Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/23/2024 5:38:12 PM First name: Stacey Last name: Remick Organization:

Title:

Comments: Old-Growth forests are irreplacable. I know I do not need to say that to anyone who is a scientist and understands this. What I do not understand is that any land management plan can contain the potential destruction of such a forest. These are sacred and critical places for wildlife and for our planet as a whole. They are the masters of sequestration, of habitat and renewed life for their wildlife communities and often are the sacred places for many indigenous communities. The management of these forests should fully entail the preservation and enrichment of these irreplacable forests. I understand that trees die but I also understand the value of leaving these forests to manage themselves in ways that humans fail miserably to do. There is one old-growth forest in West Virginia that is allowed to manage itself at the behest of the person who left it to the state parks system. I have visited there and the beauty, majesty and the value of this forest as it mends and regrows itself cannot be emphasized or otherwise even remotely matched by the human interference that other forests often find themselves the targets for. My expectation is that these forests will be managed for their enrichment, their growth and for the value that they are to the Earth....and perhaps our final barrier to the loss of our land and our wildlife -- particularly bird life.