Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/19/2022 10:04:43 AM First name: Patricia Last name: Benton Organization: Title:

Comments: Old growth forests are the living product of thousands of years of inter-connected evolution of countless plant and animal species. They exist nowhere else, and if cut down, disbanded, will never form in the same way again. They are truly irreplaceable, belong to the earth, to us, and to future generations. In my opinion, we, you, have no conceivable right to sell this off for momentary gain-the gain of just a few people.

Old growth forests are the living, breathing lungs of our world. The mirror of our lungs, thriving on carbon dioxide and giving back oxygen without which we cannot survive. Old growth forests, forests everywhere, are one of our very few tools to reduce CO2, and slow global warming. The earth needs them now and in the future just as they stand.

I have seen the pitiful results of reforestation. Single species stands of the same height, and guess what species. Only those most that will grow quickest to be cut again for yet more profit to a few human beings and corporations. The greed of these individuals and corporations will never be satisfied.

Please draw the line here and stop the rape and destruction of our forests now.