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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My family has traveled many times all the way from the Midwest to the Pacific Northwest to enjoy the old growth forests. I can't put in to words how much these forests mean to my family. They are a place of instant peace and comfort as well as a place of magic, wonder and learning. I wish I could take the scent of the Ponderosa Pines home with me. I wish an old growth Sequoia tree was growing in my midwestern yard. For now, I am thankful to be able to enjoy these forests, and the life that teams in them, by throwing a backpack in the car and visiting the Northwest.

To open these forests up for logging would be devastating. Forests with old growth trees are living entities that have high biodiversity and are a safe place for fish and wildlife while also pulling carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Clear cutting them would be disastrous for the overall ecosystems, would cause soil erosion, decrease carbon storage and limit the much needed biodiversity. Apart from that, it would also destroy some of the few last remaining old growth forests we as citizens can enjoy and find respite in. Simply planting new trees will not replace these forests or the life teaming within them.

For us, this loss would be significant. To stand amongst the old giants is a powerful, sacred experience that should be protected for future generations to enjoy. Please, I implore you to protect these scared forests. Once they are gone, we cannot get them back.