

Salvage logging – extract the wood, salvaging dead wood/ timber, the practice, loggers

Argument – fear campaign,

Regrowth – regeneration, spur/assisting regrowth,

Expensive – cost prohibitive,

Insects – bugs

Good general starting sentence – let the reader know what you are going to talk about.

When fire devastates a forest the aftermath can be disturbing. What were once lush green trees are now nothing but burnt and rotting wood. Still there are those that see this as an opportunity to extract the wood for commercial gain, using salvage logging, but at what cost? The lecturer makes some very convincing arguments against this practice.

Should burnt trees get removed to spur regrowth, the natural nutrients that would normally be released into the soil would also be lost. It is the decomposing wood that allows forests to grow back healthier and stronger than they were before by adding nutrients back into the soil.

The second fear campaign that loggers push is the breeding of some harmful insects in the rotting timber, such as the spruce bark beetle. This bug is however already an inhabitant in the forest, and while its numbers may increase a little, it doesn't have a large impact on regeneration. The real tragedy, is that beneficial insects, those responsible for assisting regrowth, also lose environments in which to breed.

Arguing that the practice is responsible for job creation and therefore assists the economy is also unsatisfactory, as the practice of salvaging dead wood is cost prohibitive. They need to use equipment like helicopters to ensure that further damage is not caused by vehicles trying to get to viable wood product. This is not only expensive, but may also require specialist skills that cannot be sourced locally.

It is clear in the lecturer's opinion that the practice of salvage logging works against the natural order of forest regeneration.

Place – area, location, environment, microclimate

Torreya trees – evergreen trees, population, trees, plants

Aim – objective

Lab – laboratory

Animals – wildlife

Devastate – destroy, ravage,

Extinction – dying out

Idea – proposed method, proposals, alternatives

With the key objective of saving the Torreya evergreen plant from extinction, scientists have come up with several solutions that on the surface appear to be viable, though recently concerns have been raised to the feasibility of these ideas.

Traditionally growing well in a microclimate, an area where environmental conditions are different from the surrounding areas, changes in this traditional growing region have caused the tree to make a slow progression towards dying out. For scientists to want to replant the trees in this location, knowing that growing conditions are no longer optimal seems like a waste of time and resources.

Moving the evergreen trees, therefore seems like a good alternative option. Yet, placing the trees in an environment where they haven't existed before could have unexpected impacts on the vegetation and wildlife that already exist here. This point is further heightened by citing the devastating effects that occurred when another tree, the black locust tree was relocated.

Confining them to a laboratory could save some of the population, but out of their natural environment they may very well lose some of the resistance to disease that they would naturally have if they continued to be grown in an open-air forest area. A disease in turn could very well ravage the trees.

By raising these concerns about the proposed methods for saving the Torreya, the lecturer is suggesting that more careful thought is given before a final decision is reached and resources are allocated.