

Date Submitted	Full Name	City, State	Zip Code	Comment
2024-07-25	Mary Fay	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-07-25	Martha Lawler	La Pine, OR	97739	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Lindsey Porter	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Laura Sadowski	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Michelle Jordan	Seaside, OR	97138	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Machelle Muir	La Pine, OR	97739	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Megan Skinner	Klamath Falls, OR	97601	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Brian Carpenter	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Rebecca French	Sisters, OR	97759	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Phyllis Marlino	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Carolynn Romaine	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Chris Patrick	Prineville, OR	97754	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Hana Sant	Portland, OR	97212	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Jerald Dethlefs	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Hilary Garrett	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Wendy Holzman	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-07-25	Toby Bayard	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Marilyn Miller	Bend, OR	97708	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Maureen O'Neal	Portland, OR	97223	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Dorothy Tharsing	Bandon, OR	97411	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Jan Renee	Portland, OR	97206	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Helen Hays	Walnut Creek, CA	94595	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Susan Heath	Albany, OR	97322	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Juanita Rinas	Eugene, OR	97402	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Scott Kennedy	Keizer, OR	97303	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Susan Haywood	Portland, OR	97210	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Richard Pross	Lake Oswego, OR	97034	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-07-25	John Livingston	Salem, OR	97306	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Patrice Roberts	Salem, OR	97305	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Mark Kelley	Sisters, OR	97759	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Gary Timm	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Tricia Pollard	La Pine, OR	97739	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Cynthia Chrystal	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Mary Becker	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Joshua Johnston	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Nancy Ingram	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Lisa Kieraldo	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Mary Brook	Terrebonne, OR	97760	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Rita Pearson	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Will Brown	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	John Torrey	Portland, OR	97222	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Donna Harris	Bend, OR	97707	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	John Paul Graff	Vancouver, WA	98683	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Laura Strong	Eugene, OR	97405	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Beth Larsen	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Cort Vaughan	Portland, OR	97204	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Robben Cahoon	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Kristi Newton	Redmond, OR	97756	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	David Warren	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Christopher Kell	Bend, OR	97707	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-07-25	Stanley Oliver	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-25	Terence Sloan	Redmond, OR	97756	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-26	Laurel Francis	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-26	Kay Humphries	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-26	Ryan Jayne	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-26	Shane Roy	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-26	Christine Mellon	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-26	Jessica Scott	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-26	Dave Sjogren	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-26	Denise Duren	Salem, OR	97306	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-26	Andrea Casey	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-26	Elizabeth Burke	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-07-26	Karlene Fife	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-26	Jim Fields	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-26	William Obrien	Vancouver, WA	98685	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-26	Graace Nichols	Portland, ME	4101	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-26	Janie Thomas	Eugene, OR	97402	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-26	Simon Davies	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-26	Peggy Thompson	White Salmon, WA	98672	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-27	Kathleen Gordon	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-27	Greg Vann	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-27	Steve Mccabe	Portland, OR	97219	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-27	John Gilchrist	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-27	Jonalyn Kasander	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-27	Spencer Bailey	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-28	Lauren Hobson	Milwaukie, OR	97222	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-07-28	Clara-Julia Peru	Portland, OR	97212	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-28	Maya Holzman	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-29	Sara Farina	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-29	Andrea Wiggins	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-30	Kelsie Greer	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-07-31	Jeff Heilman	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-07-31	Leslie Kamps	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-01	Karen Thrower	Sisters, OR	97759	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-01	Sara Coady	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-02	Laura Hanks	Portland, OR	97222	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-02	Jack Mckenzie	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-04	Karen Kassy	Sisters, OR	97759	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-05	Kari Ferber	Powell Butte, OR	97753	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-05	Loni Burk	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-05	Dana Neal	Grants Pass, OR	97526	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-05	Joseph Manoles	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-05	Tanner Bjorlie	Lake Oswego, OR	97035	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-08-05	Phineas Smith	