

Re: Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System #65356

To Whom It May Concern,

Please find 408 completely personalized comments written by people from across the country regarding the Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System #65356.

Sincerely,

Megan Giakas (megan.giakas@sierraclub.org) Senior National Digital Campaign Strategist Sierra Club

First Name	Last Name	City	State	Comment
Amanda	Nace	Anchorage	AK	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. These forests are the lungs of our planet and are needed to give us oxygen and remain healthy. Not to mention the diverse wildlife living within these that help feed us all.
James	Taggart	Sitka	AK	Dear US forest service I am writing to express my support for the U.S. Forest Service Old-Growth Amendment to protect the invaluable old-growth forests within the Tongass National Forest. It is crucial to halt the logging of these irreplaceable trees, as there is broad agreement that the remaining old-growth is too precious to cut. We must establish durable protections for mature forests to ensure they develop into the next generation of old-growth. Old-growth forests on federal lands are cherished nationwide, yet they remain unprotected from logging. Unlike National Parks, National Forests are managed like crops under the Department of Agriculture, which is not appropriate for these ancient ecosystems. Forests provide clean water, carbon storage, climate solutions, and vital wildlife habitats. They support over 3,000 species of wildlife and absorb carbon, making them essential in addressing climate change. Protecting forests is a cost-effective way to enhance climate adaptation and sustainable development. Additionally, forests fuel our economy through outdoor recreation. In 2019, Forest Service lands generated \$10.1 billion in local spending and supported over 150,000 jobs. Preserving these areas is crucial for future generations to experience their beauty and make lasting memories. Thank you for considering these urgent protections. Sincerely, James Taggart
Nepalli	Krishna	Vestavia Hills	AL	America has been inundated by climate-change-related disasters and calamities such as the frequent wildfires in California, major hurricanes in Florida, Texas and Louisiana, and frequent tornado activity in the central and southern US! I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Thank you.
Desean	Freeman	Pike Road	AL	The wisdom of the ages is rooted in our structural foundation(s).
Tracy	Pedersen	Huntsville	AL	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old-growth forests are irreplaceable. They must be preserved - not destroyed!
Weslie	Walker-Phillips	Wickenburg	AZ	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. You have NO business killing 800 year old trees!! They are still with us because they are sturdy survivors. Age means something'their only enemy are humans and GREEDINESS!!! Leave them alone???
Jeffrey	Blackman	Tucson	AZ	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I live in Arizona, home to the Grand Canyon, simply the most awesome spot in our natural world on this planet. And I have been to those glorious redwood forests in California. They are half a notch below the Canyon in their glorious, mind boggling splendor. These old growth forests MUST be completely protected. Thank you, Jeffrey Blackman, Tucson, Arizona
Renee	Neumann	Green Valley	AZ	The US Forest Service MUST conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. THAT IS YOUR JOB! Future generations will view you as criminals if you fail to do the one thing your agency was formed for: to protect our trees. Stop acting like you don't know that our oldest forests provide critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. How can those animals possibly survive if you cut down those trees'! Bigger trees also serve as natural climate solutions. Aside from the fact that no one wants to try to relax and recreate in a place devoid of big trees, that is, a real forest. You need a permanent policy in place to protect our oldest forests. They are too valuable to lose.
David	Murray	Cornville	AZ	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests. Geo-engineering also know as Weather Modification by the U.S. Air force dropping tons of aluminum nano particles causes the forest land and brush to dry out making them more susceptible to super hot fires. There are over 100 patents on this activity. It is a top secret program since it can be used as a war measure. I don't understand why it is being used here in the USA and affecting fires in our country.
Philip	Verellen	Flagstaff	AZ	I have been an educator and proponent for old growth forests for over 30 years. Today's children and all future children should be able to experience the feeling that emanates from an old growth forest. Not only should children be able to experience old growth forests, but every member in the forest service or any one involved in decision making regarding forests should experience these arboreal, primeval, places before making a decision to destroy or use them for wood products. Please do not treat old growth trees as simply a crop. These majestic trees not only sequester carbon and provide unmatched habitat for a plethora of animal species, but offer a spiritual uplift to anyone who has taken the time to walk through a primeval forest. Please allow all future generations this option to explore, experience, and gaze on the beauty an old-growth forest provides. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Thanks, Philip M. Verellen
Leona	Davis	Tucson	AZ	My name is Leona Davis and I am writing to urge you to protect our mature and old-growth forests for conservation as the highest priority. I grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina, whose city motto is the "City of Oaks." Although the tree canopy has decreased significantly, I was lucky enough to grow up adjacent to forest land, and my relationship with that land and those trees was critical to my mental health and wellbeing. As an adult, I moved to Arizona for college, where I still live and now work in a research institution. Here, I have learned about the severity of climate change and live through its impacts, in the form of heat waves and increasingly severe storms. Mature and old-growth forests are the best strategy we have right now for mitigating the effects of climate change, which is already taking human lives. However, because of outdated policies, logging is still an option in these important lands. At this unprecedented moment in human history, the U.S. Forest Service should prioritize conservation over logging and all other extractive uses. Please do the right thing for the next generation, and conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests.
Kate	Robinson	Ajo	AZ	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Our living, breathing planet depends upon our forests as both the lungs and the womb of our existence. Our forests, whether tropical or in the northern environments, are more precious than human recreation or profit.

