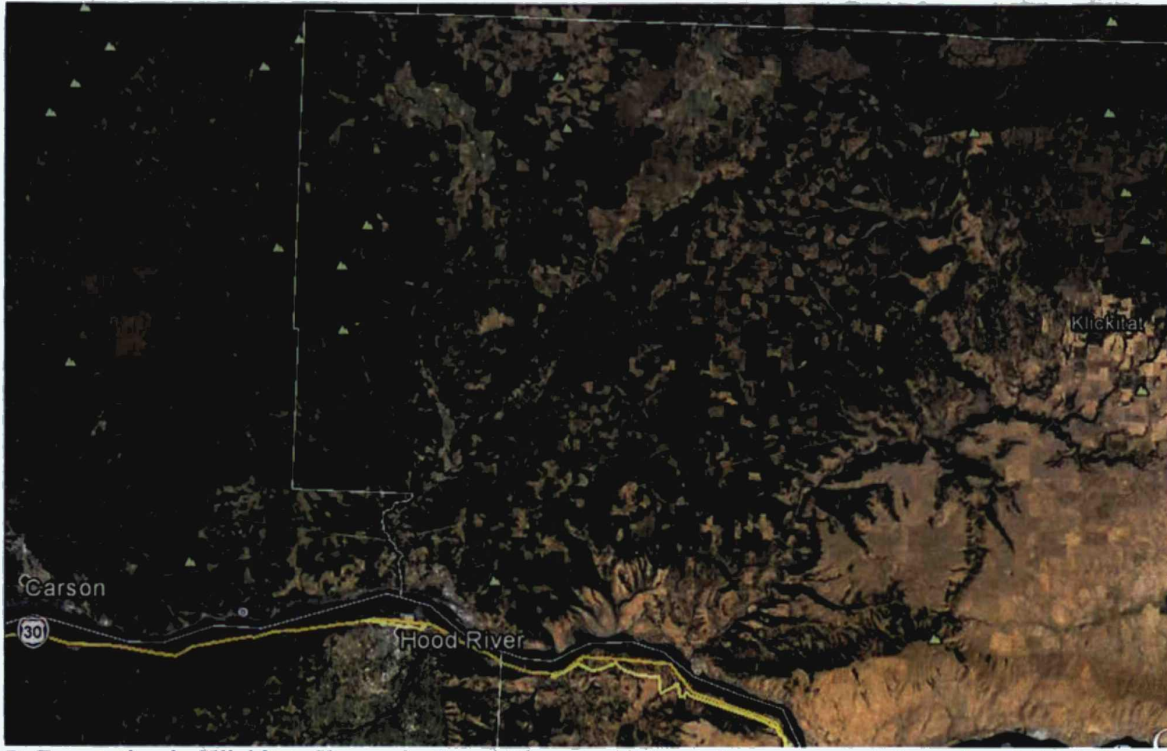
Clearcuts in Klickitat County in the 'scenic' Columbia River Gorge; Google.Earth, How can Climate Change ever be rectified even if we manage to cut 100 percent of fossil fuel emissions, if this is the permanent state of the Planet's Forests? Flora and Fauna Species have little or no chance of regenerating in such a continual bombardment of Planet Earth's precious Forests. This is the condition of 'our' Forests. Is this the Planetary stewardship we try to aspire to? Image 6-19-2015



