Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/6/2025 11:32:24 PM

First name: Ritvik Last name: Prabhu Organization:

Title:

Comments: When people look at old-growth forest they often value it based on the property value as well as the timber commodity that is on that property. If the moral argument that these forests have been here for hundreds of years and are last strongholds for endemic species doesn't appeal to you, then consider the fact that our current economic models do not appropriately value the environmental services that old-growth forests provide. This is what is known as hidden externalities and why a short-term economic gain forgoes a much larger sustained economic gain in the future. There are countless studies on how old-growth forests sequester more carbon and sustain more life than secondary growth forests. And once you destroy the old-growth you cannot go back. Perhaps most importantly, old growth forests play key roles in regulating the rainfall patterns in the PNW. What I am trying to say is if you truly care about the citizens in the PNW, you need to rescind proposals to increase logging in old-growth stands from the Amendment. Because the citizens will certainly be paying attention if their water rights can't be met.