

LET'S SAVE MT. RAINIER'S RAINFOREST

We send thousands of dollars to save South American rainforests. We have stamps honoring our coastal rainforest. Yet we are allowing our Mt. Rainier rainforest to be destroyed by clear-cutting. The west side of it gets more rainfall than the coast, especially the Upper Carbon because of its box-canyon structure. This is the largest inland, temperate rainforest in the contiguous USA. It also protects the virgin rainforest inside of Mt. Rainier National Park. It is preciously unique!!

Seven miles on the west and northwest edges of Mt. Rainier National Park are being logged right up to the park boundary. Everything in the park is drying out. The plant and animal species in the rainforest areas bordering the park are disappearing. There has been no species study done in these areas for 50 years. What secrets are being destroyed? What precious life forms are in there?

The whole eco-structure in our Upper Carbon valley is changing; the wind, little water routes, the clouds, the fog, animals and their migratory routes, their food sources, their homes. Everything is being effected. The animals have disappeared. And the flooding downstream increases each year.

TAXPAYERS PAY FOR ALL CLEAN-UP, ACCIDENTAL DAMAGES, FLOOD DAMAGE, AND SPECIES RESTORATION AND RECOVERY FROM ALL THESE LOGGING OPERATIONS.

We want a plant and animal species study done, and a watershed analysis for this whole upper Carbon Valley. We want acknowledgement of this unique inland temperate rainforest, and special consideration for the way it is managed. It provides two entrances to the National Park, access to Forest Service land, Wilderness areas, and other public land including county and DNR Trust land.

Since we gave this land to the railroad, it should've been given back when the tracks were pulled up. This whole valley should be park land.

IS A RAINFOREST STILL A RAINFOREST AFTER IT HAS BEEN CLEAR-CUT?????..... Yes. It still gets that rain because of the mountain. It will heal itself eventually with our help.

That's why the Cascade Conservation buy-outs are so important to the wildlife and recreation potentials for our Carbon Valley. That group is working their way south to our area and will soon be looking at more of our precious rainforest that protects Mt. Rainier's virgin lands, especially the seven miles of treefarm land that borders the National Park. If it dries out too much, wildfires could actually destroy it, and one characteristic of rainforests is that they normally won't burn.

Our group is so grateful for the work you've done and urge you to help keep the funding intact for this vital project. It's for our children and their children and their children. Thanks for your work and your time to read this.

Mardel Chowen
Friends of the Carbon Canyon
PO Box 67, So. Prairie, 98385
360-897-8425

Mardel Chowen