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Comments:

I am for keeping all the old growth and mature forests intact in the US.

Old growth forests support diversity of life, they hold clean water, they host a complex microbial communication network that relays messages between trees - even trees of different species.

Old growth and mature forests hold significantly more carbon than younger forests. A study of 6 Oregon forests showed that the biggest 3 % of trees accounted for approximately 42 % of forest carbon.

Old growth and mature forests act like the lungs of the planet, drawing in carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen.

Old growth and mature forests are on of the few land uses where topsoil is created and enriched instead of depleted.

There are only a few remnants of old growth forests left in the US. Under 5 % remain in the western Us and less than 1% in the eastern US.

All existing old growth and mature forests in the US need to be protected from timber harvesting, including clear cuts, shelter wood harvesting, thinning etc. starting immediately.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my comments.