

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/1/2024 3:46:25 PM

First name: Barbara

Last name: Inyan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Old growth and mature trees intermingled in forests are essential to the health and biodiversity (a direct measure of health and resiliency) of forest ecosystems. With the history of rampant deforestation of old growth trees in US forests, enough is enough. They must be left alone, to provide integrity to the entire forest system. They serve as important mother trees and pillars of strength for the entire forest stand, connecting generations of trees and creating healthy soil, providing habitat for multiple birds, mammals, invertebrates, mycelial and other important species, helping to retain soil moisture and providing shelter to the forest floor. Perhaps most importantly, they provide important ecosystem services such as erosion control, soil retention, stand age diversity, and carbon sequestration. Please leave the old growth and mature trees to fulfill their purpose, for the health of the forest, the natural environment and animals, the land, the people, and the planet.