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## News Release – June 30, 2016

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### Alternative Logging Maximizing Forest Health Illuminated by New Film Short

*“Timber’s Cover-Up” tells the forest story and offers solutions in under 4 minutes*

A new short film uses aerial photography to look far above and deep within industrial forests.

“Timber’s Cover-Up” reveals a disturbing view of how forests ecosystems are interrupted and destroyed by conventional industrial forestry. The film also explores the question “what is a healthy, resilient working forest?” – all in less than four minutes. The film takes a proactive approach in support of a new generation of small Oregon forest companies. These innovative companies are building a forest economy favoring selective logging of Oregon’s native hardwood tree species *mixed with Douglas fir*.

The realities of climate warming, loss of wildlife habitat, warming and polluted streams and diminishing native plant biodiversity all pose serious challenges for society to keep pace. Importantly, when forests are managed responsibly, these “resilient forests” can play a pivotal role in absorbing carbon from the atmosphere and keeping streams cooler for fish. Forests can be managed intentionally for native biodiversity, soil integrity and large trees capable of impressive carbon storage.

The film, produced by Beyond Toxics, proposes that Oregon be an industry leader by creating consumer demand for wood harvested from forests managed in an eco-and-climate responsible way. Forests that are managed for greater resiliency allow for ecological values to be embedded within an economic model.

“This movie reveals what is really going on underneath the green tree tops that the timber industry claims is a healthy forest,” says Beyond Toxics Executive Director Lisa Arkin. “After viewing this short film, we think people will never see the forest the same way again.”

Today, over 4 million acres of Oregon's biodiverse forests have been converted to tree farms. Tree farms rely on clear-cutting and herbicides to suppress biodiversity and manage for a single-species harvest. This factory forestry pattern is repeated every 30 to 40 years, signaling the end to large trees that store carbon and slow forest fires.

Beyond Toxics led a battle over the Oregon Forest Practices Act chemical rules in the 2015 Oregon Legislature. Meager progress was made towards rules that would protect streams and rural communities. One result of new legislation is that Oregon, for the first time in its history, now requires a narrow 60-foot no-spray buffer around homes and schools. By comparison, other states like Washington and Idaho have long-standing requirements to give a wide protective buffer around homes, schools and the sources of domestic drinking water.

“Timber’s Cover-Up” will be available through the website [www.OregonForestVoices.org](http://www.OregonForestVoices.org). The website offers opportunities to read and view the stories of Oregonians impacted by conventional industrial forest practices and new research on alternative models.

Beyond Toxics works to guarantee environmental protections and health for all communities and residents. We expose root causes of toxic pollution and help communities find effective, lasting solutions.

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