Paul	Huddy	Tucson	AZ	As a scientist, I am acutely aware that old growth forests sustain complete and healthy ecosystems like no other forests can. We need to protect what remain these these forests as if our lives and future depend on it --- because it does. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, extinction and other threats to our nation and world.
Myriam	Eythrib	Chandler	AZ	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Without healthy forests, we cannot survive nor will nature. It is the responsibility of your department to protect them. Please protect them before they can be irreversibly destroyed from greedy logging companies. Forests are NOT crop and their management should NOT be handled as such. Please do the right thing and protect them at all costs.
Cari	Englander	Tucson	AZ	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I love nature photography and was first drawn to this hobby by viewing stunning photos taken by David Muench at US National Parks & National Forests. If we protect these forests, future generations will be able to make those same memories & take those same photos. I value fresh air and water and working toward preserving more of our forests for the benefit of citizens today and in the future. Right now, despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. In addition, our National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks since National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and are treated just like a crop. That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth forests. National Forests are valuable beyond dollars and provide many benefits including: clean water, carbon storage, cooling impacts, and diverse and extensive wildlife habitats in addition to providing outdoor recreation areas for millions of people. But corporate interests that want to continue logging our forests rather than protect and conserve them stand in the way. The solution is for the U.S. Forest Service to prioritize conservation over logging and other extractive uses. Please stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. There is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut. Additionally, lay groundwork for durable protections for mature forests, to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests. Thank you.
Patricia	Vance	Tucson	AZ	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We need old growth trees for oxygen, beauty, homes for animals and insects. We need them to maintain the balance in nature!
Joyce	Stoffers	Sun City	AZ	Old-Growth forests are our precious national treasures and we need to stop old-growth trees from being destroyed by logging since what we have left is too precious to cut and to ensure that mature forest are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests. Mature and Old Growth forests should not just be treated like crops since we need them for protecting our watersheds and clean air. Gifford Pinchot would not approve of the way we are abusing the legacy that has been left us. It should be viewed as National Security too since without clean air and water, not much else matters. Humans need large areas to stand in awe and restore themselves. This is an investment in the mental health of our nation and its worth is priceless.
Deborah	Swinford	Phoenix	AZ	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. This is important, not only for biodiversity, but also carbon storage, soil health, clean water, and for protection of wildlife in these areas. The National Forests need to be protected in the same way that our National Parks are protected. We need to be reminded of the contributions from all the outdoor recreations, and their impact on our economy.
Camille	Beaulieu	Tucson	AZ	We know the saying, trees are the lungs of the earth. Not only do they keep our air breathable, despite humans' own pollution, but they provide habitat to thousands of species. We are facing many big challenges, but two important ones are climate change and biodiversity loss. Trees help BOTH of those. PLEASE for my sake, the sake of your children, and their children, and literally everyone alive right now and in the future, STOP LOGGING old growth trees. We desperately need them. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.
Raymond	Chemnick	Scottsdale	AZ	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We have already lost so much due to logging. I have driven past large of swaths of land cleared by this industry but cleverly hidden behind a narrow line of trees by the roadside. It is disgusting how they think they are hiding all of their destruction by keeping these few trees by the roadside letting people think that the forest stretches for miles. My wife and I are in our 60s and are from the generation that began the environmental movement. We also took road trips with our parents visiting our national parks and have continued that tradition as we revisit those National Parks in the last 10 years hoping to visit all of them before we die. Recently, we visited Redwood National Park and were so moved and appreciative that past generations had preserved these for us and future generations!! So many areas have been lost to the public because of apathy and just not knowing enough, Glen Canyon is just one example that my generation will never be able to see because of that darn DAM, but I digress. National Forests should be under the jurisdiction of the National Parks and not thought of as a commodity. Shame on us. We are outraged at what has happened to the Amazon, but that already happened in America long before we realized what we were doing and now we are still paying the price. If the logging industry had their way all the old growth forests would be gone. I think we only have 10% left if that. We are not the only ones living on this planet. Europeans are very destructive. They destroyed most of their forests and then made their way to America where they continued to destroy and now we are living in the results. Just SAVE THE FORESTS!!! Thank you, Raymond Chemnick
Mark Hayduke	Grenard	Phoenix	AZ	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Protect old growth forests and the biodiversity in them!
Ellen	Koivisto	San Francisco	CA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Keep the carbon in the trees and out of the atmosphere -- it's the only chance we have of surviving.
Rodney	Love	Newbury Park	CA	The preciousness of old-growth forest is impossible to over-state. They're irreplaceable. The uniqueness of thousands of years of Nature undisturbed by humans, has created environments that are profound in feeling, deep sacred atmospheres that restore the human spirit??. Priceless! I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.
Kit	Long	Napa	CA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. PLEASE PROTECT THESE NATIONAL TREASURES!
Brady	Clay	Escondido	CA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Anyone familiar with the science of ecology understands that there are two foundational rules. #1 is that resources are finite. #2 is that everything is connected. A diverse ecosystem is the miracle that allows earth to be our home. We owe it as stewards to defend and preserve old growth forests to protect the circle of life. The charlatans who deny this science reality in the name of profit are certainly not servants to anything or anyone virtuous.

