

Default Question Block

Please enter your name in the box below. Your participation in this process will be known only to me (Chelsea Batavia) and my advisor (Michael P. Nelson). All responses will be kept confidential according to IRB protocol, and your identity will not be reported in my thesis, at my defense, or in any publications that may come out of this work. I am keeping track of individual responses only so that I can contact you for clarification purposes.

According to the rules of logic, arguments are constructed out of premises (P) and conclusions (C). By laying out the premises and conclusion(s) of an argument, the line of reasoning behind it becomes transparent, facilitating examination and critical evaluation.

Over the past two months I have been formulating arguments for and against the implementation of ecological forestry on the O&C lands in western Oregon. I would now like to ask for your feedback on my work. In this questionnaire I have sent you three arguments for review. Some of them will support the use of ecological forestry on O&C lands, and some will oppose the use of ecological forestry on O&C lands. I will ask you to assess each argument by answering a series of questions. To be clear, my hope in this exercise is to receive your feedback about whether these arguments accurately reflect debates in the public media and scholarly literature. Although you may not agree with some of the premises or conclusions that you read, please try to evaluate each argument objectively, based not on whether you personally agree or disagree, but rather on whether my formulation of the argument lays out the line of reasoning as you have seen or heard it advanced.

Below is my formulation of an argument in favor of using ecological forestry (EF) on O&C lands:

The "restoration of early seral" argument

P1: Certain types of biodiversity ("early seral species") depend on complex early seral ecosystems for habitat.

P2: On the current management trajectory, the already limited amount of complex early seral habitat in the PNW will continue to decline, increasing the risk that early seral species will become threatened by habitat loss.

P3: If possible, we should protect species from becoming threatened by habitat loss, by providing them

with adequate amounts of habitat.

P4: By managing federal forestlands using EF, we can provide adequate amounts of complex early seral habitat in the PNW.

C: Therefore, we should manage federal forestlands using EF.

Do you believe that I have accurately represented this argument? (If you think there are some adjustments to be made, but the overall line of reasoning is more or less correct, please answer "yes." You will still have the opportunity to make revisions later. If you think that the argument is generally misrepresented, please answer "no.")

☐ Yes

☐ No

For reference, here again is the argument under consideration:

The "restoration of early seral" argument

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P2: On the current management trajectory, the already limited amount of complex early seral habitat in the PNW will continue to decline, increasing the risk that early seral species will become threatened by habitat loss.

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P4: By managing federal forestlands using EF, we can provide adequate amounts of complex early seral habitat in the PNW.

C: Therefore, we should manage federal forestlands using EF.

Please describe how I have mischaracterized this argument in the box below. Feel free to make suggestions, or even lay out a basic sketch of how you think the argument should be formulated as a series of premises (P) leading to a conclusion (C).

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P4: By managing federal forestlands using EF, we can provide adequate amounts of complex early seral habitat in the PNW.

C: Therefore, we should manage federal forestlands using EF.

Would any part(s) of this argument be better represented with different wording? Please make suggestions in the boxes below.

P1

P2

P3

P4

C

Now I would like you to assess the premises. First, please describe whether and/or to what extent you think each premise is true. Please consider each premise individually, both as I formulated it and as you may have revised it above. (If you did not revise a given premise, simply leave that box blank.)

P1

P1 (revised)

P2

P2 (revised)

P3

P3 (revised)

P4

P4 (revised)

Now please describe whether and/or to what extent you think each premise is controversial.

P1

P1 (revised)

P2

P2 (revised)

P3

P3 (revised)

P4

P4 (revised)

Do you have any additional feedback about this argument? Please use the box below for comments.

Block 1

Below is my formulation of an argument opposed to using ecological forestry (EF) on O&C lands:

The carbon argument

P1: Management of public lands should reflect the public interest.

P2: It is in the broadest public interest, present and future, to mitigate global climate change.

C1: Therefore, public lands should be managed in a way that mitigates global climate change, unless there is a compelling reason not to do so.

P3: Forests sequester carbon, thereby mitigating global climate change.

P4: Using EF to manage federal forests in the PNW will release sequestered carbon in order to increase timber production.

P5: Releasing sequestered carbon is antithetical to global climate change mitigation.

P6: Increasing timber production is not a compelling reason to manage public lands in a way that is antithetical to global climate change mitigation.

C2: Therefore, federal forests in the PNW should not be managed using EF.

Do you believe that I have accurately represented this argument? (If you think there are some adjustments to be made, but the argument is more or less correct, please answer "yes." You will still have the opportunity to make revisions later. If you think that the argument is generally misrepresented, please answer "no.")

☐ Yes

☐ No

For reference, here again is the argument under consideration:

The carbon argument

P1: Management of public lands should reflect the public interest.

P2: It is in the broadest public interest, present and future, to mitigate global climate change.

C1: Therefore, public lands should be managed in a way that mitigates global climate change, unless there is a compelling reason not to do so.

