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Comments: I visited the Joyce Kilmer forest this past year. What immediately struck me was the healthy diversity of the forest floor. I am simply a hiker. And I could immediately discern a richness in insects and fauna that isn't found on a hike absent of old-growth trees.

I feel that the argument to dismantle these ecosystems is often shortsighted-immediate gain for what is unrecoverable loss within our life span. I understand that foresters evaluate the areas and have numbers for how much carbon is sequestered in a young forest. But, evolutionarily, I cannot imagine that these old growth forests provide benefits that scientists and foresters are only now beginning to understand.

There is so little old growth forest. I am baffled that I would need to defend its value. If it is timber value that causes the forest to be threatened, then I really don't understand. Any money made from the timber will be gone in the blink of an eye. But the forest is gone for multiple generations. I simply don't understand any argument other than protecting our few old growth forests.