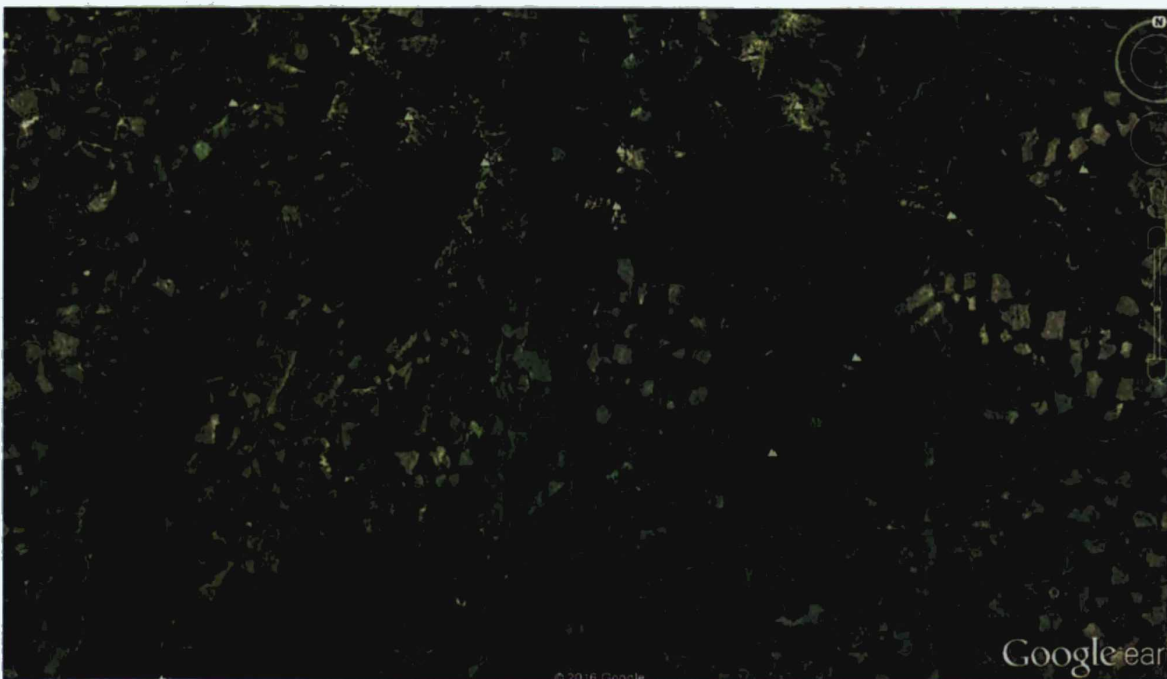
Clearcuts in Klickitat and Skamania Counties of Washington State in the Cascade Range, and in part of Hood River County, Oregon at bottom left. A mix of private, state, and federal Forests. 6-9-2015

When loggers mow down Forests on perpetually-'harvested' private, state, and federal Forestlands that have been reduced to 'tree farms', at least the trees grow back in some fashion and contribute somewhat to combatting Climate Change, until they are mowed down again in the next 50-60 year cycles – albeit replanted with monospecies like Douglas fir and with damaged and relocated Wildlife. Depending on severity of 'harvesting', the Flora and Fauna Species may or may not regenerate. But

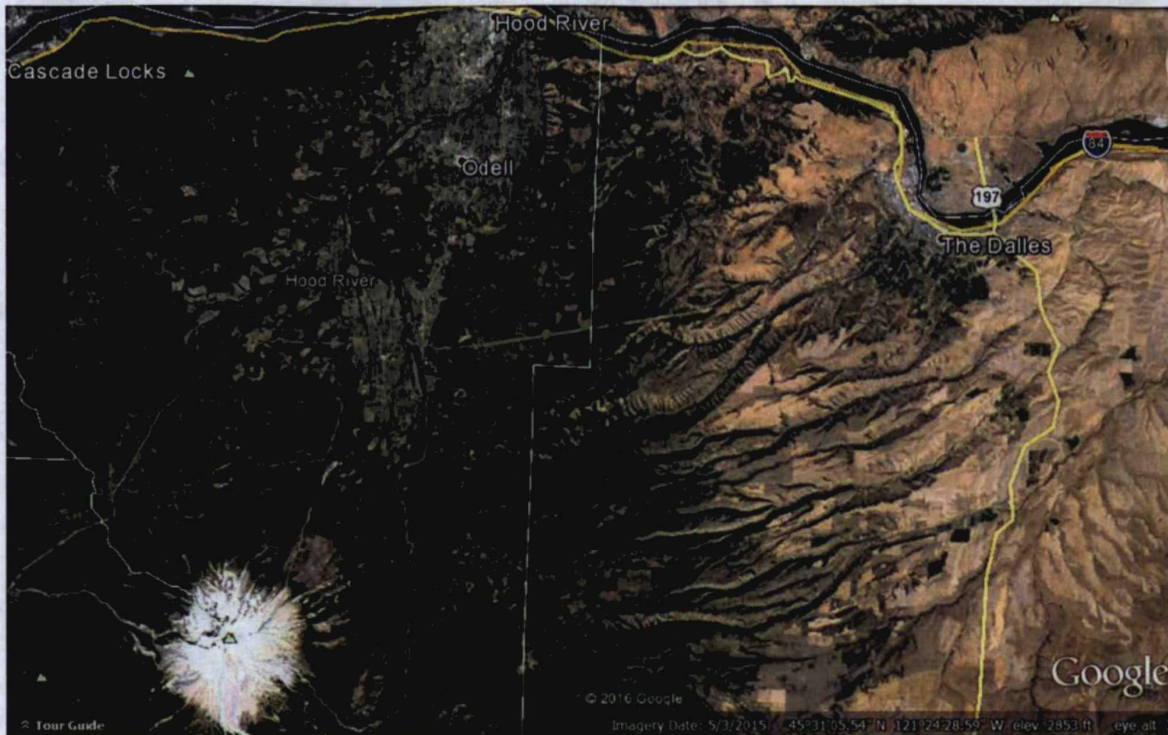
when development mows down Forests and stands of trees, they and their Species never regenerate, they never come back.