Greg	Falvo	Nevada City	CA	<p>To whom it may concern. As I write this message the Park Fires massive smoke plume can be seen down the road from my house. As you know more than most, wildfire has become more intense with climate change. But that is only one factor amongst many in a complicated set of circumstances that are causing us to experience more destructive fires. A major contributor is our outdated logging practices. Keeping old growth trees in-tact is crucial to healthy forest management. Period. While I understand the economic importance of the logging industry and our need for wood, I wish one day the leaders of this world could find a way to look at solving the problems we face without being influenced by industry's sole objective of maximizing profits. Yes, there may be a financial impact, but industry will adapt and we will all be better off in the long-run. No amount of profit can replace the billions of dollars in cost these more intense wildfires result in, let alone the thousands of lives impacted in horrific ways. Wildfire aside, one of the most memorable experiences I have moving to California many years ago, was walking through Big Basin and seeing those massive Redwood Trees (many of which were killed by a super fire that burned the historic park building to the ground). Just last week I walked my niece and nephew through Tahoe NF where they were mesmerized by the size of the few old growth trees left. These magnificent specimens should be protected for future generations. They are memorials to our past healthier forests, reminders of the mistakes we made, but hope for the future in helping to spur conservation action amongst our younger generations.</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
Grace	Tam	Laguna Hills	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Old-Growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging, because they are treated just like a crop. That would be like treating wildlife as cattle. In fact, old growth forests are so rare that treating them like a crop is like treating endangered wild life as cattle. That's plainly nonsensical.</p> <p>You already know from scientific studies more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest.</p> <p>You also know that these forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon. It preserves vital habitat for the more than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests. Nevertheless, we now lose a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, thereby destroying necessary habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>On a very personal level, I visit National Forests for relaxation and recreation. I am a camper, backpacker, hiker. Old growth forests are special. Their diversity, grandeur and wildness allows for a level of appreciation of and connection to life and this earth in a way that I have not experienced elsewhere. You know I am not alone in this, because you already know that the National Forests receive many visitors each year. Old Growth Forests are something that is worth preserving.</p> <p>If finance is what you are thinking about, you also know that such visits generate billions of dollars in local spending, and supported thousands upon thousands of jobs.</p> <p>You also already know that 80% of outdoor activities have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse. Promoting diversity is certainly a laudable social and political goal.</p> <p>So, from the viewpoint whether environmental, climate, recreational, esthetical, ethical, social, political, Old Growth Forests must be preserved.</p> <p>I am writing you to help provide the political will you seem to need for doing the right thing.</p> <p>Be reminded that in Old Growth Forests we have something the rest of the world has very little of, something we should handle with pride and extreme care.</p>
Mary	Brooks	Frazier Park	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. It is imperative that we nurture and respect our environment, not use it. This is a crucial pathway we need to enforce for future generations and the planet we call home. We have seen the impact of forest management that results in logging and bringing in more non-native habitats, inflicting death sentences for all who live in our forests. Quite simply, this is not who we should be. We can do better and our children and our forests deserve the best we can be.</p>
Jonah	D'alessio	Northridge	CA	<p>My middle name is Sequoia, and for as long as I've been alive, I have felt a special connection to the old growth sequoia and redwood forests in California. But now, the survival of these forests are under threat due to climate change. Fortunately, USFS has a unique way to help prevent climate change by conserving old growth forests. Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
Mariana	Mellor	Thousand Oaks	CA	<p>It is now wisely acknowledged that forest heal the human mind.</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>For me, trees are natural anti anxiety and trees are life! People who live among trees are happier than those who don't. It is imperative to protect our oldest trees because they are historical monuments that have lived here longer than your generation and mine!</p> <p>A big reason too: Outdoor Recreation Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. 80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse.</p> <p>Please protect what belongs to ALL of us!</p>
Sharon	Paltin	Laytonville	CA	<p>As a graduate of UC Berkeley with a BS in Conservation of Natural Resources (class of 1975), I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. These mature federal forests belong to future generations and we can not afford to treat them as a financial commodity.</p> <p>Thank you for your kind attention, Sharon Paltin M.D.</p>
Aj	Cho	San Leandro	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Our old-growth trees have spent too long growing to be chopped down for human use.</p>
Marilyn	Eng	Diamond Bar	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>I am 70 years old and live in California where we have many precious forests. As a child, I lived in NE Ohio in an area where forests were easily accessible. I spent many days exploring the woods behind our house and loved these close encounters with nature.</p> <p>I am concerned by the various threats to our woodlands including greed by businesses who would consume them at no expense.</p> <p>I am also extremely concerned about climate change. The old growth forests are necessary to protect the planet.</p> <p>I also believe strongly that the wildlife must be protected in these old growth forests.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments.</p>
Rosario M	Sanchez	Granada Hills	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Please we must protect our forests, sincerely Rosario Sanchez</p>
Thomas	Merchant	Granite Bay	CA	<p>Hi, my name is Tom Merchant. I have been hiking, backpacking, sailing and cross country skiing in national forests, primarily in the Sierra Nevada, since the 1960s. I can say first hand that old growth forests are magical to experience. More importantly they mitigate the effects of climate change (the harmful affects of which should be apparent to all of us by now) by absorbing CO2 and keeping the earth's surface cool. Additionally they harbor amazing biodiversity and maintain our water quality. Logged and regrown forests do not do any of these things nearly as well (at least for a prolonged time). We have very limited old growth forests and we cannot afford to lose any more of them and should be fostering more maturation of forest to old growth state.</p> <p>I understand the forest service is considering adding protections for old growth forests and would like to strongly encourage you to do so. The value (important role in fighting climate change, species preservation, water quality and quality of life ie recreation) of these places cannot be understated. I urge you to do everything you can to protected these important and magical places by proceeding with the 'Old Growth Amendment'.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration of my views. Sincerely, Thomas Merchant, MD</p>

