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Comments: Old Growth Forests. National treasures, important ecosystems and carbon sinks. Links to our past that help to connect us to our land and fill us with the wonder that is nature. Enclaves that house, protect and encourage wildlife, from small mice to large elk and beyond. How on Earth, literally, can we ignore or, worse, exploit these incredible trees and where they thrive?

It is tempting to look at all that land and all that timber and say 'How can we use this?' It's just human to want to utilize what we can and exploit the rest for personal gain or satisfaction. But, what happens when it's no longer there? Where will displaced wildlife go? What will we substitute for all the lost or/and degraded forest? Nothing, there is no meaningful or similar alternative, no planet B and no excuse for allowing this situation to develop.

I want future generations of Americans to be able to enjoy, visit and explore our old growth forests, to see what once was and to revel in the glory of these beautiful places. I live on the West Coast and I've been privileged to spend time in the old forest areas of Oregon and California and there is nothing to compare. This is what we once were, this is where we see the best of nature and what was and could be, this is where the Glory of God has meaning, real tactile visible glory all around.

We cannot afford to NOT protect our old growth forests without compromising who we are, without sacrificing unparalleled beauty and wildlife, without sacrificing the soul of our planet. Protect our old growth forests like our lives depend on it because, ultimately, they will.