

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/13/2025 9:40:21 PM

First name: Claire

Last name: Morris

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Old grown forests are hubs for biodiversity, genetic diversity, and ecosystem services that are essential to living things across the kingdoms. As a botanist I have studied, worked and played in these forests and still understand only a fraction of what they have to offer and the story they have to tell. Humans have the power to Destroy for temporary gain, but also the power to Protect and Conserve for long-term gain. The benefits of conserving our old growth forests go deep and are far-reaching but include easily recognized things such as clean water, carbon storage, wildlife habitat and wildfire resilience. They also provide a deep joy and perspective to people like me who take the time to experience their beauty and grandure. I urge the Forest Service to choose protection and conservation for our old growth forests and fight against those who want to cut them down for short-term and personal gain.