Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/28/2024 7:01:17 AM

First name: Karen Last name: Fullerton Organization:

Title:

Comments: I grew up camping in the mountains of California. I am over 65 years old. The incredible beauty I have witnessed in the wilderness is passing from our Earth as climate change continues. It breaks my heart my grandson will never experience what I did. I know how logging felled the redwoods and oaks and other native trees, decimated wildlife, fouled waterways.

Old-growth trees are one of our most precious natural resources - not for exploitation, but for animal habitat, carbon-capture, oxygen, shade, recreation. We have already cut far too much from our forests, what remains must be protected. Logging cannot be allowed in old-growth areas, even when the old trees are spared. Logging is too destructive to the entire ecosystem and must be limited to sustainable tree farms.

Partnering with Native communities should be continued and expanded.

Protect the Tongass wholly and completely - no roads, no logging, keep it wild and safe.

Do not cut trees after a wildfire - that process causes more damage, and some trees may survive.

The temptation to find ways to sell timber must be resisted at all costs - we are in the Climate Disaster now and every single tree is precious.

We rely on the Forest Service to protect our forests - do not let us down, do no harm, and always choose the least risk to your charge.

Thank you,

Karen Fullerton