Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/17/2024 9:22:44 PM First name: Joshua Last name: Mayer Organization:

## Title:

Comments: As a life-long conservationist and outdoorsman, I see our old growth groves as a legacy. With only 3% left, which is a travesty in every sense (and which reflects the state of our global forests), I strongly encourage that we leave these forests alone. Wanton, greedy, short-sighted and evil clear-cutting from around 1870 to 1950 destroyed our environment. Now, it is our turn to turn back the tide. Planting new forests with the aid of robust mycorrhizal planting as well can start the process of rebuilding the life-essential and life-sustaining forests we need. It will take thousands of years to regain what we've lost. Mature forests are grown from mature forests. So, every single ounce of effort must be put into caring for our tiny fraction of old growth groves that are left. This comes from my experience fighting for their preservation as well as my heart. I walk with such joy through the Ross Creek Ancient Cedar Grove in Northwestern Montana. My boys love those trees. Can you imagine the vast old growth forests that once were? Then imagine them in the future. Thank you.