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Comments: Its imperative that we preserve old growth forests!! I say NO to opening it to logging and development. Forests, especially old growth forests, provide far more important benefits beyond just lumber.

<https://www.ecowatch.com/importance-of-old-growth-forests-carbon-capture-potential-grows-with-a-1> Table 1.

Functions, Goods, and Services of Old-Growth Forest Ecosystems
Functions
Production and regulation of water
Formation & retention of soil
Regulation of atmosphere & climate
Regulation of disturbances
Regulation of nutrients and pollution
Provision of habitat
Food production
Production of raw materials
Pollination
Biological control
Production of genetic & medicinal resources
Production of ornamental resources
Production of aesthetic resources
Production of recreational resources
Production of spiritual, historic, and cultural resources
Production of scientific and educational resources
Examples of Goods and Services Produced
Forests capture precipitation; filter, retain, and store water; regulate levels and timing of runoff. Forests accumulate organic matter, and prevent erosion to help maintain productivity of soils. Forest biota produce oxygen, and help maintain good air quality and a favorable climate. Forests reduce flood damage by storing flood waters, and reducing and slowing flooding. Forests improve water quality by trapping pollutants before they reach streams and aquifers. Forests provide habitat for flora and fauna. Forests convert solar energy into edible plants and animals. Forests produce wood fiber, mushrooms, streams with energy convertible to electricity. Insects facilitate pollination of wild plants and agricultural crops. Birds, bats, and microorganisms control pests and diseases. Genetic material in forest plants and animals provide potential basis for drugs and pharmaceuticals. Products from forest plants and animals provide materials for handicraft, jewelry, worship, decoration, and souvenirs. Trees, wetlands, riparian vegetation, and streams provide basis for enjoyment of scenery. Forests provide basis for outdoor sports, eco-tourism. Forests serve as basis for group identity, spiritual renewal, folklore. Forests provide inputs for research and focus for on-site education. Source: Adapted by ECONorthwest from De Groot, R., M. Wilson, and R. Boumans. 2002. A Typology for the Classification, Description and Valuation of Ecosystem Functions, Goods and Services. *Ecological Economics* 41: 393-408; Kusler, J. 2003. *Assessing Functions and Values*. Institute for Wetland Science and Public Policy and the Association of Wetland Managers, Inc.; and Postel, S. and S. Carpenter. 1997. *Freshwater Ecosystem Services*. in *Nature's Services: Societal Dependence on Natural Ecosystems*. Edited by G.C. Daily. Washington, D.C.: Island Press, pgs. 195-288. <http://www.ecowatch.com/importance-of-old-growth-forests-carbon-capture-potential-grows-with-a-1>

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