

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/19/2024 4:00:00 AM

First name: Dr. E.

Last name: O&#39;Halloran

Organization:

Title:

Comments: America has lost over 97% of its old growth forests. Old growth forests are more fire resistant than other forests, they support biodiversity and they store carbon. Entire ecosystems collapse without them. We need them more than ever. Please use guidelines that retain and increase old growth forest distribution and abundance. Please protect old growth forests from logging and roads and development and pollution. Use passive management in active old growth forests. Prevent degradation of old growth forests and ensure their long-term continuance. The benefits of old growth forests include stabilizing the climate, providing habitat for wildlife and biodiversity (including many species that cannot live in any other type of forest), resilience to fires, cultural significance, and scientific and artistic value. We have destroyed too much already. Let us save what little we have left and increase it. Thank you.