

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/20/2024 4:00:00 AM

First name: lawrence

Last name: birch

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm writing to express my interest in preserving and protecting the old growth trees living in the Siuslaw National Forest. Having been a botanist on the Long Term Ecosystem Project (LTEP) and also a native of Oregon who has spent time in all of our amazing PNW forests, I feel they have so much to offer us from wildlife habitat to clean water to carbon storage. Which is why I feel it is imperative to prioritize as much intact old growth trees and forest ecosystems as possible. The timber industry exists to extract trees not preserve them for future generations. Once an old growth tree is cut down, its contributions to the forest disappear forever. Please do everything legally and bureaucratically possible to prevent the loss of any more of these amazing forest giants. Our lives and the lives of many other species on our planet are depending on you to do the right thing. We will be watching. Thank you!