

Letter: Stewards of the land

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I recently visited an area of Clatsop State Forest that deserves special attention. As we descended into the Sweet Home Creek area for the Forest Art Camp Day hosted by the North Coast State Forest Coalition, it took very little to instantly realize how special a place it is.

We began unpacking our gear, as the clouds gave way to rays of sun that pierced through the forest canopy. It was as if the forest herself was welcoming us in with open arms to experience her undeniable beauty.

This place, and places like it, are part of us, and we part of them. This is our home. We as humans, with our actions, have a direct impact on the environment around us. With that we need to uphold a certain responsibility and respect toward our fellow life-forms, and the habitats they thrive in.

I applaud the effort of our local district foresters in their effort to restore streams, allowing them to return to a more natural state and better habitat for fish. I also highly support the Board of Forestry's decision to create high value conservation areas, such as the Sweet Home Creek area.

Yet these policies are subject to change. This worries me greatly, as things that are subject to change often are depending upon political pressure. I agree with the North Coast State Forest Coalition's goal to try and get these high-value area guidelines written into durable, permanent rule.

Although the policies are a step in the right direction, logging interests remain a constant threat in their effort to manage these areas on par with industrial operations. We as stewards of the land must remain vigilant in our actions and determination to preserve our biosphere for years to come.