

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/3/2024 4:17:23 AM

First name: Dana

Last name: Garden

Organization: Mobile Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Title:

Comments: My love affair with the great and vanishing old growth forests of the Pacific Northwest has existed for many years. The magnificent giant trees, the incredible degree of mutualism, the mycelium network that connects and nourishes the great diversity of trees, woody plants and forbs and , animals, is nevertheless vulnerable to the destructive practices of clearcut and checkboard logging; post fire 'thinning' that targets healthy and fire resistant mature trees for their valuable and increasingly rare timber, and absurd practices like 'thinning ' to create spotted owl habitat in healthy spotted owl habitat.

As our climate crisis accelerates, there is no greater remaining reserve of carbon sequestration than our last stands of mature and old growth trees. It is irresponsible and unthinkable to leave our children, grandchildren and all future life to suffer the consequences of our short term greed and short sighted destruction of irreplaceable biomes.