

In 2008, I co-organized a conference called clearcutting the climate. Burning fossil fuels isn't the only threat to climate stability, deforestation is also disrupting rainfall patterns.

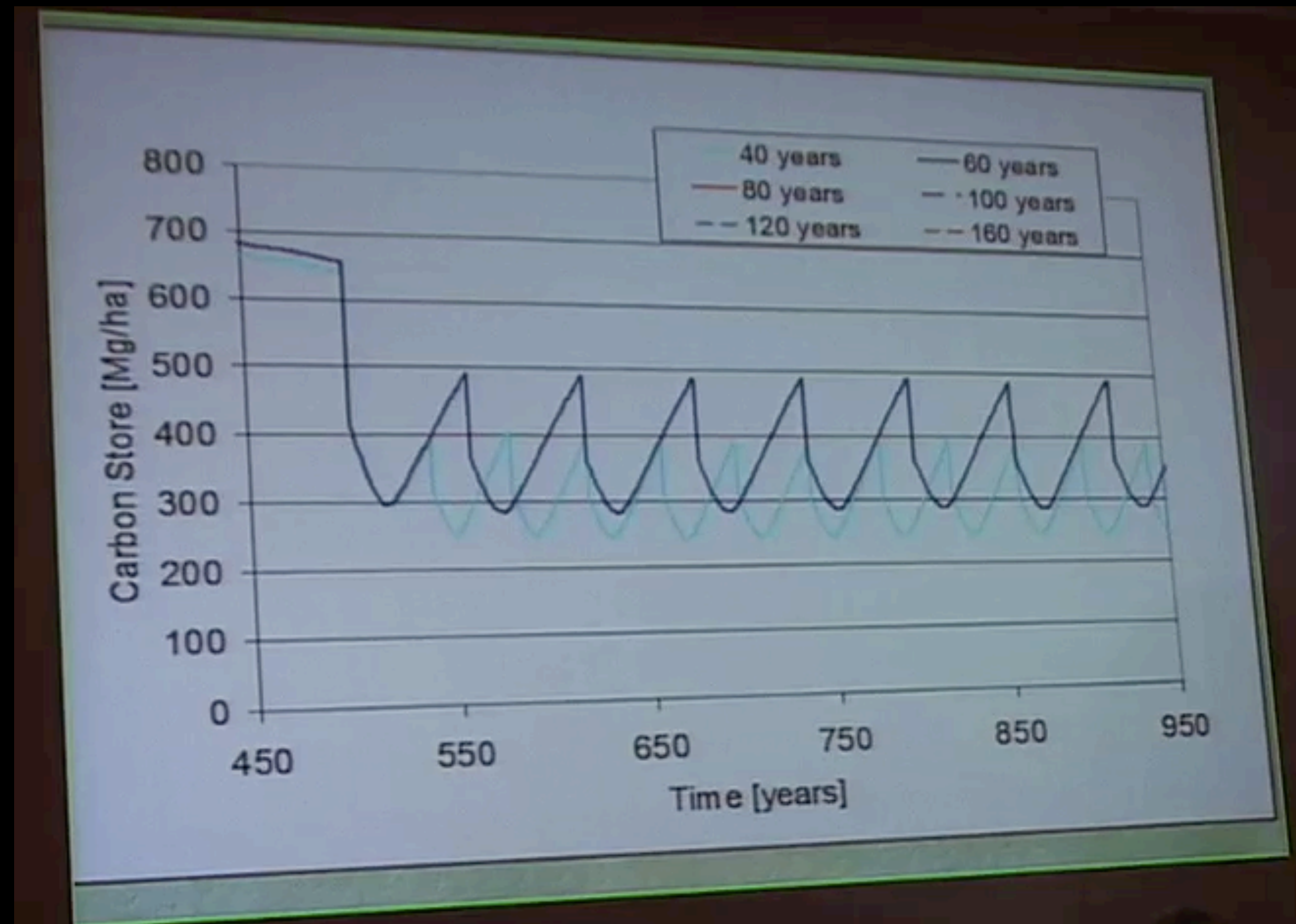


Clearcutting the Climate
January 26, 2008 - Eugene, Oregon
www.ForestClimate.org
DVD

from Olga Krankina, Oregon State University

OSU forestry professor Olga Krankina showed how converting old forests into tree farms permanently puts forest carbon into the air. An old growth forest can store twice as much carbon per hectare as a tree plantation.

Biofuel proponents claim that burning trees for electricity will help us reduce climate change problems, but this is not true.



