

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/9/2022 1:23:24 PM

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Comments: I represent supporters of an old growth forest that is located on the university campus of VA Tech . The VA Tech Old Growth Forest contains White Oak trees that are 250-450 years old, 1711 total trees greater than 4" dbh, a thriving understory of hundreds of native plants, shrubs and trees, woody debris on the forest floor, standing dead snags, and pits and mounds from fallen trees. All these are characteristics of an old growth forest and quite rare that an old growth forest would contain ALL of these characteristics. This Old Growth Forest supports several dozen species of mushrooms and fungi, mosses and liverworts as well as salamanders and birds.

As a VA Master Naturalist and life long environmentalist I believe logging in the OGF's should be halted immediately and that these rare ecosystems should be immediately and permanently protected. There are countless reasons to protect all OGF's however the fact that these forests sequester the greatest level of CO2 of any forest type is foremost in the mitigation of Climate Change.

Please identify and protect these OGF's.

Thank you.