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Comments: This is a very personal issue for me, old growth forests. I began my working life as a lookout for the USFS in SE Oregon and developed a serious attachment to forest in general. However it was not until I was able to visit old growth forests, particularly in Oregon, that I came to know their value in a non-monetary way. I am not a religious person, but have found old growth forests often to be a physical place on the planet, almost like a cathedral!!! There is a peace and sacredness about giant trees which have never been logged by mankind. And over time there are LESS and LESS of these places, and when they are gone they will be gone forever. Preservation of any remaining old growth forests is of utmost importance to humankind (not to mention the animals, etc who live in them, as well as clean watersheds, etc).

As well, protecting old growth is beneficial for carbon sequestration and climate change. I am hoping and praying that my grandchildren will be able to experience old growth.

There is a book "Oregon's Ancient Forests" by Chandra LeGue which helps explain how important these forests are. The organization Oregon Wild has been instrumental in helping forest management to head the right direction. The forests remain under threat, and the interest of Big Timber spread false information about a need to log our public lands..... It is my hope that any of you who are working on this issue to protect old growth have had the opportunity to walk amongst ancient trees. It is so good for our souls.....