Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/2/2024 8:47:46 PM First name: Kathleen Last name: Kerkof Organization:

Title:

Comments: The science is very clear. Climate change is happening now, it is accelerating, and we are rapidly approaching multiple tipping points. Preserving our remaining old-growth forest and allowing our mature forest to age into old-growth is essential to responding to this crisis which threatens our continued existence on this planet as well as that of the other species we share this planet with.

We need the ecological services of an intact ecosystem and the restoration of the small water cycle to cool the earth. Old-growth forest provides this. Through intact ecosystems, Nature has maintained the conditions that have supported life for billions of years. Isn't time that we work with Nature?

For information on the importance of the water cycle for cooling the planet and how to restore it, here is a link to a talk by soil scientist, Walter Jehne : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-

TghzEPPVE&list=PL783y67Ke14GkHvCdeWXexDtrKxc2DW4x&index=5