

Date Signed	Name	Organization	Comment
9/19/2024	Fran Ludwig	Boston Catholic Climate Movement	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>
9/19/2024	Fred Scherlinder Dobb	Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>

9/19/2024	Jennifer Hawks	Cooperative Baptist Fellowship	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>
9/19/2024	Avery Davis Lamb	Creation Justice Ministries	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>
9/19/2024	Gabriela Martinez	Franciscan Action Network	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>

9/19/2024	Sergei Kapral	Holy Resurrection Orthodox Cathedral	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>
9/19/2024	Will Rutt	Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>
9/19/2024	Tiffany Hartung	Interfaith Power and Light	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>

9/19/2024	Sean Carroll, SJ	Jesuits West	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>
9/19/2024	Anna Johnson	Laudato Si Movement	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>
9/19/2024	Pheobe Morad	Lutherans Restoring Creation	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>

9/19/2024	Kirstin De Mello	Mennonite Central Committee, U.S	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>
9/19/2024	Nancy Lorence	Metro New York Catholic Climate Movement	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>
9/19/2024	Caleb Haynes	Nazarenes for Creation Care	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>

9/19/2024	Drake Starling	NETWORK Lobby for Social Justice	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>
9/19/2024	Marianne Comfort	Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>
9/19/2024	Robin Suydam	Six Mile Run Reformed Church Green Team	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>

9/19/2024	Cassandra Carmichael	The National Religious Partnership for the Environment	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>
9/19/2024	Abigail Cipparone	United Church of Christ	<p>As religious and faith-based organizations which recognize the sacredness of God's creation and our duty as humans to act as responsible stewards of the Earth, we urge you to establish strong and clear protections for mature and old-growth trees and forests – stronger yet than those found in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement currently under consideration.</p> <p>It is our shared moral obligation to care for and tend the land upon which we dwell, to prioritize human health and safety, and to protect the sacred natural resources we and all our communities depend on for a healthy and abundant life. For these reasons, robust protections for our venerable non-human neighbors are a spiritual and ethical imperative. Old growth and mature trees are particularly vital as they help mitigate the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises with their rich storage of carbon – as they boost resilience to fires, filter drinking water, and shelter wildlife, in addition to serving numerous fundamental purposes among Indigenous communities and their age-old practices.</p> <p>We commend the Biden Administration and the U.S Forest Service for your shared commitment to protect these forests, and strongly support your efforts to draw on traditional Indigenous knowledge and to implement ecologically-based forest management. However, we are concerned that the current Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for old growth forest protection still leaves these sacred forests vulnerable to overuse and mismanagement.</p> <p>We ask the Forest Service to adopt a modified version of Alternative 3 in its final decision – providing lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests, and including concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over past centuries.</p> <p>The final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.</li> <li>- End the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>- End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees; even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (i.e. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Establish clear protections for mature trees and forests – the forests which provide the bulk of climate benefits in federal forests, and are themselves future-old growth.</p> <p>Guided by our shared commitment to care for our neighbors and prioritize the most vulnerable, the protection of this land is our communal responsibility. We have a moral imperative to act boldly because the protection of trees and forests on federal land will have a real impact on everyone in our shared world. We must protect these pristine, awe-inspiring, and vulnerable forests for the wellbeing of our planet and future generations.</p>