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First name: Anne

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Organization: Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch

Title: Secretary

Comments: We who live in rural Calaveras County are deeply concerned about the harvesting of old growth trees. It is well established that old growth trees create critical benefit to the environment. Specifically, these benefits include: fire resilience, providing cooling for slowing snowmelt, habitat for wildlife, provide an overstory and mycelium nutrients for soil and young trees, provide important carbon sequestration, and invaluable inspiration for human recreational and spiritual purposes. Much of the land on earth has been deforested to our peril. Old growth trees are needing protection for all of the reasons above as well as trying to mitigate or optimally reverse climate change. We need to value a living planet, and quality of life for all, above short term profits for the few. We commend you for taking on this study of old growth trees. In our area, centuries old trees are being cut down under the guise of fire protection when those are exactly the trees we need to deter wildfires. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns. Sincerely, Anne Calderwood, EPFW Secretary