

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 2:42:18 PM

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Comments: For the love of God there is no reason the richest country on earth should be logging its last remaining old growth forests. These forests on our public lands are our children's birthright. We have a moral obligation to save what acreage is left for future generations to reap the benefits of a forest unmolested by man.

In the words of President Lyndon Johnson: "If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it."

These forests provide immeasurable value to our people and the diverse flora and fauna that depend on them. They serve as critical carbon sinks, helping to mitigate the effects of a rapidly warming planet. They are sanctuaries for endangered plants and wildlife, sources of clean water and fresh air, and places where weary bodies and minds can find solace in the unspoiled beauty of nature unmarred by man's never-ending quest for more resources.

Preserving our last remaining old growth forests aligns with a cherished tradition of environmental leadership in the United States. Failing to do so would represent an abandonment of our responsibility to future generations of Americans and the environment we depend on.

In response to any timber industry representatives who would try to claim that this course of action is misguided I would submit to the government that these are "the short-sighted men who in their greed and selfishness will, if permitted, rob our country of half its charm by their reckless extermination of all useful and beautiful wild things" that Theodore Roosevelt warned us about in 1916. Roosevelt went on to say that "Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations. The movement for the conservation of wild life and the larger movement for the conservation of all our natural resources are essentially democratic in spirit, purpose, and method."

I applaud President Biden and his administration for taking this sensible step to protect these invaluable assets for the benefit of all Americans.