DeForestation in Klickitat, Skamania, Hood River, and Wasco (bottom center) Counties. 6-9-2015



DeForestation in Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Skamania County, Washington; less severe than in neighboring Klickitat County, Washington. Image by Google Earth 6-9-2015

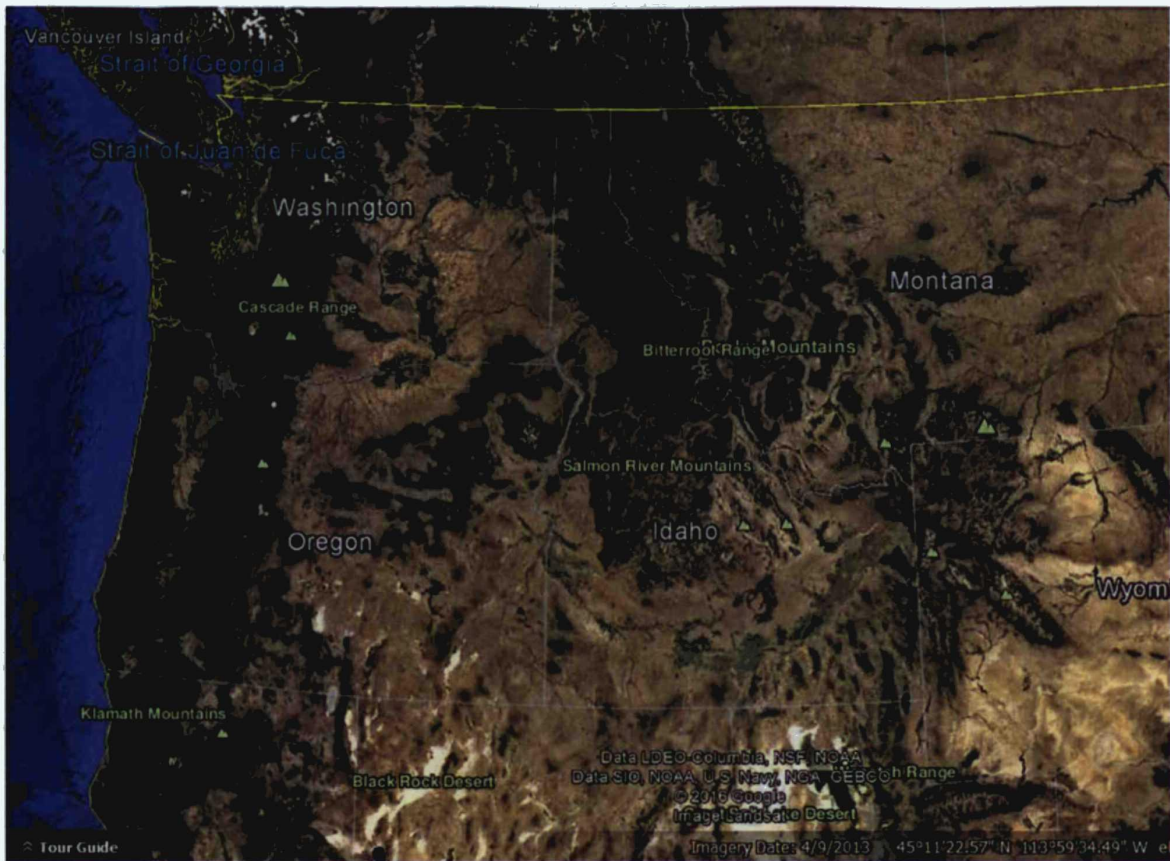


DeForestation in Hood River County, and some seen in neighboring Wasco County , Oregon on right. Mount Hood is seen in bottom left. Image 5-3-2015



