

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/2/2024 10:00:04 PM

First name: Emily

Last name: Polanshek

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a mother, grandmother and retired public elementary school teacher. In light of the growing climate crisis we are facing locally and globally, I am passionately concerned about our children's future.

Since old trees sequester more carbon than younger trees (and are awe-inspiring to admire, which can spark more public interest in saving them), please protect our old-growth forests!

I write from Portland, Oregon. According to Oregon Wild, less than 10% of our current forests are old-growth. Please protect them! No other plantings will grow fast enough to be of much help during this critical period of transition away from carbon-emitting sources of energy towards renewable energy solutions.

Soil health, drinking water purity, stream temperatures and species diversity are also important benefits of protecting forests, particularly our remaining old ones.

Please protect old growth forests, species diversity and younger growth human beings here in the Pacific Northwest and all other places under your jurisdiction.

Thank you.