

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/6/2025 10:35:58 PM

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Comments: Our forests have value beyond financial transactions that benefit only a few. They provide a host of ecosystem services that clear the air we breathe and the water we drink, not to mention the habitat they provide to wildlife. Whether you enjoy the outdoors to hunt, hike, fish or simply relax, these places are havens that are hundreds of years old. They are worthy of our respect and our protection. Our country can be proud of the conservation work we have done, the forward-thinking people who saw how valuable these places would one day be in a world of shrinking wilderness. We should be striving to be a world leader in conservation (a CONSERVative value!). We talk a lot about freedom--the freedom of business to thrive, the freedom of corporations to make a profit, but what good is all that, if there is nowhere left to go? As Aldo Leopold said, "Of what avail are forty freedoms without a blank spot on the map?"