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-06	Marilyn Hofmann-Jones	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-06	Cherrie Stonerock	Terrebonne, OR	97760	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-06	Gloria Davis	Newberg, OR	97132	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Nancy Engelhard	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Joanne Keen	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Deborah Burke	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Rob Hinnen	Sisters, OR	97759	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Jeff Boyer	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Connie Peterson	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Benjamin Rubin	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Daniel Harrison	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Basey Klopp	Encinitas, CA	92024	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Gary Rejsek	Bolingbrook, IL	60440	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Tyler Van Brunt	Portland, OR	97220	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-08-07	Douglas Barofsky	Sisters, OR	97759	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Janet Murphy	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Sami Godlove	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Madeleine Landis	Camp Sherman, OR	97730	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Nancy Hinnen	Sisters, OR	97759	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Dana Weintraub	Beaverton, OR	97003	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Walt Mintkeski	Portland, OR	97202	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Linda Showerman	Jacksonville, OR	97530	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Jennifer Will	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Ed Lazear	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Scott Seaton	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Kate Bolinger	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Kathryn Hanavan	Bend, OR	97707	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Rich Bourdon	Westlake Village, CA	91362	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	James Teeter	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Dylan Huber-Heidorn	Eugene, OR	97404	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-07	Jennifer Gunnell	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-08	Krayna Castelbaum	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-08	Janel Spilker	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-08	Carol Lemley	Bend, OR	97707	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-08	Marilyn Rengert	Salem, OR	97304	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-08	Anne Marie Owach	Bend, OR	97707	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-08	Gloria Horvath	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-08	Maria Hollis	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-08	David Gutt	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-08	Elsa Douglass	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-09	Matt Aberle	Albany, OR	97321	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-10	Mary Crow	Sisters, OR	97759	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-10	Annie Muske-Dukes	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-10	John Kohlmoos	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-11	Linda Perez	Redmond, OR	97756	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-11	Susan Marcoux	Sisters, OR	97759	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-12	Spencer Krueger	Redmond, OR	97756	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-08-12	Barbara Meyer	Bend, OR	97708	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-12	Kim Paymaster	Philadelphia, PA	19130	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-13	Kristi Kimball	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-13	John Gallo	Bergenfield, NJ	7621	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-13	David Chen	Sisters, OR	97759	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-13	Annie Merrill	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-08-14	Laurie Maholland	Terrebonne, OR	97760	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-14	Sarah Schneider	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-08-14	Kim Small	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-14	Julia Klee	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-15	Susan Conner	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-15	Becky Kring	Reedsport, OR	97467	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-16	Amy Hunter	Portland, OR	97212	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-08-16	David Caplan	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-16	William Warburton	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-16	Zechariah Heck	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-16	Roger Edens	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-16	Charla Ranch	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-16	Jennifer Edwards	Sisters, OR	97759	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-16	Bryan Thompson	Bend, OR	97707	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-16	Trudy Berne	Portland, OR	97225	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-08-16	C.E. Francis	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-16	Eva Eagle	Sisters, OR	97759	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-17	Sara Pritt	Eugene, OR	97401	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-17	Lindsey Grover	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-17	Andrew Scott	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-17	Brooke Decamp	Redmond, OR	97756	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-17	Elisabeth Gross	Bend, OR	97707	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-17	Tracy Skinner	Castle Rock, CO	80108	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-18	Lacey Kloster	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-18	Corinne Sherton	Salem, OR	97306	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-18	Elissa Pirocanac	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-08-18	Mare Peters	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-18	T Brown	Sisters, OR	97759	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-19	Michelle Poirot	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-19	Frank Brocker	Sunriver, OR	97707	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-19	Gerrit Van Houweling	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-20	Kevin Barnett	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-08-20	John Fischer	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-20	Linore Blackstone	Portland, OR	97213	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-21	Amy Dineen	Bend, OR	97709	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-22	Patrick Frazier	Redmond, OR	97756	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-08-25	Robin Werdal	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-26	Atul Mathur	Vancouver, WA	98683	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-26	Frank Spiecker	