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Comments: Forests, and in particular old growth forests, are an absolute necessity to a healthy aquifer and waterways. I have lived within the Chesapeake Bay watershed for 70 years. I am a witness to the consequences of deforestation, poor forest and land management, and our failure as stewards of all of the components of a healthy ecosystem for humans and wildlife. Our forests, no matter how small, are not simply pretty things to behold or to enjoy recreationally. They are the internal organs of our living space. Forests clean and protect our air and water. The older the forest the more that is the case. We mistakenly assume that a forest is only everything that we can see above ground while in truth what we cannot see beneath the surface is integral to our lands and waters. So complex is the life cycle of the understory and below in an old growth forest that one could liken it to an iceberg. What is above the surface isn't even half the story. We have so little left it must be preserved and protected.