Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/2/2024 12:32:23 AM First name: Guntram Last name: Herb Organization: Title:

Comments: Old growth forests are an irreplaceable resource. If you read the most recent scientific literature, there is evidence that trees are connected by a vast underground rhizome network and can communicate with each other - why would you want to destroy such a marvel of nature? Please remember that this forest is not a lifeless commodity. The original stewards of this land, the indigenous peoples of North America, considered the plant and animal world as their kin. I have worked with numerous Native nations and am married to an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe. I know in my heart that Native people would not destroy old growth forest for mere profit. We took the land from them, so the least we can do is respect it as they did. I urge you not cut down the trees in the Telephone Gap.