Melissa	Newton	El Cerrito	CA	<p>I am asking USFS to make new regulations that protect mature and old-growth forests.</p> <p>It doesn't make sense to thoughtless allow destruction of old growth trees that are the very first line of defense for climate change problems. New trees and vegetation simply do not clean our air as well as the old ones. New trees do not sequester anywhere as much carbon as old trees, and they do not provide necessary habitat for ecological processes that keep our water and soil clean and usable. There needs to be special consideration for old growth because they simply do more!</p> <p>Extreme weather events are happening and will continue to happen unless significant changes are made for our environmental use. Protecting forests from development is one of the easiest and cheapest actions possible for the government to do to mitigate climate change related disaster. It's common sense!</p>
Maria	Montag	El Segundo	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I have been a maintenance volunteer at the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge for the past two years, and have a front row seat to how ranching can damage an ecosystem - introducing non-native species of grasses and trees - which raises the risk of damaging fires and do not provide the local fauna the correct habitat. At the NWR, we spend the majority of our effort trying to mitigate the effects of the non-native species.</p> <p>Preserving old-growth forests not only protects all of the resident native flora and fauna, but it is also much easier to maintain. The native flora will hold hillsides in place when huge storms blow through and the old growth trees control the amount of fuel that can grow on the forest floor.</p> <p>Old growth forest are good the ecosystem and also for the bottom line maintenance costs.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Sheila	Rollins	Laguna Woods	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. The first time I entered an old-growth forest, I realized that this is, for me, a grand cathedral.</p> <p>The single most sacred place I had ever encountered?</p> <p>So, my reasons for wanting to protect the old-growth forests are twofold/spiritual as well as practical. They are, in fact, irreplaceable, and are a considerable part of the planet's lungs, as well as supporting all ecosystems that are near or part of them.</p> <p>Practically speaking, it's flat out stupid to allow the old-growth to be destroyed for short term gains. The math simply does not make sense.</p> <p>And spiritually, well, that's more subjective, but why destroy beauty? ?? Why indeed?</p> <p>I beseech you to protect the old-growth forests, and to do what you can to rectify the grievous and misguided efforts to use them that have been the norm of the last 50 years.</p> <p>Most sincerely, Sheila Rollins</p>
Nina	Minsky	Ventura	CA	<p>Like most children, I loved trees immediately, they felt safe and nurturing, sitting in the shade of a tree with a good book or toys was a joy in life. It's a joy that I never outgrew, I love every tree I see and I weep for those that are cut down. Trees provide healing for the soul, sustenance for the many wild creatures, shelter from storms, protection from the climate crises and even pharmaceutical miracles. Trees are an invaluable asset and I will never understand those that chose profit over trees. Trees are a place I go to feel at peace when the cities only bring stress. Please help safeguard them from greedy developers and corporations, trees are irreplaceable and it is unthinkable to cut down hundred year old beings for insignificant things like toilet paper or more farms. Children inherently know the value of trees, try to remember when you knew their value as well.</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
Patricia	Gleason	Sanger	CA	<p>Fires are destroying forests at a rapid pace. We need to do all we can to protect them.</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
Querido	Galdo	Gualala	CA	<p>Old growth forests provide so much to humanity and all the creatures we share this incredible planet with. I have been so inspired and energized by the wonder of long-standing trees that I moved my family to old growth country in Northern California. Spending time among ancient redwoods provides perspective on our place in the world and a connection with natural systems that helps reorganize our view of ourselves as co-inhabiters of the planet instead of extractors and acquirers. This is a lesson humanity urgently needs to learn, as so many of the forests that provide clean water, clean air and a nursery for life have been decimated.</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
Andy	Lupenko	Lemon Grove	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Old-Growth Forest Management</p> <p>Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging.</p> <p>Most Americans don't know this, but National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks</p> <p>National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop.</p> <p>That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth.</p> <p>Your Connection to Forests</p> <p>Recall the first forest you explored.</p> <p>Where was it? How old were you? What did you see?</p> <p>Do you remember the first time you saw a photo of a particular forest that captured your imagination?</p> <p>Where was it? Have you been there yet?</p> <p>If we protect these forests, future generations will be able to make those same memories.</p> <p>Forests are Valuable! They Provide:</p> <p>Clean Water</p> <p>For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest.</p> <p>Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions</p> <p>Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period.</p> <p>According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present."</p> <p>Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development.</p> <p>The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.</p> <p>Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love</p> <p>More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests!</p> <p>Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation</p> <p>Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity.</p> <p>In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs.</p> <p>80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse.</p> <p>Andy Lupenko 8555 Golden Ave Lemon Grove California 91945</p>
Gloria	Waller	Brea	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I spent many wonderful years as a child camping and sightseeing in the national forests with my family. And while those days are now gone for me, they are not forgotten. I am 72 now, and still have such wonderful memories of standing next to these old growth wonders and gazing up at the glorious tops of them, touching the sky. To this day, I have my house filled with pictures of these remembered sights and cherish the memories. Please protect these forests for current and future generations to see and enjoy--there is nothing like them! They are salve for the soul.</p>
Isaac	Ramirez	Union City	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>We need old growth trees to help fight against the current climate crisis, and to help save our biodiversity and ecosystem from harm the way to do that is by creating new protections for all old growth trees and forests.</p> <p>I would love to see these old growth forests safe and healthy and for future generations to see them to, as they are the most important to our future if we are to become a more sustainable country.</p>

Erin	Roeder	Walnut Creek	CA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I grew up among the redwoods in Boulder Creek, CA. Our oldest forests are national treasures. They provide critical habitat for any number of threatened and endangered species, preserve clean watersheds, serve as natural climate solutions, and provide recreation opportunities that improve our physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.
Nicholas	Ratto	Alameda	CA	Dear US Forest Service: Stop old-growth trees from going to the mill! There is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut. Lay groundwork for durable protections for mature forests, to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests. Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging AND THAT MUST CHANGE. If we protect these forests, future generations will be able to make lifelong memories. Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests. Wildlife Habitat Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction. Outdoor Recreation Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. 80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse. Last but not least: inflation-adjusted numbers from NOAA (https://www.ncsl.noaa.gov/access/billions/state-summary/US) show that climate change INACTION is fiscal suicide. Recurring, exponentially increasing \$ 1 billion disasters must be addressed by aggressively pursuing climate solutions -- including the protection of our forests.
Jennifer	Tomassi	Los Angeles	CA	I am an avid outdoorsperson and believe our natural resources matter more than corporations. My visits to Sequoia NP and Redwood NP are cherished memories and make me a proud Californian. Old-growth and mature forests are too precious and irreplaceable to remain unprotected. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Thank you.
Susan	Ryan	Los Angeles	CA	The only old forest I ever visited was "The Grove of the Giants" in Sequoia Nat'l Park. I was a child and my family were camping there for the week. That was more than 55 years ago. I remember the vast assortment of moths, butterflies, and other insects that spattered the windshield of our car on the drive there. My father had to stop at gas stations frequently to clean the windshield. Now we can drive those highways without killing more than a few small flies. Those insects are gone and some will likely never return. In fact, we are going through an insect apocalypse and no one blinks an eye. Now think of all the various forms of life that we will lose if we cut down old forests! Are we collectively insane if we know the long-term effects of losing more and more species of life on our planet, and we choose to destroy flora and fauna for logging interests! LOGGING INTERESTS! Look into the eyes of your children or grandchildren and think about telling them what your are doing. Are you going to help save the net of life that holds all of us? Or will you tell them that you failed?
Danielle	Sawyer	Long Beach	CA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. My name is Danielle Sawyer and I am a public high school educator for the last 26 years! I teach my students about the importance and value of old growth trees through the following focus points: Forests are Valuable! They Provide: Clean Water For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest. Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests. Wildlife Habitat Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction. Not only do I educate my students about these essential beings are our planet but I also share their need to co-exist with us to my community as I am a certified forest and nature therapy guide! By creating relationships with these trees along with all other living beings that depend on them for survival (this includes humans!) we can have the connection necessary in order to protect them, benefit from them and carry the need for their existence on to the next generation! PLEASE do your part by protecting them through law as I continue to protect them through education and love! Thank you for your time!
Leslie	Klein	Los Angeles	CA	I am a physician and call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.
Don	Orahood	Bonsall	CA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. National Forests should not be treated like a crop by the Dept. of Agriculture. It is just wrong, especially for mature and old-growth. Visiting such old-growth forests are memorable forever; I'll never forget the first ones I visited in California as a kid and since then. Forests are valuable in so many ways. From clean water to carbon storage, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. Stop old-growth forests from going to the mill; there is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut.
Erin B	Perlow	Walnut Creek	CA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old growth forests can not be replaced and are invaluable to our environment. They are also national treasures that we can all enjoy.
Jeffrey	Wang	Hacienda Heights	CA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I am an avid rock climber and I take pride in leaving the lands I visit the way that I found them. It is gratifying to summit a peak and to look at the glorious forest beneath. In contrast, I have climbed in areas that have been previously and severely affected by wild fires. There is no glory there. There is no thriving wildlife, no trees to keep our air clean, no places to recreate. It is beyond me that my government isn't doing all it can to save what little we have left. There have been heavy losses to wild fires already, but to then leave our precious old forests open to the risk of logging would be shameful, harmful for us all! Urge the USFS to take decisive action and to protect our old growth forests!

