

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

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Comments: By definition, Old Growth is old. It has survived temperature variations, persisted through drought, resisted insect infestations, been resilient after fire, adapted to live with disease, and still, it is Old Growth. One thing Old Growth has no defense against is man with big machines and chainsaws. Man cannot select for the genetic diversity that allows Old Growth to evolve and respond to the variables that climate change is bringing.

Alternative 3 at least prohibits commercial timber harvest, but it should go beyond that and prohibit "management" of any kind. No exceptions.

Old Growth is not just big trees. It is a complex ecosystem from towering treetops to soil minutia. It includes multi-storied canopy, brush, ground covers, rot, disease, dying, new growth, mycorrhizae, bacteria, mammals, invertebrates, birds, insects, fungi, shady copses and sunlit openings. Old Growth is diverse. Man cannot "manage" to improve, only to diminish.

The remaining Old Growth is only a small portion of what once existed. We must allow mature forests to become Old Growth by restricting "management" in mature forests.

Leave Old Growth and mature forests alone.