Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/19/2022 6:27:22 PM First name: Vicki Last name: Simpson Organization: Title:

Comments: I understand that the U.S. government is intending to inventory our old growth forests, a project which is probably already done as part of appropriate agency ongoing oversight.

But as to how important these old growth forests are to the country, I will say that as Nature goes, so goes the well-being of all members of our human species. So, if we sacrifice our old growth forests which create their own biosphere of moisture and oxygen production, contribute vitally to the health of the soil in which they grow, provide habitat for the whole web of animal life which lives within the old growth forests and purify and provide water to their watersheds, then we can be sure that if we sacrifice them, we are sacrificing our future as well.

It is clear to all but those blinded by the need for short term gain that we, as a people, have proven all over the country, that if people ruin the land, whatever kind of ecosystem it is, that action shrinks the Nature that provides for us. The idea and reality of life on Earth is 3.7 billion years old or so and is based on a web of interconnectedness and interdependence. Let's bow to the authority 3.7 billion years of evolution that has demonstrated that the way to live out productive lives is to respect the Nature around us and not take more than we actually need. WE are clever enough to heal the land that lays in between the old growth forests. Forests that remain living lessons to us about how to live with respect for all without the sickness of a wanting to possess more than is healthy for us and for the Earth's plants and creatures. Preserve our old growth forests, the links from our past to our future.