Linda	Barbosa	Morgan Hill	CA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I have been spending time in the National Forests for over 50 years. I have also witnessed the logging in the National Forests. The logging of old growth and large trees needs to stop. These trees are some of our best protection from global warming. They are also the anchors for ecosystems that provide clean air and water. I have seen the supposed after fire tree removal in the name of restoration and it is a joke. Just another excuse to get in and log large trees.
Evan	Elias	San Francisco	CA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We need to take immediate action, because we have already lost so many of our old growth forests. In the Western US we have only 5% of our old growth forests left. In the East it is 1%. So what we're doing to "manage" these forests isn't working. Our National Forests need to be managed as the valuable natural resources they are, not like crops. Crops are quickly renewable while mature and old growth forests take decades to regrow. Our National Forests need to be managed like our treasured National Parks, not by the Department of Agriculture. They should never be logged. Especially when we have so few left. Our old growth and mature forests are also invaluable assets in helping us combat climate change. They absorb carbon and nitrogen and they do that better than any other forest. The largest and oldest trees make up 1% of our old growth forests, but they hold 50% of the above ground carbon. It is essential that these super absorbers be preserved. And our mature forests need to be preserved so they can continue to grow and become old growth forests. Our old growth forests are treasures and we have not done a good job of stewarding them, despite all they do for us. They create top soil, clean the water and the air, provide habitat to many creatures, help to keep our planet cool, and provide people with essential recreation. Once they are gone we cannot get them back. I urge you to stop the logging of any more old growth or mature forests. Also to create strong protections for mature forests so that they can become tomorrow's old growth forests. With only 6% of our old growth forest left we need to acknowledge that they are endangered. We need a new plan to care for them and steward them. To think of our huge nation having no more virgin forests is heartbreaking. I urge you to take action so that time doesn't come. Sincerely, Evan Elias
Abbie	Bernstein	West Hollywood	CA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We cannot replace these with anything similar if they are lost.
Jill	Van Cise	Los Angeles	CA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Forests are natural, beautiful, provide us shade, and give animals a place to live, a place to retreat to, to get away from civilization for awhile.
Silvia	Rocha	Azusa	CA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Please do the right thing now. Thank you.
Joe	LeBlanc	Sebastopol	CA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We have so few left and they are necessary for our planet's survival. Living near Humboldt Redwoods, I see the incredible diversity of old growth forests and how they are link to the past and key to our future of sustainability. We need to allow old growth forests to remain and let current forests grow to old growth status. It can be stated now that the way we are managing forests and nature is leading to the destruction of our climate which is already killing off thousands of species and also the human race as well. The key solution to this is reforestation to bring the temperatures back down but more importantly, leave the existing thriving forests as they always have been. Treating this forests like a crop is criminal when so many lives are at stake. Please look to indigenous leaders to help guide this forest management, they tended for and kept help these forest healthy for thousands of years before colonization started this climate crisis. Thank you!!
Sam	Butler	Los Angeles	CA	I am writing regarding the U.S. Forest Service Old-Growth Amendment, and am asking for the Forest Service to significantly improve protections for old growth and mature succession forests. It is vital that old-growth trees are protected so that they can continue to provide eco-system services and enormous carbon sequestration, which is so vitally important given the rapid increases in climate change that we are now seeing. These trees are simply too important and cannot be logged. The Forest Service has a great opportunity right now to put in place strong long-term protections for old-growth and mature forests. It is critical that mature succession forests are also included in this amendment as they will become the old-growth forests of tomorrow. The existing lack of protections from logging for old-growth and mature forests on federal lands is scandalous and requires immediate change. Centuries of excessive logging of these old trees for commercial profit have left us with a fraction of the original forests. It's time to accept that the loggers have had their fill over hundreds of years, but that time has now come to an end. We now recognize the immense value these forests possess in their superior carbon storage, their critical role in the eco-system and protection of wildlife and biodiversity, their extraordinary ability to preserve habitats and clean the water and air, and their recreational value to humans like me that admire their majesty and who derive huge benefit from being in their presence. Possibly the most important role that old-growth and mature forests provide however, is critical habitat for native wildlife. In excess of 3,000 species of wildlife live within National Forests and in many cases depend on these trees and undisturbed habitat for their survival. If they are to have a future, then we must protect our remaining old-growth and mature forests.
Karen	Dallow	El Sobrante	CA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. NOTHING LIKE A WALK IN THE WOODS
rose	puntillo	Davis	CA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Plus, with the horrible fires we've been experiencing in the last 10 years, we need to do everything we can go protect and preserve what is left. And we also need to work extra hard to replant and restore.
Neal	Steiner	Los Angeles	CA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. The forests are very important to our survival and our children. Thank you.
Christine	Hoex	Santa Rosa	CA	I strongly call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Despite being cherished for generations across the county, old growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. And most people don't understand that the N F are managed like crop under the department of Agriculture. This is a misguided classification that leads to considering the Forests as a commodity. Harvest of even 2nd growth mature forest emits large amounts of Co2, and reduce the potential for old growth forest stands in the next 2 hundred years. Clean water, recreation, biodiversity, clean air, and perfect carbon sequestration are living resources that are provided by these beautiful forest. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Please, use every possible avenue to protect forest immediately! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction, not to mention putting our own children at risk of losing these forests and changing the future of our planet's biosphere forever.

