

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/20/2024 4:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for considering the following comment regarding Old Growth Forest Conditions in Oregon's Siuslaw National Forest.

Through the years (and there have been many) as an Oregon Coast Range resident I've been fortunate to comb and ground truth significant portions of the Siuslaw National forest. Despite complaints from my old bones, I've scrambled up and down countless forested hills, dodging salal, huckleberry, fern and windfall to measure trees, to understand the effects of thoughtful or industrial forestry, to i.d. wildlife and to take in the good medicine that comes from being in an old growth forest.

For me these hikes are always accompanied with a sense of duty and 'repayment' to the Doug fir, Hemlock and Cedar giants, for the profound benefits they provide. They can not speak for themselves, and for all of us who depend on their life-supporting services and can speak we owe them an eternal debt.

The most significant service old growth forests provide is their capacity to sequester carbon. This 'gift', on-going lay helping to avert the life-taking effects of climate change is so great and of such an order of magnitude it is impossible to calculate. It is estimated that the Siuslaw Forest sequesters more carbon per acre than any forest on earth. To leave open the doors for future cutting and selling more of these trees is lifting up the worst of stones to drop on our own feet. We can do better than this.

Please refer to the attached forms documenting a sampling of data found from my recent Siuslaw Forest visits. It stuck me that the Siuslaw Forest Service has been unable to adequately calculate the extent of its/our old growth forest. It's significantly more extensive than previously estimated. The NOGA and DEIS must recognize the benefits for tackling our climate crisis provided by our state's top tier old growth forest. For our children, our grandchildren and theirs we can not afford to lose any more of these trees. Please build in language that guarantees their lasting protection. Thank you again for you attention and for work for all of us.

ATTACHMENT: Forest Visit Form V-1.docx - Forest Visit Documentation Form Siuslaw National Forest

ATTACHMENT: Forest Visit Form 62-1.docx - Forest Visit Documentation Form Siuslaw National Forest

ATTACHMENT: Forest Visit Form 58-5.docx - Forest Visit Documentation Form Siuslaw National Forest

ATTACHMENT: Forest Visit Form 58-4.docx - Forest Visit Documentation Form Siuslaw National Forest

ATTACHMENT: Forest-Visit-Form-V-1.docx - Forest Visit Documentation Form Siuslaw National Forest

ATTACHMENT: Forest Visit Form 58-3.docx - Forest Visit Documentation Form Siuslaw National Forest

ATTACHMENT: Forest Visit Form V-20-1.docx - Forest Visit Documentation Form Siuslaw National Forest