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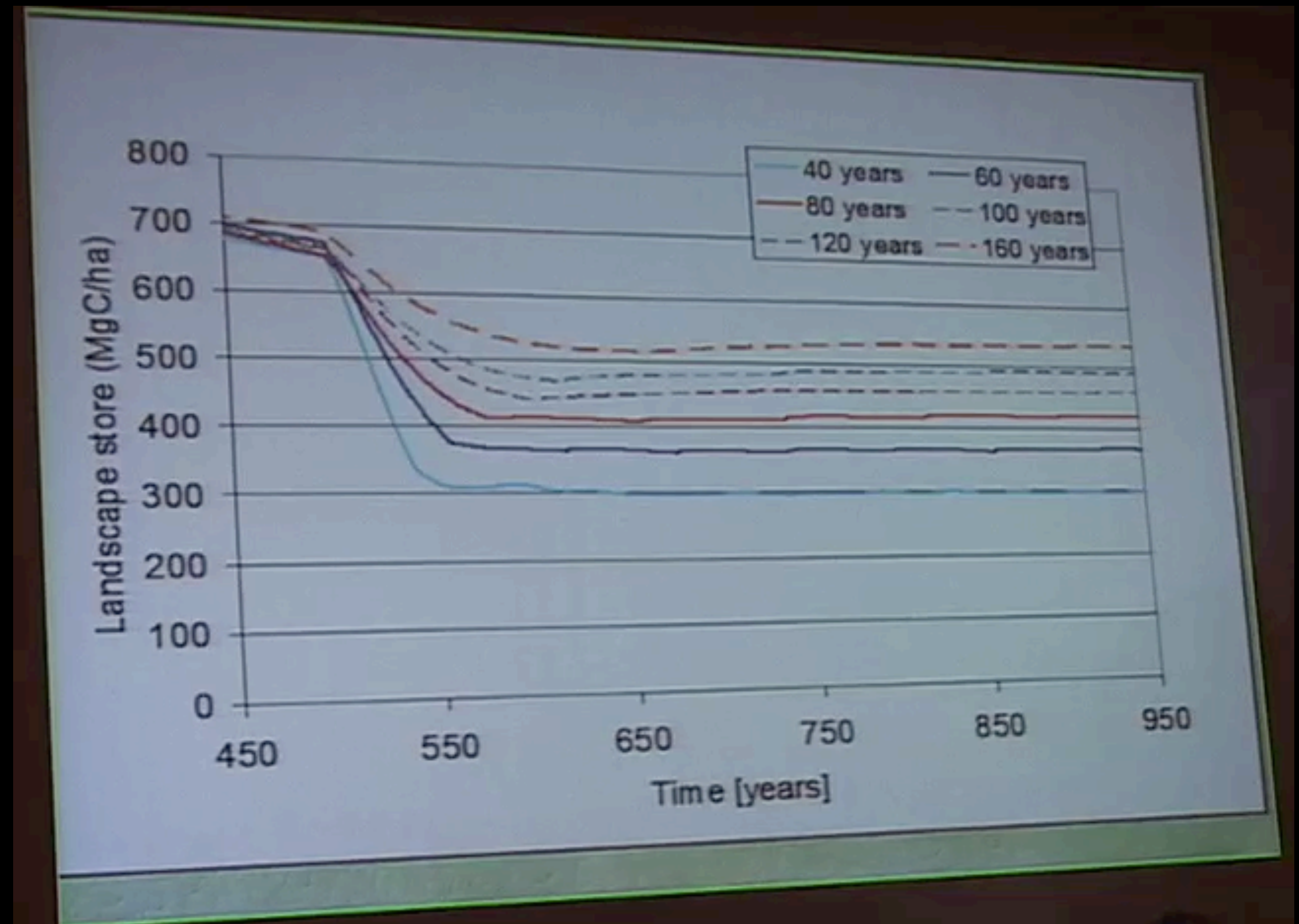
on a landscape wide basis - the longer the rotation, the less carbon is lost when native forests are converted to tree farm plantations. This chart doesn't factor in the degradation of forest soils each time a clearcut is committed. If the environmental movement really wants the atmosphere to go back to "350 parts per million of carbon dioxide," we would have to let tree farms on corporate lands grow back into old forests.

Few forest protection groups in Cascadia mention the clearcutting on private corporate timberlands. The biggest trees are on public lands - National Forests, BLM, State Forests - but most of the cutting is on the corporate lands. The timber barons also generally have the most productive forest lands in their potential growth rates. Corporate owned lands in the foothills of the Cascades have higher growth rates than the colder areas of public federal forests at higher elevations.

Most of the Coast Range is corporate lands and trees grow faster than in the Cascades. Very little forestland in the Coast Range has intact old growth primary forest, much less as a percentage than the Cascades.

Democrats and Republicans seek to liquidate some of the last old, native forests since the corporate lands have been so cut over their second and third growth lumber is not as valuable.

videos at forestclimate.org



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A technical discussion of “long rotation forestry” is from the Coast Range Association. In the long run, letting trees grow longer and selectively cutting them makes more board feet - if the owners of the forest are willing to be patient.

The financial system for limited liability shareholder invested corporations requires short rotation to maximize the rate of return on profit. The few forests managed with selective cutting are owned by families or non-profit organizations



Coast Range Association

“Forests That Work”

www.coastrange.org

