

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/6/2025 1:44:40 PM

First name: Sonya M.

Last name: Mahon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for taking consideration of public opinion on this matter, regarding the beautiful old-growth forests that remain in America. Our predecessors did not know the immaculate value of them, and just how much they contribute to our environment's health. For this reason, many of our old-growth forests are destroyed, especially in my region - the Southeast. As an aspirational member of the USFS myself, I could dream of nothing more than to one day see the great beauty of an old-growth forest, and thus implore you to protect this one in the Pacific Northwest.

Beyond her immaculate beauty, this forest holds a lot of intrinsic value for us - giving life and habitat to a highly diverse ecosystem, helping to protect its watershed, and being a stellar source for carbon sequestration which is so critical to our survival. I beg of you, please consider the long-term consequences of removing this forest for short-term profits. Please, please, please engage the local indigenous community, so that they are aware of this project and can provide guidance in the right direction for the forest and for us. After so long, we have learned that they always have the most correct environmental advice, and yet we so often tend to disrespect this authority of theirs, giving them no platform and keeping them marginalized.

As an aspiring naturalist and historian, and especially as an American, I thank you kindly for your time and politely request that you take this into deeper consideration before simply yielding and ruining our beautiful lands.