

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/3/2024 2:04:07 AM

First name: Renee

Last name: Gil

Organization:

Title:

Comments: It is expected that climate change as well as fires will change the landscape of Washington's national forests in the future. Lumber as a resource will continue to be needed and the demand will be larger. More and more folks will advocate that it is their right to more National Park recreation. More and more folks will move into Washington state. Demands on lands and the nature we share this earth with will increase. Due to this, a comprehensive and adequate % of lands should be reserved for nature conservation. We should reserve more forest than currently allocated, expanding more protected areas. We should preserve all Old Growth Forests(they store more carbon than younger trees and act as a buffer for flooding). Logging may need to review rotation periods for hardwood plantation, resiliency of tree type and held accountable for recovery of marketable product from log volume planned, planted and harvested. Lumber, hence logging is needed. If not lumber the other building options are more energy intensive. The amount of area allocated for lumber harvesting should not increase but options to increase productivity of those areas need to be reviewed . There will always be folks clamoring for more access to nature reserves and we must stay steadfast and not provide more. Years down the road from now, folks will slowly encroach on it anyway, and the number of new people will trample areas and create more for themselves anyway. We cannot protect every area so they will take more as people always do thinking it is their right. As humans we do a poor job as a whole showing we can live along side nature as one as equals instead of trampling it.

Please preserve the old growth and increase forest reserves.