Carolyn	Pettis	Saugus	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Old-Growth Forest Management Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. Most Americans don't know this, but National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop. That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth. Your Connection to Forests Recall the first forest you explored. Where was it? How old were you? What did you see? Do you remember the first time you saw a photo of a particular forest that captured your imagination? Where was it? Have you been there yet? If we protect these forests, future generations will be able to make those same memories. Forests are Valuable! They Provide: Clean Water For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest. Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests. Wildlife Habitat Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction. Outdoor Recreation Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. 80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse. Thank you</p>
Holly	Stetteland	Templeton	CA	<p>I've spent most of my free time backpacking in the mountains here and abroad. Most of my time has been spent in the Sierras and Coastal ranges of California and Oregon, but we've also ventured into the Cascades, Olympics, Rocky Mountains, Tetons and Green Mountains. Visiting stands of old growth are among the most special experiences I've had on these trips. There's really nothing quite like looking up through the canopy of General Sherman in Sequoia, the Big Spruce at Cape Meares, the Quets Fir in the Hoh National Rainforest and many more. One can't help but feel humbled and awestruck by such ancient giants. But the importance of these trees goes far beyond their spiritual value. These trees are critical for protecting our biodiversity and stemming the climate crisis. It's just heartbreaking that there are so few of them left.</p> <p>Shortsighted logging policies have allowed our old growth forests to be razed and prevented new ones from getting established. We've been reckless and greedy. It is time to draw the line and immediately stop cutting any old growth. It is also time to develop sensible policies to protect mature forests throughout the country to ensure they can develop into the old growth of the future. Our restraint will reap enormous dividends in the form of carbon sequestration and providing habitat for the 3000 species of wildlife that depend on them. We owe it to future generations to ensure that they have the same opportunities that we've had to marvel at these magnificent trees.</p>
Lynn	Arsanis	Novato	CA	<p>I depend upon our country to care for and protect our forests for which I have a lifetime of love for and enjoy traveling through each and every week. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Lynn</p>
Kim	Hunter	Los Altos	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Trees are a gift from nature, and we need to be their stewards, and protect them for generations.</p>
Kevin	Porter	Sacramento	CA	<p>Please do everything you can to protect the remaining few areas of old growth forests across this great land. I first became aware of the need to protect these beautiful giants while working on a middle school project. I learned about the plight of the northern spotted owls and their loss of habitat. In the 35 years since then I have visited many old growth areas and had the joy of taking my son on these trips. It was a thrill to see the awe and wonder of these creatures through his eyes. In an era where we are dramatically increasing the rate of carbon being released into the atmosphere, we must do all we can to protect these carbon sinks. In an era of rapidly declining biodiversity, we must do all we can to protect these rich, varied habitats. And in an era where we spend more and more time in front of screens, we must protect these oases of natural beauty and exploration for the rare times we are able to actually get outside. Thank you.</p>
Polly	O'Malley	Los Angeles	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Forests are Valuable! They Provide: - Clean Water: For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest. - Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions: Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon, period. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests. Wildlife Habitat Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction. Outdoor Recreation Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. 80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse.</p>
Edward and Beatrice	Simpson	South Pasadena	CA	<p>We strongly urge USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>We have done much damage as a species. We have also done much good, like the Endangered Species Act which saved some animals from extinction.</p> <p>While we have visited many beautiful National Parks and National Forests we know there is a serious difference on how the two are "managed". We need both of these eco-systems to ensure the life of so many species of animals and plants. The magnificent trees help us breathe by absorbing and storing carbon. They must not be killed by our failures as fellow-travelers on this beautiful Planet!</p> <p>We must protect more land, clean water and reduce our impact.</p> <p>Save our trees! Save our forests for they provide clean air for all of us and the last hope for many animals and plants!</p>
Mario	Guzman	San Jose	CA	<p>Old-growth and mature forests are biodiversity heavens, weather regulators and amazing at CO2 capture. It takes decades, if not centuries, under the right circumstances to replace them. Besides their inherent ecological value, their excellent asset to help to combat climate change.</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>

