

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/3/2024 1:54:25 AM

First name: Terry

Last name: Gardiner

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have lived seven decades in Alaska and Washington. I served as a State Legislator in Alaska for ten years and was a commercial fishermen in Alaska for 14 years, and built and owned a large seafood processing company for 23 years after that. I am an avid backpacker, have hiked the Pacific Crest Trail, The Arizona Trail, ski and hike frequently in the national forest. I value old growth forests both for their unique beauty and serenity when I spend those magical times in them. Additionally I value their role with preserving habitat for our salmon, steelhead, and trout that in turn contribute to the ecosystems of the forests. First, We must preserve the small percentage of old growth forests that still remain. Second, we must manage our forests to allow the return of more old growth forests. We can still harvest timber for our economy and human benefit by intensively investing in forest techniques such as planting and thinning as many private forest land owners do. Lastly, we do need to have Congress budget and support the Forest Service and other Federal land managers to manage forests to reduce forest fires, given the reality of global warming. Sincerely, Terry Gardiner