Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 9:57:39 PM First name: Brett Last name: Bankie Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am an advocate for wilderness ang old growth forests. I have driven to old growth forests, backpacked and hiked in them. It takes hundreds of years for forests to grow "old." When they attain that age they have their ultimate stage of life, with hundreds of plants and animals living in that unique environment. Old growth forests, and the life that lives in them, should be protected by us.

We should not be selling old-growth trees on public lands, period.

Old-growth forests host unique and irreplaceable characteristics quite different from younger forests. Many animals have evolved to rely partly or entirely on old-growth.

Old-growth is peerless at storing and filtering water, providing top-quality recreation, and sequesters far more carbon than younger forests. These are all free services provided by old-growth forests.