

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/12/2024 7:06:56 PM

First name: Norman

Last name: Bishop

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a graduate student, I studied Forestry and Wildlife Management. I continue to read studies that tell us that mature forests are essential as carbon sinks. Mature and old-growth forests like those in the Black Ram project in Montana's Yaak and other areas of the country are being targeted and logged despite scientific evidence demonstrating that old-growth forests are more resilient to wildfires when left untouched. The draft plan lacks adequate protection for old-growth forests, and it overlooks mature forests, which are forests poised to become old-growth in the coming decades.

Old-growth forests are not just majestic landscapes; they are essential habitats for a diverse range of plant and animal species, including our imperiled Yaak population of grizzly bears.

The rich biodiversity of old-growth forests is a cornerstone for ecological resilience in a changing climate. Moreover, old-growth forests excel at absorbing and storing carbon dioxide, playing a crucial role in addressing climate change.