

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/17/2025 5:05:50 PM

First name: John

Last name: Sullenbarger

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Increased logging in the already decimated old-growth forests of the northwest would be a tragedy to America and our future generations, and thus this plan should be stopped without reservations. These forests provide valuable ecologic, economic, and spiritual resources for many people in the region and beyond, including the purposes of tourism, wildlife habitat (many of whom serve as game for hunters or a spiritual nidus), recreation, and water resources. These extensive old growth forests provide their own evapotranspiration systems which help release water slowly into the atmosphere, providing consistent sources of rain when it is absent during other times of the year; the loss of such a resource can contribute to worsening droughts in a region already struggling with increased risks of wildfire. Additionally, the fisheries in the northwest and population centers are dependent upon the clean water that flow through these old-growth forests, and current laws are not sufficient to protect these waterways during surrounding clear cuts. Overall, the long-term losses with logging these areas outweigh heavily any short-term gains.

Please, find another way to fulfill the need for lumber. There are new technologies, such as mass timber or other strategies, to invest and explore which would be much more sustainable and with lower cost. Leave our last vestiges of our land's history intact, without disruption, without marring it. My heart, our country's heart, our children's heart beg this of you.