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First name: Kelton Last name: McConnell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Old-growth forests are the last remaining portion of a quickly fleeting world. Undeveloped nature becomes harder to find each day as new development and infrastructure encroach upon these invaluable lands. While lumber is important in our modern world, is the forest not also? These old-growth forests are lands of reprieve, a sanctuary away from the chaos of modern life. I have never felt such calm and tranquility as I do when I gaze upon the old growths and bask in their glory and wisdom of hundreds of years. If we destroy these lands, we cannot replace them by simply planting the same tree species. These forests are an interconnected web of such complexity that we still are trying to uncover their secrets. From the mycelium networks under the soil to the strength they provide to the land, these forests are more valuable than any timber that could be acquired from them. They need our protection. I support the direction to protect old growth forests across the entire USFS.