Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/22/2022 12:00:00 AM First name: Kristine Last name: Trott Organization:

Title:

Comments: One problem that is created by the clear-cutting of old growth forests is that when the land is just left to its own devices to recover, it often results in densely crowded young trees that then compete for light and space at the same rate and create a desert underneath tall, skinny trees with bushy tops and a lot of dead standing trees that didn't make it and are dry tinder. Keeping a mature forest gives room for a multi-age, multi-story conglomeration of trees, brush and forbes, with large spaces between trees and not a lot of material for fire to be able to cross those spaces so easily. Thick bark on old trees is more fire-resistant as well and brush can never get burning hot enough to get through the big ones. A diverse age forest, with major old ones also creates a more diverse habitat for a larger variety of animals that only enhances the health of the forest and keeps it resilient. Old Growth Forests are the cathedrals of the Earth. Let us not desecrate these ever-so-valuable places on our planet.