

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/24/2024 2:04:57 AM

First name: Andrew

Last name: Hartley

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a Christian, I believe all humans are called to preserve this incredible planet God has provided for us & our neighbors. That's why I'm asking you to preserve old-growth forests across the US.

All forests are important to a healthy ecosystem; however, old-growth forests are especially important because of their unique structure. The various canopy layers and berry-producing plants commonly found in old-growth forests are beneficial for many bird species. In a forest that has not been disturbed for hundreds of years, some trees will develop hollow cavities which become important nesting places for wildlife. The undisturbed, dead fallen trees create even more habitat for insects, fungi, reptiles, and amphibians. The moisture within an old-growth forests benefits lichen and mosses, and the species that live among them. Old-growth forests are one of the few places where topsoil is created instead of destroyed. Old-growth forests retain more carbon and nitrogen than do forests of other age classes, and are superior for improving water and air quality. So, please implement an old-growth forest management plan that has no loopholes allowing industry to circumvent the needed protections.

Thank you for considering my request.