

We therefore believe that the words "barren end" in Taubes' article do not quite fit the case.

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Saving Old-Growth Forests

I would like to clarify my comments regarding forests of eastern Oregon and Washington as quoted in the ScienceScope item "Can logging save old-growth forests" (1 Oct., p. 19). Health problems in these forests do not stem from too little logging, but rather from too much logging of the wrong kind, a situation that has been exacerbated by excluding natural wildfires. Some judicious and highly selective logging would probably benefit forest health in the short-run; however, the members of the Eastside Forests Scientific Society Panel, along with other scientists in this region, believe that a long-term solution lies not in more logging, but in restoring the forested landscape of the region to at least some reasonable approx-

imation of what it was before logging. Restoring the landscape of this region to one that is more resistant and resilient to natural disturbances is a critically important component of protecting the few remaining old-growth stands and old-growth associated species. Reducing tree stocking by logging some small trees and reintroducing the natural fire regime are ways to accomplish this while protecting and restoring the habitat and natural processes.

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Corrections and Clarifications

The ScienceScope item "NIH shakeup continues" (29 Oct., p. 643) incorrectly described the position of Francis Collins, director of the National Center for Human Genome Research, on the National Institutes of Health's (NIH's) decision 2 years ago to file for patents on gene fragments of unknown function. Collins does not believe it was appropriate for NIH to file for the patents in the first place, but since the applications have been filed, he now believes they should be pursued to a conclusion in order to clarify whether such gene fragments are patentable.

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