Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/10/2024 11:53:02 AM First name: Edith Last name: Kippenhan Organization: Title:

Comments: Old forest needs to remain as intact as possible with minimum care for fire prevention and natural ecosystem protection. Logging and other activities should be prohibited in or close to old stands - we are not fully aware of the breadth of the underground changes caused by these activities and how that affect the total ecosystem. With increasing temperatures and longer droughts, we need old growth to transition areas to new weather patterns and protect species, some challenged and/endangered. The Great Black Swamp and its huge benefits are taking decades to bring parts back - we don't have that time to replant and recover old forests. Let us be proactive on this topic and not be there in 20 years wishing we had let them be. There are plenty of other options to harvest trees, set up solar or put roads.