Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/18/2024 4:00:00 AM First name: Corrie Last name: Podolak Organization:

Title:

Comments: Preserving old-growth forests is crucial for the well-being of future generations. These ancient ecosystems, which have developed over centuries, offer unparalleled biodiversity, providing habitats for countless species of plants and animals that cannot thrive elsewhere. Their complex structure and rich soil contribute to carbon sequestration, helping to mitigate climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Additionally, old-growth forests play a vital role in maintaining clean water sources and regulating the climate, benefiting both local and global environments. By safeguarding these irreplaceable natural treasures, we ensure that future generations inherit a planet rich in natural beauty, ecological stability, and opportunities for scientific discovery and environmental stewardship.