

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/6/2024 10:12:07 PM

First name: james

Last name: keller

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I grew up here in the Kootenai National forest during the 60's-80's before I left for the military and I am concerned about misinformation given about old growth vs new growth. To protect old growth you need to continue harvesting dead wood and trees that were killed due to insects or other natural causes. (none of them carbon capture anything.) This also protects against fires and allows new growth in between old growth trees. You need to establish a balance which was demonstrated during my early years with replanting harvested tree stands. (mandatory then). I have seen the major changes of the landscape since moving back to this area recently. They are not the forest systems I grew up with. Too much undergrowth, and lack of meadows for the elk. I also see the property now owned by individuals who have moved into the area and a lot of time lack the understanding of fire prevention around their personal property. They get carried away with their ideas of conservation , but are doing more harm to the environment around them. Those of us who grew up here, know what trees mean to the environment, and we have a understanding of proper harvesting and regrowth as well protecting for future generations to use and maintain a healthy forest system. You can harvest and still maintain a balance in the ecological environment, we just need more common sense than politics.