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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for initiating this process to secure the long-term health of old-growth forests. Although these important forests provide numerous benefits to people and to nature, they are present on only a fraction of the landscape they once covered. This reality, along with the increasing stressors that these forests face from climate change, highlights the need and urgency for national direction to secure the conservation and health of our remaining old-growth forests.

James K. Hadcroft here. Please become part of the solution. As the agency refines its old-growth proposal, I urge you to include the following:

- Undertake on-the-ground identification of old-growth stands to ensure that the proposals plan components are applied to the appropriate places.
- Clarify when proactive management can occur to ensure that management is driven by forest health needs.
- Ensure robust engagement of the public and Tribes in developing local or regional Adaptive Strategies for Old-Forest Conservation.
- Provide adequate resources to support the proposals monitoring requirements so that the efficacy of the management approaches can be assessed and adapted, as needed, to meet the proposals goals.
- Foster data transparency by publicizing information compiled through the National Old-Growth Monitoring Network, as well as information on vegetation management projects occurring either in old-growth stands or in priority fire sheds under the agency's Wildfire Crisis Strategy.

Thank you for recognizing the many important values of old-growth forests through the initiation of this process, and for considering my comments.

Your organization is in a position to do something about this. It is one thing to say save the trees and forests. It is even more useful to offer alternatives.

James K. Hadcroft here. The best way to save forests is to lessen the need for trees. If Paper Companies started using Hemp to create their paper products, less trees would be needed and Old Growth Forests would be left alone. This is one of the reasons Hemp was made available to be grown. Hemp is a renewable resource. It makes great paper and paper products. Hemp is also used to create building materials for homes. It would also create jobs and help Farmers have another crop to sell. It would lessen the cutting of forests that trap CO2 and the hemp plants are more plants collecting CO2 while they are growing. There would still be the need for lumber but at least paper products would not need trees.

Regards,

James K Hadcroft

Veteran, Active Voter, Progressive, Taxpayer

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