

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/28/2025 6:13:42 AM

First name: Nikki

Last name: Dalo

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I moved here from the South, and I quickly discovered that the mesmerizing beauty of the Pacific Northwest's old growth forests was a key reason I chose to stay. Wandering among these ancient trees-towering giants cloaked in vibrant moss-I feel an overwhelming sense of wonder and calm. The interplay of sunlight through a dense, living canopy provides a sanctuary that speaks to my soul, affirming my deep commitment to preserving this natural legacy. The interplay of sunlight through the dense canopy and the quiet rustle of wind stirred emotions of gratitude and reverence, leaving an indelible impression on my soul.

These forests are not only a sanctuary for personal reflection but also critical to our planet's health. Research has shown that old growth forests serve as powerful carbon sinks, storing vast amounts of carbon that help mitigate climate change. They also offer irreplaceable habitats for a myriad of species-including endangered birds and mammals-that rely on the unique structure and biodiversity of these ecosystems. Moreover, these forests hold immense cultural significance for indigenous communities, representing a living heritage that has been cared for and revered for generations.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that decisive measures be taken to safeguard these irreplaceable ecosystems. Protecting our old growth forests means preserving a legacy of natural beauty and ecological resilience that will benefit future generations both spiritually and environmentally.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to protecting our natural heritage.

Sincerely,

Nikki Dalo