

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/12/2024 4:21:33 PM

First name: NANCY

Last name: SOARES

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I fully support the National Old-Growth Amendment and its aims. Logging kills trees and destroys forests. Fortunately, today there are many man-made products that can be used in lieu of wood products in construction and for other purposes.

Apart from individual trees, forest ecosystems are important for carbon storage, which is crucial for protecting living things, including humans, from extinction. It takes 70 to 80 years for a tree to start storing a level of carbon that's beneficial to the environment. Forests not only store carbon, they also cool the planet. There is a direct connection between deforestation and our rapidly warming climate.

In addition, forests cool and filter our drinking water. As the climate warms, older forests will provide more drinking water than younger ones. The cooling and filtering effect on our waterways also encourages healthy fisheries.

Older forests are also more resilient to fire. Many older trees can sustain wildfire damage and continue to be healthy after the fire has passed. This is important as wildfires become larger, more frequent, and more devastating to the environment and to human communities.

Less than 10 percent of old-growth trees still stand. Despite their essential role in protecting the quality of life on our planet, these forests are still logged for profit. However, the overall cost of the loss of old growth ecosystems to humans and other species far outweighs the benefit to the few corporations who harvest the lumber.

I am grateful to those responsible for the National Old-Growth Amendment for putting the future of the American people over short-term profit for a few corporations by restricting commercial logging of old growth in every national forest across the country.

Thank you,
Nancy Soares