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Comments: First and foremost, I am in support of protecting and further studies on the benefits of Old-Growth Forest. Current Scientific studies have shown the benefits to humanity in maintaining these forests as carbon storage entities. As our planet warms, they act to help to stabilize the current imbalance in human carbon production. If viewed as a single entity it is just one tipping point, but in our current climate each entity becomes a critical component in our efforts to balance our planet's warming. No part stands alone, all parts are interrelated, what harms one harms all others.

Beyond its value as a huge carbon storage, it provides us oxygen, wildlife habitat, recreation and with proper management, resources. Our current economic matrix has consistently ignored and undervalued the intrinsic value to humanity our environment provides us. Its economic value as a living, breathing eco system needs to be included in all economic decisions matrix. Environment, People and Economics are the three-leg stool that we depend upon for balancing our planet's health and prosperity on. No one is more important than the other, they all need to be weighed equally.

Sincerely,

Wm. Stephen Neal

ATTACHMENT: old growth.docx is letter content.