

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

First name: Jessica

Last name: Waddell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I live in the region of the Siuslaw Forest for a reason. Not just because it is beautiful; it cleans the air and water through capturing an important global warming component, carbon. In fact, this forest is one of the major captors of carbon in the country. Old growth forests have the ability to capture more harmful carbon. Species diversity of old growth forests is also eminently important, as well as protecting sensitive species dealing with climate change by allowing them time to adapt in a system that offers ecological stability. Because of the massive rainfall in this region, fire is not the issue it might be in other states. And the old growth forests' ability to retain this water in the soil is immense with benefits to a host of ecological parameters. I strongly urge the US Forest Service to continue the mandate of protecting our country's old growth forests to counteract climate change in a continuing warming climate that has led to increased deaths worldwide.