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-26	Jennifer Finley	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-26	Sarahlee Kittons	Haines, AK	99827	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-26	Susan Estep	Sisters, OR	97759	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-26	Kadee Mardula	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-26	Nick Arnis	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-26	Cynthia Bates	Seattle, WA	98121	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-26	Carla Phillips	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-26	Matt Schroeder	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-26	Suzi Graham	Portsmouth, RI	2871	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-26	Jonathan Werdal	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-26	Grace Nichols	Augusta, ME	4330	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-26	Amy Vanderlaan	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-26	Colin Reid	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-26	Sara Bouska	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-27	David Eddleston	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-27	Rebecca Parker	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-27	Laura Leighton	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-27	Amy Sabbadini	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-27	Dave Wolfson	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-27	Denise Newbold	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-27	E. David Nissen	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-27	Veronica Poklemba	Portland, OR	97202	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-27	Diana Lemus	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-28	Monica Beltrami	Redmond, OR	97756	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-29	Kerrie Danielsen	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-29	Cynthia White	Central Point, OR	97502	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-08-31	Noreen Hyre	Bowie, MD	20715	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-08-31	Teresa Stephenson	Gresham, OR	97080	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-01	Mark Thibert	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-09-01	Malcolm Costello	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-02	Diana Six	Missoula, MT	59804	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-02	Angie Verras	La Plata, MD	20646	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-09-03	Janet Navarra	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-03	Jeffrey Austin	Portland, OR	97202	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-04	Linda Luck	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>
2024-09-07	Chris Gossard	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-11	Mark Goddard	Moscow, ID	83843	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-13	Quinn Keever	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-13	Geneva Strauss-Wise	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-17	Jennifer Sawyer	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-17	Linea Fuller	Sisters, OR	97759	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-17	Paula Latasa	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-18	Barbara Andrew	Princeton, NJ	8540	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-18	Dave Scavullo	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-18	Janice Schock	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-18	Carol Gordon	Potomac, MD	20854	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-18	Molly Gambee	Bend, OR	97703	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-18	Eileen Koehler	Bend, OR	97702	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-18	Leo Fremonti	Terrebonne, OR	97760	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-18	Wendy U	Redmond, OR	97756	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-18	Moon Bukas	Bend, OR	97701	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-19	Mary Ellen Collentine	Redmond, OR	97756	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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2024-09-19	Kristina Reese	Ketchum, ID	83340	<p>In Central Oregon, we are fortunate to be surrounded by forest lands, from the Deschutes and Ochoco National Forests in our backyard, to the lush Willamette National Forest just over the Cascade Crest, to the rugged Fremont-Winema National Forest to the south. These forests support our communities in myriad ways, and we benefit especially from the mature and old-growth forests that keep streams clean, store carbon, provide habitat, and offer wildfire resilience. Mature and old-growth forests are critical not only to our way of life as Central Oregonians, but to the well-being of communities spanning the country. They deserve robust, lasting protection as a core component of forest management nationwide.</p> <p>Executive Order 14072 directed the Forest Service to meaningfully improve such protections for mature and old-growth trees, but the DEIS on amending the nation's forest plans falls far short of this goal. The proposal still allows old-growth trees to be sent to the mill and lets agency staff manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.</p> <p>The DEIS also fails to protect mature trees. Mature forests and trees must be protected to counteract past mismanagement, to mitigate the worsening climate crisis, to stem rampant biodiversity loss and, ultimately, to become future old-growth. Where old-growth has been lost to logging, mature trees provide important large tree structure and serve a similar role as old-growth in filtering water, regulating temperature, and sheltering wildlife. They are also essential for carbon storage and sequestration; in Central and Eastern Oregon, the largest 3% of trees store 42% of our forest carbon. The DEIS does not go nearly far enough to preserve all of these benefits, and the final record of decision should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●End the cutting of mature and old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.</li> <li>●End any commercial exchange of mature and old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where a mature or old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.</li> </ul> <p>Cutting down old-growth and mature trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution — they are worth more standing.</p> <p>East of the Cascade Mountains, the fight to protect mature and old-growth trees has been long and hard-won, and our own Ponderosa giants deserve protections that should equally extend to southeast Alaska's Sitka spruce, coastal California's redwoods, and North Carolina's longleaf pines. Failure to meaningfully protect mature and old-growth forests undermines the stated objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on the advance notice of proposed rulemaking in 2023. We urge you to take this opportunity to safeguard the oldest trees and forests throughout the National Forest System, and to ensure that future generations – in Central Oregon and across the United States – benefit from all that old-growth forests can provide.</p>

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