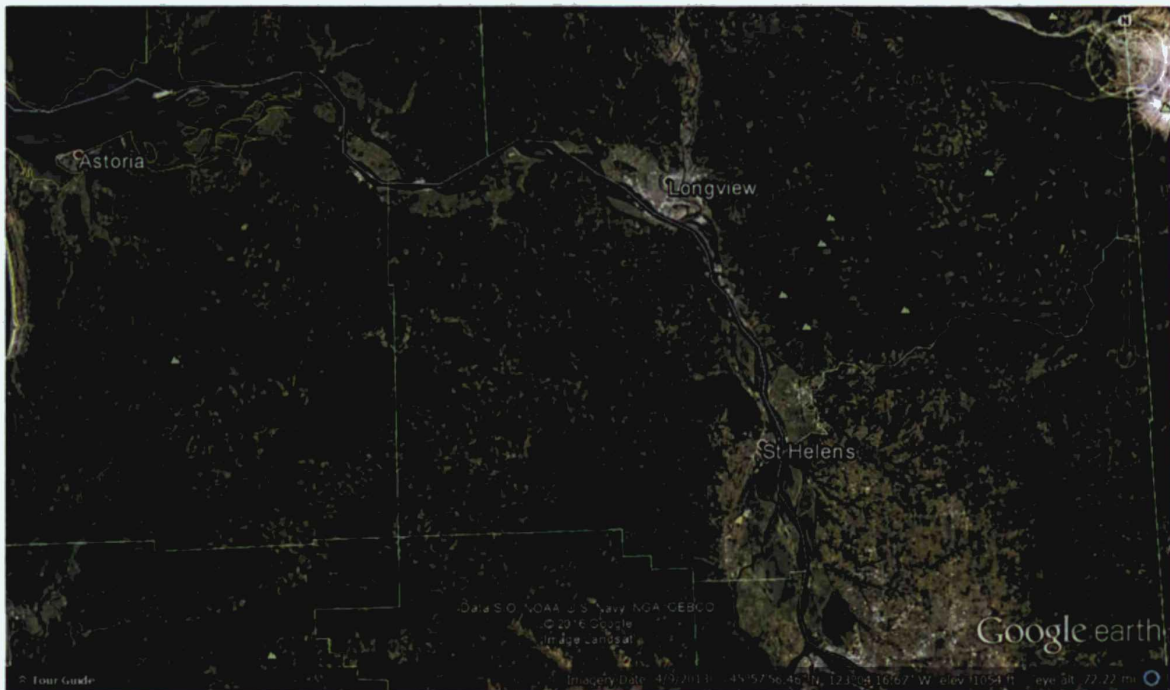
DeForestation in Skamania County on left, most of Mount Adams in Yakima County, WA 6-9-2015

Forests don't grow everywhere, not even in all of Washington or Oregon or Idaho State. Hence, the urgent need for sustainable Forestry practices – instead of clearcutting on 60-year growing cycles; let us incorporate gradual cutting of 10 percent (or 5%) every 20+ years in 200+-year growing cycles.



The Pacific Northwest

Let us stop converting Forests to Farmlands; Forests to development; and Forests/Farmlands to development and other uses!

