Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/20/2024 4:00:00 AM First name: Thomas Last name: Klopf Organization: Title:

Comments: I would advocate the preservation of all existing U.S. old growth forests to preserve wildlife habitat, protect fresh water resources and protect established wetland biomes. The most valuable resource in old growth forests is fresh water that flows out as surface water and groundwater. The value of the old growth timber is minor compared to the value of the water. In place of timber, a much greater effort could be put into recycling waste plastics to make construction materials. Currently a majority of building lumber comes from Canada or from pine plantations in the U.S. There is no need to continue cutting old growth forests and harming adjacent wetlands.