Linda	Barbosa	Morgan Hill	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. The Sierra Club would like to protest mature and old growth trees on federal land. I believe that is not enough, all logging should stop on federal land. Logging on federal land makes up only a small portion of total logging. And there is so little federal land that has not been logged that we need to protect all of it. I often hike and camp in the national forest. I have seen areas that were cut in the name of fire prevention. It does not work. The areas become hotter and the loggers usually remove the large trees that provide shade and animal habitat.</p> <p>All trees, but especially the large mature ones hold carbon, and are the anchors for environments that provide clean water.</p>
Anna	Narbutovskih	Guerneville	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Our old growth forests are critical to combatting climate change. Our old growth forests are critical for the future of life on this planet.</p> <p>Please save them.</p>
Kristin	Mercer	Belmont	CA	<p>I support USFS's Old Growth Amendment Alternative 3.</p> <p>I am a current and future citizen of this planet who needs you to take action to protect our shared climate. And protecting living Mature Forests is the quickest, most efficient, and easily scalable means. I prioritize protection of our national resources -- the inheritance of future generations - over the short-term exploitive profits of corporations and today's consumers</p> <p>Right now, old-growth and mature forests are one of the best solutions to the climate crisis. Studies confirm that that mature and old-growth trees provide more cost-effective and efficient carbon capture and sequestration than any scheme that man can build. And in the bargain, they lower ambient temperatures, block the high winds that cause damaging wildfires, filter and retain clean water sources, stabilize soils to prevent erosion, and support the biodiversity of the complex ecosystem they anchor.</p> <p>?Old Growth? forests are invaluable, but they represent a small segment of our total forests. Therefore the proposed amendment needs to be expanded to include 'mature forests' and mature trees within Old Growth forests. Mature trees are the Old Growth of our future. They far outnumber remaining old-growth in the United States and represent a vital carbon-absorbing tool for taking on climate change. And their capacity to sequester carbon grows as they grow to replace Old Growth in a natural life-cycle.</p> <p>I support Alternative 3 of the proposed Old Growth Amendment for the strongest protections. But I urge additional measures to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Expand protections to Include Mature Growth forests and Mature Trees in addition to Old Growth stands, 2. Add measurable goals to not just preserve but to expand old-growth stands, 3. Eliminate 'proactive stewardship?' (i.e. ban 'de minimis' logging, and exclude clear-cutting, mechanical thinning, selected harvest and prescribed fire). Human intervention reduces forest health by disrupting the nutritive mulch of the forest floor, trampling new growth, compacting soils, disrupting natural drainage patterns, creating erosion and introducing invasive species. ANY logging alters microclimates by exposing forests to wind, erosion, and invasive species -- all which increase risks of damaging wildfires. Natural ecosystems do not need human 'management?; they evolved to tolerate all intensities of fires and regenerate healthy new forests without our intervention. Humans don't know how to create and manage complex natural ecosystems. Sustainable mature forests are not a crop; they are not replicable in mass. <p>Natural mature forests provide greater value in climate protection than in extraction for quick profit. Say NO to corporate interests, and start prioritizing our shared climate and quality of life. Please adopt Alternative 3 with these key enhancements to ensure it has the teeth to truly protect and expand old growth forests.</p>
Elaire	Salinger	San Mateo	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>I volunteer 30 hours a week on climate change action. Clearcutting and cutting old growth trees is exactly what we should stop doing. Any climate scientist knows this. What is wrong with the forest service that there could be this kind of gross negligence and lack of understanding? What is behind these actions? Politics, money? Whatever it is, this is in direct opposition to the mission of the forest department and needs to stop now.</p>
Diana	Hall	Mountain View	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old-Growth forests on federal lands are still not protected from logging-- they are treated like a crop, which does not make sense given the time needed for them to mature. Please leave old-growth trees in the forest and to stop sending them to the mill.</p> <p>I have spent a lot of time hiking and camping in forests and other outdoor areas. Especially during the hot summers, I've come to greatly appreciate the shade and coolness trees, especially large, mature trees provide. There is no replacement for these. If we protect them, they will be here for our children and future generations to enjoy. If not, they will live in an increasingly barren world.</p> <p>Forests are valuable far beyond recreation. They are a source of clean water, and contribute significantly to carbon storage -- if we use and manage them properly. They also supply habitat for our wildlife, which is becoming scarce.</p>
James	Haug	Orick	CA	<p>I am a forester and worked for the US Forest Service.</p> <p>I value mature and old growth forests because they sequester carbon and cool the earth. They provide clean air and water, habitat for diverse plant and animal life, and recreation for people.</p> <p>Right now, mature and old growth forests greatly contribute to maintaining climate and habitat stability.</p> <p>Outdated policies which emphasize logging at the expense of these other values put our survival at risk.</p> <p>I recommend the US Forest Service prioritize conservation over logging and other extractive uses.</p> <p>Please conserve mature and old growth forests to make sure we have a world worth leaving our children and grandchildren.</p>
Jerry	Tobe	Los Angeles	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Our National Forest are a very significant part of the oxygen-carbon cycle and the water cycle. I strongly urge you to increase the number of mature and old-growth trees, thereby making a positive contribution to the oxygen-carbon cycle, abating greenhouse gases and maintaining the water cycle.</p> <p>Decades will elapse before reforestation sequesters the amount of carbon that the mature and old-growth trees currently sequester, thereby exacerbating the climate crisis.</p> <p>A virtual monoculture is used in reforestation resulting in the trees being more likely to be destroyed by pests, disease and wildfires. Reforestation typically results in permanent loss of habitat for many species putting them at greater risk of extinction and invasion by non-native species.</p> <p>Treating trees, especially mature and old-growth trees, in our National Forests like crops / natural resource to be extracted is bad stewardship and demonstrates a strong disregard for the land / public health / reality. I strongly urge you to much more closely align you policies and actions with the following</p> <p>"It is the policy of my Administration to organize and deploy the full capacity of its agencies to combat the climate crisis to implement a Governmentwide approach that reduces climate pollution in every sector of the economy; increases resilience to the impacts of climate change; protects public health; conserves our lands, waters, and biodiversity..."</p> <p>Thank you for reading my message</p>
Lionel	Mares	Sun Valley	CA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. There is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut.</p> <p>Most Americans don't know this, but National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks</p> <p>National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop.</p> <p>That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth.</p> <p>Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love</p> <p>More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests!</p> <p>Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.</p> <p>I care about the health and well-being of our forests. President Teddy Roosevelt created the United States Forest Service to manage the nation's forests and to ensure that it is taken care of. I urge that you honor Roosevelt's legacy by maintaining and protecting national forests.</p> <p>Thank you, Lionel Mares</p>

