Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/27/2022 6:53:55 PM First name: Kathy stege Last name: stege Organization: Title:

Comments: Please base old growth decisions on existing regional inventories and field confirmation, including volunteer assistance and input. The decision should be for the established ecology, not just big old trees. Many old growth areas have lots of little stuff, but it's the diversity, intact soil horizons, and stability that matter. Natural disturbances such as tornado damage that throws big trees are not enough to destroy an old growth area. Human disturbance is the only way to ruin old growth. We don't have much old growth left. Please actively protect it.