

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/8/2024 12:41:33 AM

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Comments: I used to comment extensively on the need to save and protect old growth on the national forests, but I'm at an age now when I don't have time to repeat what all of you at the agency reading this know both factually and also in your hearts - in addition to all the other "values" of old growth, such as recreation, water quality, mitigation for global change, protection of genetic pool from individual trees that have proven their survivability over hundreds of years, lowering fire risk, etc etc etc, that I trust will be detailed in other comments - in ADDITION to all that, the ineffable spiritual value of old growth is both unique and unreplaceable. Repeat: Ineffable spiritual value.

Other than very carefully regulated thinning sales, absent the all-too-common loopholes large enough to drive a logging truck through, there must be NO commercial logging in the national forests, or on other federal lands. Stands of old growth are now few and far between. They will be even rarer in the coming time of our children and grandchildren. The grandfather trees and the ecosystems that sustain them warrant respect and care - not "forest health" initiatives as a cover for resource extraction.

I propose one over-reaching USFS guideline for management of the last remaining stands of old growth: take care of them, and love them well.