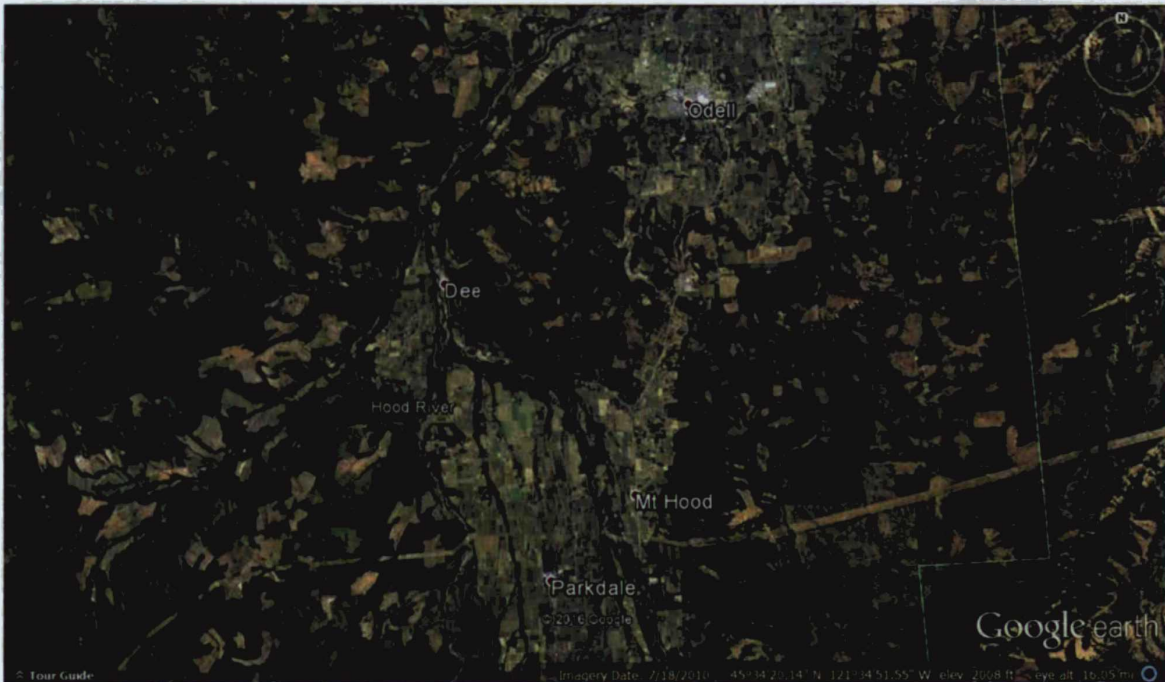


Above, the Columbia River divides Oregon on left from Washington on right. Image 4-9-2013

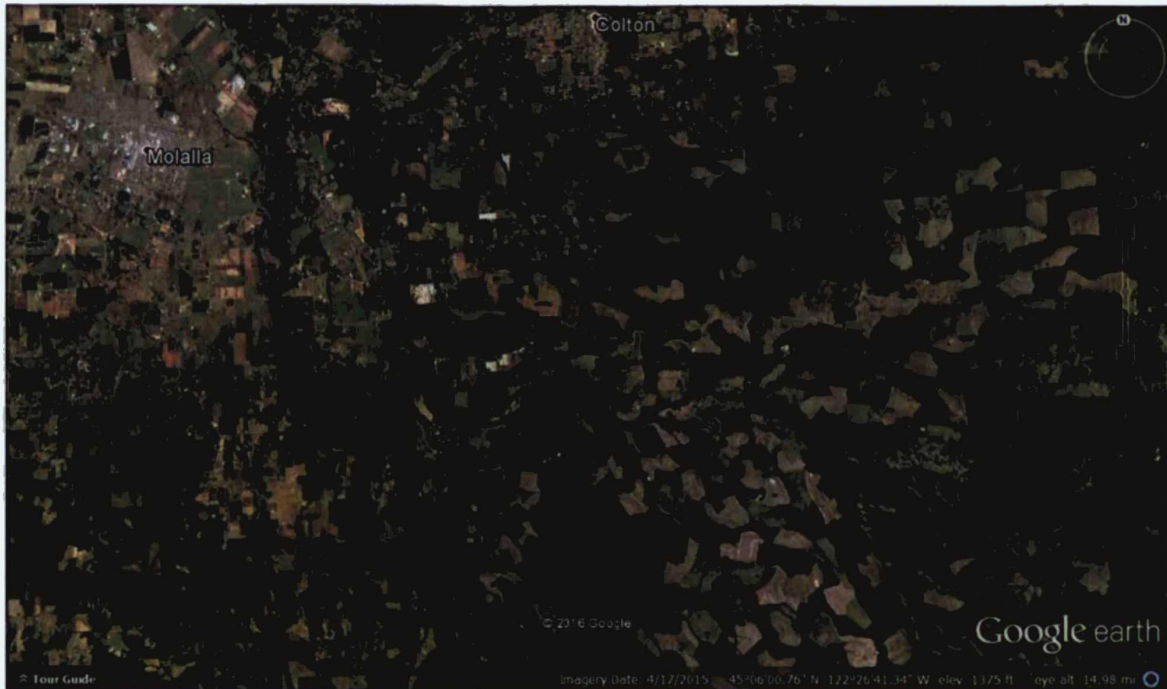
The story of DeForestation in Oregon is as widespread and not much better than in Washington. Add permanent destruction of Forests through development and conversion and you've got the making of an imminent Environmental Collapse. People in Africa, Asia, or Europe are as much affected by deForestation in Washington and Oregon as people in Washington and Oregon are affected by deForestation in those continents.



