

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/30/2022 8:21:22 PM

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Comments: Mature and old growth forest preservation is necessary for many environmental and spiritual reasons. The trees provide a counter balance to pollution and are part of the climate solution. The forests are home to wildlife which would be displaced if these landscape corridors were lost. These areas are also of spiritual importance and provide allies between various faiths. Nature connects all these faiths and links people to something larger than themselves. Time spent in wilderness is a counterbalance to day to day life and provides a place for worship and spiritual reflection. These places provide solace, refuge, healing and joy.

Bears Ears is a spiritual refuge for indigenous people who were removed against their will. Treaties were made with these people and then the treaties were broken. We are hopeful for the preservation of these sacred lands. For these reasons we ask the forest service and BLM to conserve mature and old growth forests as a climate solution.