

## Adam Zack

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**From:** Julienne Battalia <julesgiaco@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 16, 2020 11:35 AM  
**To:** Comp Plan Update  
**Subject:** Copy of my Statement today, October 16, 2020

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For the record:

Dear Commissioners of the San Juan County Comprehensive Plan,

Upon reading the Natural Resource Lands section of the comprehensive plan I was stricken by the definitions of conservation and of Natural Resource Land.

The definition of Conservation is quote

“measures designed to assure that the natural resource lands will remain available to be used for commercial production of the natural resources designated” ,

And the definition for Natural Resource Land is

“Lands as primarily significant for “long term commercial significance” .

In addition the document goes onto say:

“Counties and cities may also consider secondary benefits from retaining commercial forestry operations. Benefits from retaining commercial forestry may include protecting air and water quality, maintaining adequate aquifer recharge areas, reducing forest fire risks, supporting tourism and access to recreational opportunities, providing carbon sequestration benefits, and improving wildlife habitat and connectivity for upland species. These cannot be used alone as a basis for designation.

These designations and definitions are the complete opposite of the truth. The primary significance of our Counties forests are how they provide oxygen for all living beings to breathe, and for the stability they provide for our water quality, without oxygen and water there is no life. They also primarily provide a home for the many species of sentient beings that live in the forests. Maybe we could say that secondarily the forest provides for the joy and well being they bring as we look upon them and walk within their stately regal presence and magnificence. Douglas fir, Red Cedar, Big Leaf Maple, Alder, Yew, Gary oak, Hemlock, Madrona...

It is absurd to consider the harvest of our forestland as the primary reason for conserving them. To state in our CP that forest lands primary function is for it to be cut down, to be dead for commercial profit is unconscionable.

It is this way of thinking that is causing our ecosystems to collapse.

In this critical time of climate crisis it is imperative that the comprehensive plan reflects the truth and recognizes that these forest lands have a primary significance in the ways they support life, both ours and the wildlife we coexist with.

Can we, now that we know better, take a stand in our CP plan to speak the truth about the real primary significance of our forest lands? Can we face the powers who have made this ruling that the “secondary” significance of our forests must remain secondary and that the commercial significance must remain primary within our counties document?

Can we be bold enough to turn ourselves toward the real truth; we are interdependent with and dependent upon what the forestland truly provides.

Sincerely,  
Julienne Battalia

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