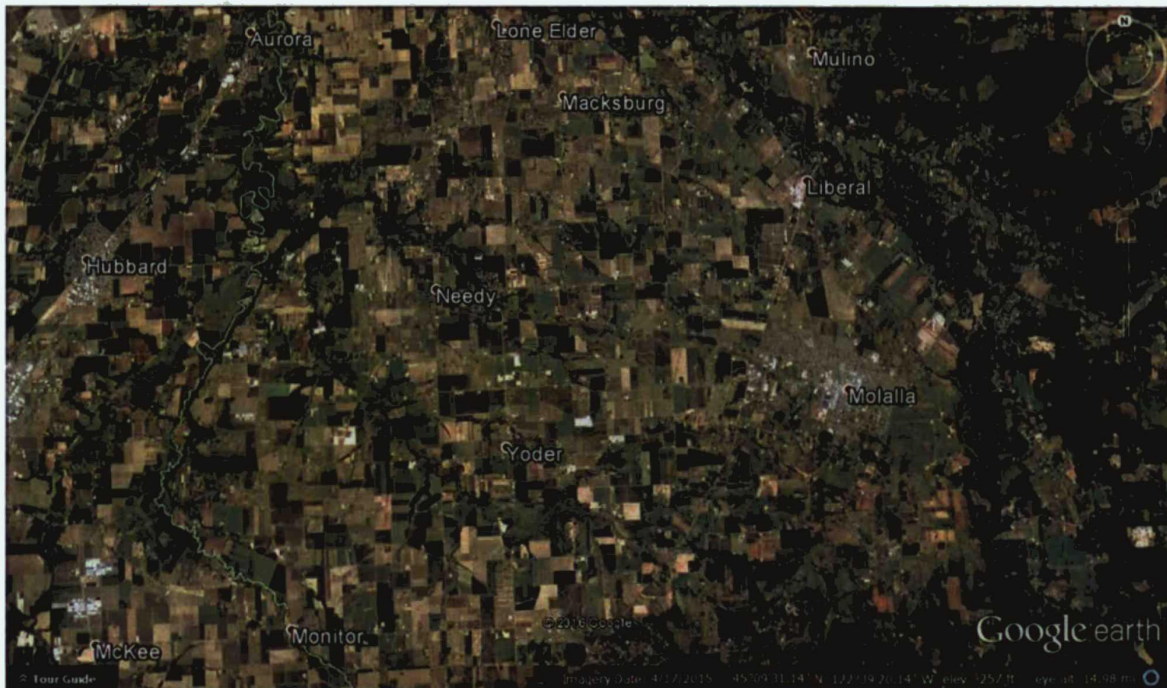
Close-up of deForestation in Klickitat County, Washington, showing more bare Earth than dark green. Image 6-19-2015

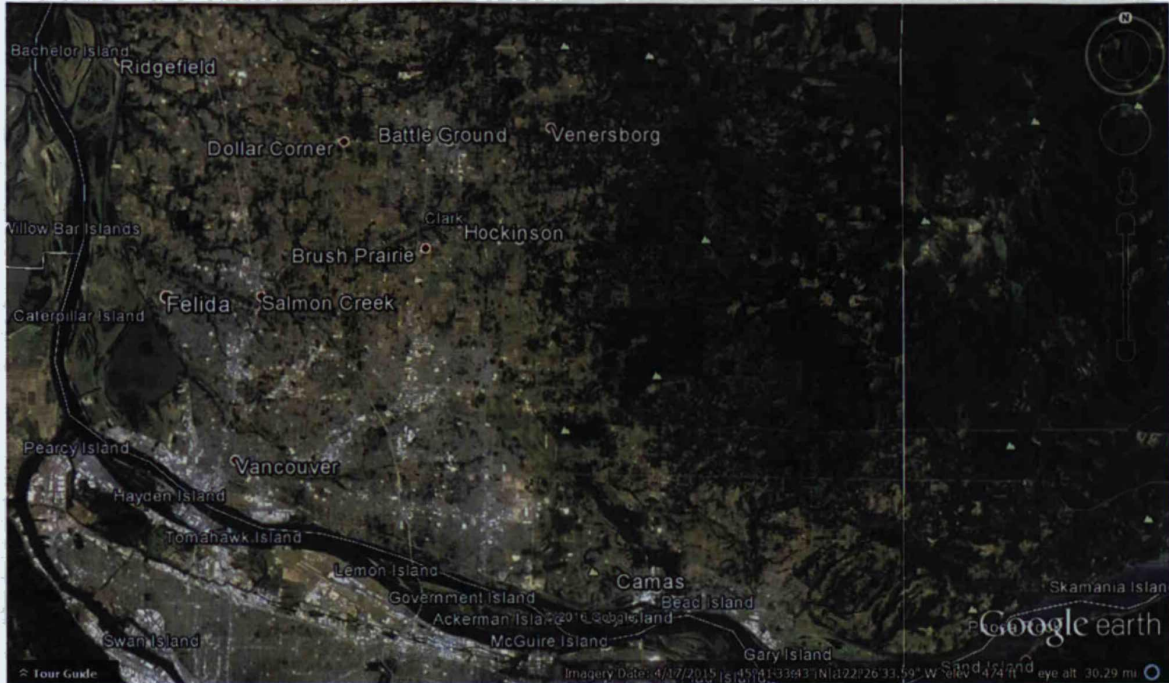


Above: View of Hood River County just north of Mount Hood (mountain), the towns of Odell, Mount Hood, Parkdale, Dee...completely decimated what once used to be a lush Pacific Northwest Forest. Image 6-2010.



