

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/23/2024 2:57:51 PM

First name: Catherine

Last name: Ellison

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a 72 year old "native" Oregonian (not Native American), born and raised in the Willamette Valley. Culturally I was taught to love and respect our natural beauty here in the state. At times in my life I have been witness to the grandeur of old growth forest, and I seek it out as so often the sites are so unique and inspiring, with almost a spiritual quality, as though these were cathedrals. (In Oregon, please refer to a book "Oregon's Ancient Forests" by Chandra LeGue.). Over my lifetime as well I have been witness to the fever with which we harvest our forestlands for profit and financial gain, clearcutting willy nilly when allowable. It often seems no one is at the helm to protect our precious forestland, particularly the old growth.

I have not read the full report upon which I comment, and only wish to in general urge the decision makers to PRESERVE old growth forests, since once they are gone, they are GONE. I understand that forests help prevent climate change; they also in our state protect fish habitat and wildlife populations. And clean water. I hope that you decision makers will not allow the forest products industry to direct your thoughts about this..... Thank you for hearing my desperation about it....