

Introduction: Human interaction with forests may lead to a wide range of consequences for both the forests and the people. History shows us that these consequences range from desirable to highly undesirable. While many forests in our region are managed to maximize the single value of short term, financial return, the Hyla Woods forests provide additional benefits related to the following eight categories.

A Forest For.....

....Water

Because we

- Leave large buffers along creeks, water bodies, and springs,
- Focus restoration along waterways,
- Maximize the forest's age,
- Design, build, and maintain roads to minimize impacts on water,
- And leave large, downed wood to retain water

Our Forests....

- Retain water and buffer the seasonal flows by mitigating flooding and providing crucial cold, clean water when it's most needed
- Help recharge groundwater
- Provide useful data on the relationships between forest stewardship and water
- Provide valuable habitat for a variety of water-dependent species, including federally listed Coho salmon

.....Air

Because we.....

- Work to maintain and increase high levels of both forest carbon and rates of carbon sequestration, through harvesting a small percentage of forest growth and maintaining intact forest stands
- Log in ways that minimize the rates at which carbon is released into the atmosphere,
- And continue to work to better understand the carbon dynamics and thermal impacts of our forests

Our Forests...

- Store and sequester carbon, moderate temperatures, and clean air at higher rates than other forests in our region

....Life

Because we....

- Actively work to maintain, and enhance habitat for the full suite of native, forest life, from micro to macro
- Study and measure the habitat and the range of life forms
- And log in ways that improve habitats – including leaving snags and large, downed wood

Our Forests....

- Provide valuable safe haven for a wide range of both common and at risk species at a higher level than other forests in our region
- And provide a working and practical example of ways that forest biodiversity may be measured and tracked

....Soils

Because we....

- Operate in ways that maintain and enhance soil quality and minimize damage to soils

- Are unwilling to accept the potential risks to soils that are common to plantation silvaculture
- And encourage a forest food web that continuously feeds healthy soils

Our Forests....

- Are nurtured by soils that are good and constantly improving

...Fire

Because we....

- Grow forests that are older, larger, wetter, and more diverse than most forests in our region

Our Forests....

- Present a lower risk of damaging wildfire to both us and our neighbors

...Wood

Because we....

- Focus on growing trees that provide high quality wood (large and slow growing)
- Grow, mill and sell a variety of native species suited to a wide range of uses
- And offer consumers the option to buy wood from well cared for forests

Our forests....

- Contribute to the emergence of wood markets that will incentivize improved levels of stewardship and regenerative forestry

...Jobs and Community Health

Because we...

- Hire and rely on a range of contractors and local vendors
- Work in ways that prioritize investment in people over investment in labor saving machinery
- Make every effort to develop and maintain working relationships with nearby businesses

Our forests...

- Help build the local economy and the health of nearby communities

...Learning and Knowledge

Because we....

- Invite, encourage and support a wide range of investigation and learning in our forests, through partnerships with universities, schools, organizations and agencies
- And develop and share essays that stimulate reflection on and discussion of the future of local forests

Our forests...

- Boost student learning, support educators, and help connect schools to nearby forests and related businesses
- Provide a platform for creating and applying new forest knowledge