Above: section of Clackamas County with Molalla just 40 km south of Portland, showing not only near devastation of Forests – extension of the Mount Hood National Forest – but Molalla’s residents made sure that no Forests return in their part of the Forest neighborhood. Therefore, when people say that ‘we don’t need to worry about destroying Forests and Ecosystems because we’ve got plenty in the State and National Forests’ – they don’t know what they are talking about, they never stopped to look. Moreover, different Species of Flora and Fauna are found in different places. You cannot rely on State and National Forests to safeguard the whole Depository because not all Species are found there. Rather, Species are scattered in tiny nooks in each county of every state and nation and continent across the Globe. Below: Farmlands replaced Forests east of Molalla. Image 4-17-15





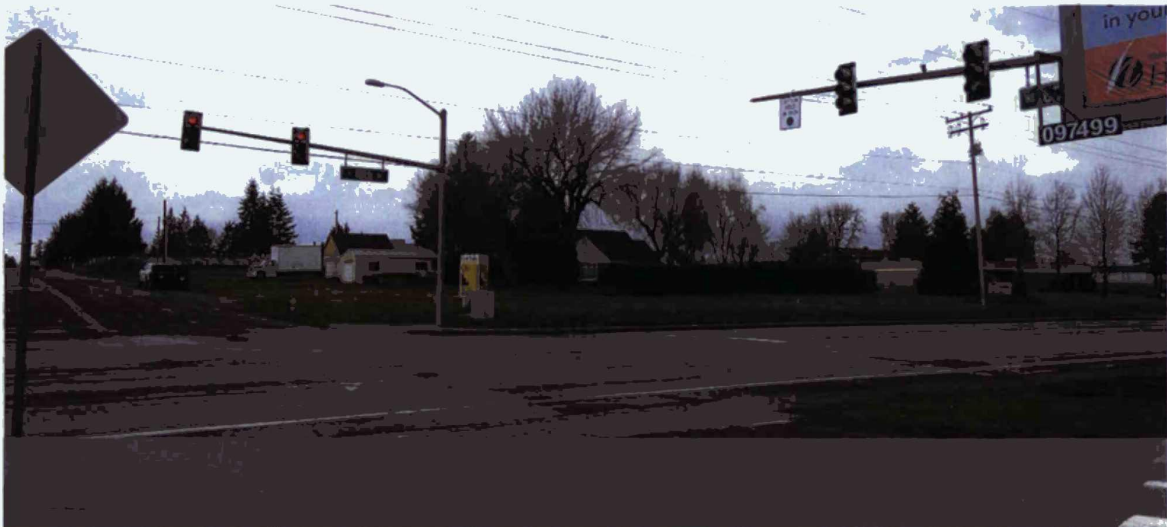
Southern half of Clark County in Washington State with Vancouver in gray-white (color of pavement and concrete), with Columbia River and Portland below. The light green around Ridgefield and Battle Ground was once the dark green color of Forests in recent past. Those pushing to expand UGBs wish to see more pavement and more concrete so they can fill their pockets of other green stuff that they think is more important than the dark green seen on satellite images with little or no appreciation of what the dark green really means for the Land, and what no green means for us. The cancer analogy of unceasing growth of cities is a valid one. If we don't want cancer to grow, why do we let our UGBs to expand? One can appreciate what Governor Tom McCall worried about. Let us stop converting Forests to Farmlands, Forests to development, and Forests/Farmlands to development! Image 4-17-15

THE COUNTRYSIDE (RURAL LANDS, WILD OPEN SPACES, TREES, SPECIES)



320 acres for sale zoned 'Industrial' near Winlock/Toledo, Washington, along I-5 freeway 71 miles north of Portland, Oregon. One of many such properties one can see driving between Portland and Seattle or Bellingham, far away from any town, deep in the heartLand of Rural Washington State – that serve as inroads to eroding the deeper portions of the Countryside on left and right sides of the freeway. It is an example of irresponsible development that is destroying Earth and man with Her. Man shuffles the parcels of Land as a game of checkers, and treats the Countryside as if Her main purpose was to accommodate buildings, concrete, and asphalt. Photo taken 9-7-2013

THE CITIES
Vancouver, Washington 3-24-2016



Vacant lot for sale at 65th Street and E 18th Street. Several such lots are for sale in center of Vancouver. If there are open lots deep inside the city of Vancouver, Washington, why are we expanding the UGB?



