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Comments: It is clearly in the best interest of the United States (and the entire world, for that matter) to protect the few remaining old growth forests from logging or any other activities that might damage them and the ecosystems in which they exist. To focus only on the trees is, as the idiom goes, to miss seeing forest. There are entire ecosystems that depend on the old growth trees and we have only begun to understand how all the intricate pieces of these forests fit together.

I live in a forest, one which now has some towering trees. However, they are the succession trees and do not support the forest floor communities that exist in old growth forest. The native undergrowth is just beginning to take hold again in a few pockets. I've tried to speed up the process by planting native shrubs and wildflowers, but there are many that don't survive. Something is missing. My wife and I are UGA Extension Master Gardeners who have been extremely interested in native plants. From our experience, there are too many variables to know what is missing and why so many of the plants that are native to regional old growth forest fail to thrive and repopulate.

In closing, there are many reasons to save our few remaining old growth forest. It's not only the trees that matter. Once an old growth forest has been destroyed or even disturbed it will never be the same again in my lifetime, or even that of my children's, children's, children's ...