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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the U.S. Forest Service:

I wish to comment regarding preservation and protection of old growth forests in our nation.

We need old growth as essential habitat for species of various kinds, including but not limited to: Northern Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet, Northern Flying Squirrel, and many others. We simply cannot afford to lose any more of our old growth forests, as these provide not only wildlife habitat but nurseries for old growth of the future. Without healthy forests, we will be bereft of whole habitat types that support and maintain us and the other species upon which we depend for our well-being and perhaps our longterm survival. These forests are known to be great carbon sinks, which we really need even as we begin the process of reducing our use of fossil fuels. We also can thank our intact forests for providing us clean air and water.

I know there is constant pressure placed on government to allow for more cutting in our old growth forests--I want to be counted as one who does not think such harvesting is necessary or desirable. Lumber companies have long adjusted to processing trees from plantations, which they will never allow to grow old. We simply must hang onto the old growth forests we still have.

Thanks you for your consideration of my comments, and long live our old growth forests!

Sincerely,

Phyllis Bailey