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January 15, 2024

Jacqueline Buchanan
Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region
US Forest Service

Dear Ms. Buchanan,

My name is Nadene LeCheminant and I am writing about the Northwest Forest Plan. I urge you to strengthen protections for mature and old-growth forests.


I know you will receive numerous comments about the science of why we should offer protection for these forests. I agree with biologists and climatologists, but I also want to share more personal feelings.

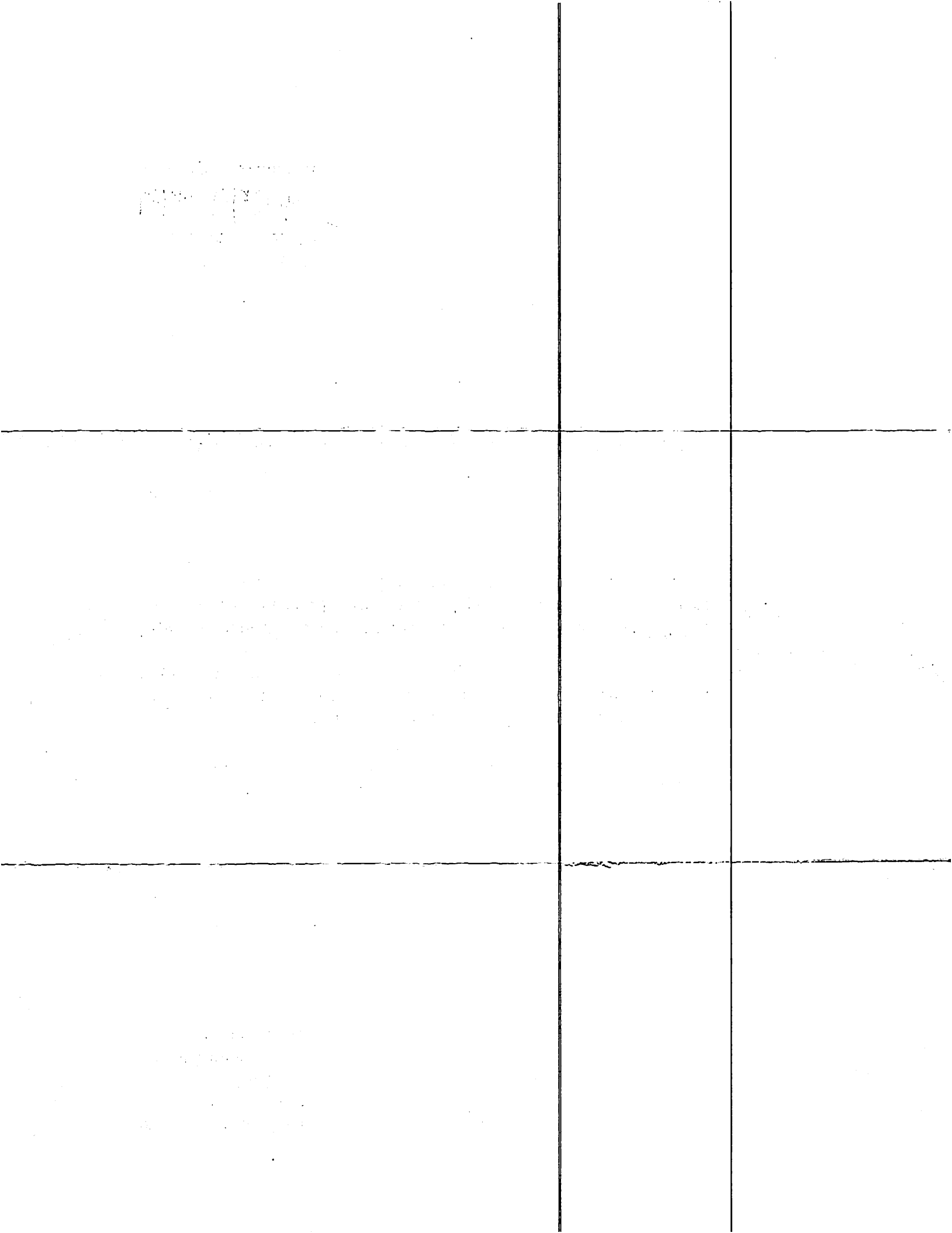
I spend a lot of time sitting in forests, and every year I see less wildlife. Every year there are fewer mature forests to visit. The pace of change is deeply unsettling. We are losing wild places, and their inhabitants, at a staggering rate. So little human energy is devoted to saving the bears and marbled murrelets and 100-year-old Douglas firs that share this Earth with us.

Our greatest planetary emergency, in addition to climate change, is the loss of biodiversity. I urge the Forest Service to shift priorities toward greater protection of endangered older forests and adopt a plan that will provide adequate protections for biodiversity. Honoring other species is a sacred obligation.

Let's take the longer view. Our older trees should not be reduced to shingles, shelving or decks. They are the last remnant of a magnificent heritage. They are worth far more standing.

Please strengthen protections for our older forests!

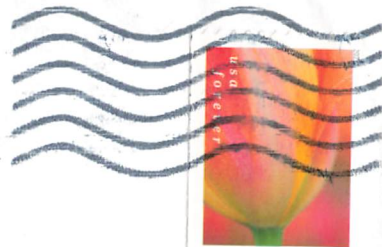
Sincerely,

Nadene LeCheminant



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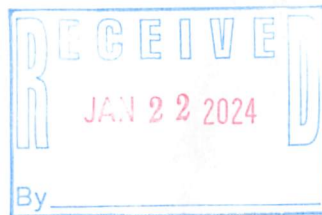
Ms. Jacqueline Buchanan

Regional Forester

U.S. Forest Service

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