

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/18/2024 8:50:18 PM

First name: Dennis

Last name: Wilkerson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My comments as to why it is important to leave some old growth forests is that a lot of research shows that the numerous relationships between various organisms such as fungi and various tree species takes centuries to establish.

So if all the old growth forests become second growth forests then these relationships are lost. We have only been harvests wood in the southeastern forest for a little over a century.

Some of the old growth forests in the Smokies I have hiked in the eastern hemlocks have more resistance to the hemlock wooly adelig then on second growth forests. This is just one example.