

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/21/2023 6:22:54 PM

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Comments: The older forest should not be cut. We face a crisis that requires us to recognize the importance sequestering as much carbon as possible which means keeping these lands progressing toward old growth. This crisis also means the idea that this area will become reforested is less than certain. Parts of the west that have lost tree cover as a result of logging and fire are already transitioning to high desert because they have become too hot and dry for seedlings to survive. The stresses that climate change may impose on any seedlings that may replace these trees will only get worse and may overwhelm immature trees. A few weeks ago, we faced wind chills in the -40 degree range. Yesterday it was 56 degrees at my home and buds are swelling and greening on ornamentals in my front yard and the maple in the back. Current predictions for Friday are predicted to be close to zero. This kind of extreme, particularly combined with flash droughts in the summer could easily mean that reforestation of the areas you propose to cut will not happen. I am sure there are other climate driven stresses that could end with the same result.

We need these forests to remain intact.