P3: Forests sequester carbon, thereby mitigating global climate change.

P4: Using EF to manage federal forests in the PNW will release sequestered carbon in order to increase timber production.

P5: Releasing sequestered carbon is antithetical to global climate change mitigation.

P6: Increasing timber production is not a compelling reason to manage public lands in a way that is antithetical to global climate change mitigation.

C2: Therefore, federal forests in the PNW should not be managed using EF.

Please describe how I have mischaracterized this argument in the box below. Feel free to make

suggestions, or even lay out a basic sketch of how you think the argument should be formulated as a series of premises (P) leading to a conclusion (C).

For reference, here again is the argument under consideration:

The carbon argument

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P5: Releasing sequestered carbon is antithetical to global climate change mitigation.

P6: Increasing timber production is not a compelling reason to manage public lands in a way that is antithetical to global climate change mitigation.

C2: Therefore, federal forests in the PNW should not be managed using EF.

Would any part(s) of this argument be better represented with different wording? Please make suggestions in the boxes below.

P1

P2

C1

P3

P4

P5

P6

C2

Now I would like you to assess the premises. First, please describe whether and/or to what extent you think each premise is true. Please consider each premise individually, both as I formulated it and as you may have revised it above. (If you did not revise a given premise, simply leave that box blank.)

P1

P1(revised)

P2

P2 (revised)

P3

P3 (revised)

P4

P4 (revised)

P5

P5 (revised)

P6

P6 (revised)

Now please describe whether and/or to what extent you think each premise is controversial.

P1

P1 (revised)

P2

P2 (revised)

P3

P3 (revised)

P4

P4 (revised)

P5

P5 (revised)

P6

P6 (revised)

Do you have any additional feedback about this argument? Please use the box below for comments.

Below is my formulation of another argument opposed to using ecological forestry (EF) on O&C lands:

The “EF doesn’t create complex early seral” argument

P1: Natural complex early seral ecosystems are important for many reasons.

P2: Variable retention harvest (VRH) aims to provide the benefits of natural complex early seral ecosystems to communities of early seral species.

P3: VRH is a key practice of EF.

P4: EF may not provide the benefits of natural complex early seral ecosystems to early seral communities after harvest.

P5: Management practices that restrict salvage logging after natural disturbance provide the benefits of natural complex early seral ecosystems to early seral communities with higher certainty than does EF.

P6: A management practice should not be implemented if its objectives can be achieved with a higher degree of certainty by some other management practice.

C: Therefore, EF should not be used to create complex early seral ecosystems.

Do you believe that I have accurately represented this argument? (If you think there are some adjustments to be made, but the argument is more or less correct, please answer "yes." You will still have the opportunity to make revisions later. If you think that the argument is generally misrepresented, please answer "no.")

☐ Yes

☐ No

For reference, here again is the argument under consideration:

The "EF doesn't create complex early seral" argument

P1: Natural complex early seral ecosystems are important for many reasons.

P2: Variable retention harvest (VRH) aims to provide the benefits of natural complex early seral ecosystems to communities of early seral species.

P3: VRH is a key practice of EF.

P4: EF may not provide the benefits of natural complex early seral ecosystems to early seral communities after harvest.

P5: Management practices that restrict salvage logging after natural disturbance provide the benefits of natural complex early seral ecosystems to early seral communities with higher certainty than does EF.

P6: A management practice should not be implemented if its objectives can be achieved with a higher degree of certainty by some other management practice.

C: Therefore, EF should not be used to create complex early seral ecosystems.

Please describe how I have mischaracterized this argument in the box below. Feel free to make suggestions, or even lay out a basic sketch of how you think the argument should be formulated as a series of premises (P) leading to a conclusion (C).

For reference, here again is the argument under consideration:

The "EF doesn't create complex early seral" argument

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P6: A management practice should not be implemented if its objectives can be achieved with a higher degree of certainty by some other management practice.

C: Therefore, EF should not be used to create complex early seral ecosystems.

Would any part(s) of this argument be better represented with different wording? Please make suggestions in the boxes below.

P1

P2

P3

P4

P5

P6

C

Now I would like you to assess the premises. First, please describe whether and/or to what extent you think each premise is true. Please consider each premise individually, both as I formulated it and as you may have revised it above. (If you did not revise a given premise, simply leave that box blank.)

P1

P1 (revised)

P2

P2 (revised)

P3	
P3 (revised)	
P4	
P4 (revised)	
P5	
P5 (revised)	
P6	
P6 (revised)	

Now please describe whether and/or to what extent you think each premise is controversial.

P1	
P1 (revised)	
P2	
P2(revised)	
P3	
P3 (revised)	
P4	
P4 (revised)	
P5	
P5 (revised)	
P6	
P6 (revised)	

Do you have any additional feedback about this argument? Please use the box below for comments.

Block 2