Another vacant lot on corner of 4th Plain Blvd and Stapleton with evergreen trees on borders. 3-2016



Looking west on 4th Plain Blvd from Stapleton Road, mostly all 1-story structures. 3-24-2016



Looking east on 4th Plain Blvd from Stapleton Road, same thing. 4th Plain is a major road. 3-24-2016



Series of 2-story rental units south side of I-500, well in the UGB, like all above photos. 3-24-2016



Looking north on Washington St from E 15th St, no high-rises in downtown north of here. 3-24-2016



Looking south on Washington Street from E 11th Street. Only a handful high-rises south of here. 3-2016



Looking south on Main Street from Evergreen Boulevard. All flat. 3-24-2016



Looking north on Main Street from Evergreen Blvd. A couple 5-story high-rises. Few historic buildings should be kept, such as the old Kiggins Theater, to preserve the heritage of Vancouver. But most buildings lack such value and should be replaced with high-rise construction. 3-24-2016



Looking east on Evergreen Blvd from Main Street towards the new attractive 5-story public library one block farther on right, but not well seen here behind trees. 3-24-2016



Looking south from C Street and Evergreen Blvd with Discover.org building closest to us, showing a handful of medium-sized high-rise constructions, a step in the right direction. 3-24-2016



Looking NW from the library, also showing 4 commercial buildings of low-medium height. 3-24-2016



Looking north from Sandy Boulevard in Portland, Oregon at the foothills of the Cascade Range in SE Clark County, Washington showing their clearcuts. Columbia River, not seen, flows from right to left about half-way across the photo. 1-10-2016



Foothills of the same Cascade Range in Clark County seen from 164th Avenue in Vancouver, Washington with recent encroaching development. To the right is Prune Hill, not seen here. 1-10-2016

Ridgefield, Washington



Clark College planning construction in Ridgefield, Washington just east of I-5 freeway. Looking east towards the foothills of the Cascade Range, it is only a matter of short time before this Countryside is filled with development. 1-10-2016



Looking NE, a new road, Farmland and foothills of Cascade Mountain Range in Ridgefield. 1-10-16



Close-up of clearcut foothills of Cascades in Ridgefield, just part of the panorama of clearcuts from left to right, not seen here. 1-10-2016



Close to the other sites in photos above, a new development awaiting 2-story single-family homes in Ridgefield. Mount Saint Helens sits behind the tree in the distance just left of the bulldozer. The



display shows the style of houses awaiting construction there. Why is Ridgefield repeating the same

mistakes of Vancouver, stealing Raw Open Land from the Countryside to build low-story dwellings all over *again*? This is irresponsible development! It becomes clear that the excuse that there are no open spaces within the cities to build high-rises is not a valid one, and that these 'mistakes' are intentional. It shows that the cities and county and the state are not serious in protecting what remains of the Natural World in Washington State. And until they are serious, they will continue to destroy the Earth and the quality of Life for all of us. Photo taken: 1-10-2016



Looking NE at beautiful Mount Saint Helens from same areas in Ridgefield, Washington. 1-10-2016

Man wages war against trees as they were weeds – undesired plants growing where they are not wanted – and has reduced them and the Land they grow on to dollar signs, yet without knowing all that they do. However, neither Forests nor the Land nor any Species look or act like dollar bills nor do they carry a price tag on them, because they are priceless. If we manage to lose all plankton (beginning of the food chain) on the surface of Oceans – say to radiation from ozone depletion – then we will have lost one-half of the Storehouse of oxygen production and carbon-dioxide absorption on the Planet, and as the late Dr. Carl Sagan explained, all life in the Oceans and Seas would die. If we manage to lose the backup from the Earth's Forest Depository – the other half of the Storehouse – then these severely compromised O₂ and CO₂ gas-exchange functions alone will threaten man's survival on Earth. The extreme concentration of either gas would put the final nail in man's coffin – the excess CO₂ which would cause runaway Global Warming as has occurred on Venus, and further acidify the Oceans beyond repair; or the deficient O₂ far below the current 21 percent of the atmosphere that is necessary to carry on Life's functions on Earth. As a tree is not greater than the Soil and the Water and the Air and the Sun that give it Life, so neither is man greater than the Planet that gives him Life. But just as each tree was given Life to protect Earth and to bestow function upon Her, so each man was given Life to protect Earth and all Her Living functions upon which all Her Life-forms depend. Environmental peace is a prerequisite to World Peace.