

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/3/2024 1:11:42 AM

First name: Sally

Last name: Leque

Organization:

Title:

Comments: USFS,

I am submitting comment on the Management Plan for Old Growth Forests #65356.

I am grateful that the Forest Service is showing concern about old growth forests and the importance of keeping them free of logging and other invasive projects, such as roads, etc.

My desire is that these forests definitely be protected. At this point in time it is critical for old growth forests to be protected and expanded. They are important for carbon sequestration, biological diversity and healthy ecosystems.

On a deeper level, old growth forests are important for the soul of the planet and the soul of the human species. Human destruction of forests, especially clear cutting, is deadly to plants and animals that have the forest as their home. The so called "progress" of humans has cut too many people off from a deep connection with nature.

If we, humans, begin to act more respectfully to the natural world, we can start to bring ourselves into better balance with all life on this planet. Our approach, too often, has been one of self centered greed that regards forests as something we can take whatever we want from it for our own interest and purpose. Humans are not the owners of this planet. We need to really shift our priorities and act like brothers and sisters to the trees and animals and other living beings on this planet.

I lived in northeast WA for a number of years and saw the bleak, barren after effects of clear cut logging. I also saw and felt the powerful presence of mature forest trees. That is a palpable presence that we need more of.

I hope to see the Forest Service

1. take powerful action to preserve and expand old growth forests.
2. put healthy old growth forests as a priority and not allow exceptions to established guidelines for protection and expansion of old growth forests.
3. have sensible, science based standards for forest preservation.
4. have monitoring and accountability to preserve, expand these forests

Thank you,

Sally Leque