Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/1/2024 11:38:59 PM First name: Lyla Last name: Yango Organization: Title:

Comments: I fully support the direction to conserve and steward existing and future old-growth forests, because it will ensure the survival of these ecosystems and benefit nature. Old-growth and mature trees are more resistant to fires and other adverse environmental conditions than younger trees. Also, cutting down old-growth trees releases huge amounts of greenhouse gases that they would otherwise be storing in the Earth. Protecting mature trees will ensure population expansion of old-growth forests. These trees are extremely important for the health of the planet and the species that directly survive off of them. Please take action to care for old-growth and mature forests wholeheartedly for nature's benefit.

"Why old-growth forests matter" https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/environment-and-conservation/2022/04/why-old-growth-forests-matter