

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/20/2024 8:28:37 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am gladdened that there is action to secure protection for old-growth forests, which are a threatened jewel and increasingly rare. I once visited Joyce Kilmer forest and the experience was unforgettable. Night fell while I was hiking, and the forest was darker than anything I'd ever seen before. There was also a stillness and sense of grandeur that cannot be felt anywhere other than a mature forest. Places like this should never ever be threatened by logging.

I live in western Colorado, and have seen mature stands of aspen trees "thinned" with essentially nothing remaining. The supposed purpose was to protect the forest, but it was annihilated. I'm hoping that with the old-growth forest protections this type of logging can be eliminated.

A concern that I have about the Plan is the definition of old-growth status based on the size of the tree. We have a few species of trees out west that live in harsh conditions that don't get very large. I'd like to ask that they get recognized and these forests safe-guarded.

Please do what is possible to protect the last of our old-growth forests and use secure language ensuring that there can't be loopholes. They are not worth losing, and cannot be replaced!

Thank you, Amber Johnstone