Harry	White	Roseville	CA	The USFS should conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests. We need to keep these ecosystems intact, to preserve biodiversity and reduce climate change. I want my children and grandchildren to be able to walk in the beauty and majesty of old-growth forests. Thank you.
Richard	Burkett	Golden	CO	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. These forests are irreplaceable in our lifetime please protect them.
Ericka	Abrams	Aurora	CO	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. This is critical for future generations. Please be a support in helping to stop the destruction of our planets biodiversity.
Ross	Kelman	Denver	CO	I love trees! Forests are great for biodiversity, recreation, fighting climate change, flood & drought prevention... time is nature is even great for stress reduction. That said, please prioritize conservation over logging & other extractive uses in old-growth forests. Thank you.
Susan	Lewis	Evergreen	CO	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old-Growth Forest Management Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. Most Americans don't know this, but National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop. That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth.
Patricia	Dobson	Woodland Park	CO	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Humans and animals need forests to survive. It was awful to see the logging that happened in the ancient trees of the Washington State HO Rainforest. Please protect these ancient forests for generations to come.
Jim	Allard	Arvada	CO	My name is Jim Allard, a resident of Westminster, CO, and I'm writing to implore you to pass the National Old-Growth Amendment. I'm sure you're well aware of the environmental reasons for preserving what little the country still has, such as their provision of wildlife habitat, clean water, carbon absorption and storage, as well as recreational and aesthetic value. I would just like to add to those considerations my personal concern for their preservation. For the last 40+ years as a Rocky Mountain resident, I have regularly recreated in these forests all around the western US in the form of hiking, snowshoeing, camping, wildlife viewing, and simply relishing their timeless and incomparable beauty by just sitting in the depths of an old-growth forest. Nothing else compares to this experience. New and young-growth forests as replacements for old-growth are no comparison and, of course, it takes many generations to truly replace old-growth. The loss of any of our remaining groves is devastating and brings us one step closer to the nation being denuded of these priceless treasures, all for the sake, ultimately, of personal profit by the few who couldn't care less about their value to the rest of us. Please take the proper measures to ensure protection of these precious few remaining forests. Your descendants, as well as those of all Americans, will be eternally grateful for the wise choices you make today. Jim Allard
Debra	Guendelsberger	Fort Garland	CO	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. The mature and old-growth forests must be protected. They are not a crop, they are a national treasure. Their inherent, intrinsic value (think future generations), provides fresh water, carbon sinks, habitat for plants and shelter/protection for wildlife. The mature and old-growth forests are a natural resource, and as such, generate viability to the environment; the earth that sustains humans (think again, future generations). These forests are vital and must be preserved. No amount of money obtained by special interest groups through logging, development, etc., justifies the destruction of any part of these forests. The importance of the value of mature and old-growth forests is critical. The felling of these forests creates an irreplaceable, immeasurable loss. I request that the USFS implement a National Old-Growth Amendment that ceases logging of old-growth forests and protects mature trees to become the next old-growth forests.
Bek	Mamola	Thornton	CO	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. They're worth more standing. Not in an economic sense, but ecologically. I am a person with integrity and believe the forest should be left to its integrity, on its own terms, not humans'. Wood products are not helpful nor are they 'healthy' to utilize in any sense or for us or our environment. Keep all forests standing, and alone. They've taken care of themselves for so long and know far more than we humans could about their condition and how to keep them naturally occurring.
Eileen	Awskiiewicz	Rocky Hill	CT	Many generations enjoyed our forests and we have NO RIGHT to deprive future generations of the same memories. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.
Robert	Fritsch	Newington	CT	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I am an 82year old product of the '50s, a retired policeman who studied biology in college, and in that timeframe, as a hiker and student of our environment, I have witnessed HUGE changes in our environment (mankind wrought) and am convinced that we have created our own path to destruction. I have two wonderful grand daughters who our generation has put very much at risk; it is all due to our generation's wastefulness and use of fossil fuel energy. But we have natural mitigators available to start undoing the damage and the increasing danger not the least of which are our deep oceans, tropical rain forests and our boreal, old growth rain forests which remain unprotected at the mercy of a private, for-profit and aggressive sector or in the case of our national, public-owned forests, at the mercy of the federal Department of Agriculture and can be harvested. This makes NO SENSE in this day and age. These public, old growth forests are crucial natural sinks for carbon sequestering and contribute mightily to CO2 mitigation. Unfortunately, our deep oceans are being compromised via ph (acidic) change, algae absorption of CO2 included and I suspect, overwhelmed, but our forests, worldwide, still answer the call. There is simply no way I can rationalize the shipping of these trees' carcasses to the lumber mills. And the use of these remains to be cut, incinerated and ground up for mulch simply released that much more carbon to our atmosphere. Makes no sense; we're working against ourselves and certainly NOT mitigating for our 3rd (grand children's) generation which will really begin bear the brunt of our irresponsibility. We must save our old growth forest lands and encourage their expansion NOT destroy them. We must firm up, fight the profit makers and value these national forestlands as the treasures and saviors they are. It is as though our earth continues to try to protect itself by attempting to stabilize temperatures in the face of the human squandering onslaught. Humankind has to recognize this and join in to assist in saving a priceless gift that has been given us. Please conserve mature and old growth trees in our national forests. In closing, my son-in-law, a forester by profession, marveled at the aged, stately deciduous trees on a small 30 acre parcel of state owned woodland here in CT and lamented, "You don't see these sized trees up in Maine where I work. They're beautiful and so important."
Diana	Heymann	West Hartford	CT	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I live in a state where there are many trees but the mature and old growth is limited because it takes sometimes hundreds of years to reach being called mature or old. These are the kinds of hard wood forests that we need to protect. How can we view them as "CROPS"? They are so important to maintain our ground and our air as well as giving shelter and food to so many other plants, animals, and birds! Please protect them at all costs!
Anna	Medema	Washington	DC	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. These trees provide so many benefits to us, from carbon sequestration to clean water to outdoor recreation opportunities. Throughout my life I have visited many national forests, and our nation's mature and old growth trees have always filled me with wonder. So few of these trees remain, and it is imperative that we protect the old growth we have left and conserve mature trees to be our future old growth. As the USFS finishes their National Old Growth Amendment, strong and durable protections for these trees should be a priority.

Ken	Gigiello	Frankford	DE	<p>I am Ken Gigiello and I live in Delaware. I worked for EPA for over 33 years trying to do my best to protect human health and the environment. With this comment I am calling on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Here are specific comments for the U.S. Forest Service Old-Growth Amendment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. There is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut. 2. Lay groundwork for durable protections for mature forests, to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests. 3. Old-Growth Forest Management-- Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. Most Americans don't know this, but National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks. National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop. That is very wrong, especially for mature and old-growth forests. 4. I began my career working for the Forest Service on a project to determine how to control gypsy moths which do a large amount of damage to eastern oak and maple forests 5. I have visited Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks to see first hand the unbelievable large and long lived trees. It gave me even more of an appreciation of the need to protect these trees. I also visited Muir Woods to see the super tall redwood trees which are magnificent. 6. Forests are valuable! They provide the following important benefits: Clean water for more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forests; Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions-- Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests. <p>Wildlife Habitat-- Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love. More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation-- Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. 80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse.</p> <p>We need to protect these old growth forests for future generations so they will be able to make those same memories.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention.</p>
Susan	O'Rourke	Saint Petersburg	FL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I am devastated when fire season starts in California every year because the fires destroy so many acres of forest lands and trees that will be gone from that landscape. From an early age I loved going to the 'woods' where I grew up in Wisconsin. Friends and I would go hiking and just having a great time turning over rocks to see what was underneath, climbing the trees as high as we could-I was a great climber going up but not so good at coming down so many times I would just sit upon a branch looking down at everything!! Eventually I'd make my way down but my favorite climbing tree was close to waters edge at Lake Michigan and it was PERFECT for climbing and then sitting up above people who didn't even realize someone was up there and just enjoying an hour or more up this tree. Last time I was in Wisconsin I checked and 'my tree?' is still there! Why should logging be allowed in old growth forests ever?? Don't these people (and the lawmakers) realize the impact of these great trees that have lived far longer than any of us will?? With climate change we need these trees more than ever. More needs to be done to protect these old growth trees and everything around them. Far too many places in America have become no more than empty strip malls, or what was once beautiful is now a closed mall or unused parking lot. This is so true in Florida and if I had the \$\$ to leave this un-green state I would have long ago. PLEASE think before allowing something so beautiful and giving as an old growth tree to become 2 by 4's or something like toilet paper, and paper towels. Think about wildlife we love that need these forests and we've lost too many members of necessary species already. There is so much more to life when you grow up appreciating the 'green spaces' in your life. So much better than being stuck in front of tv's or computers and being on smartphones most hours that are free. I'm glad I grew up before all this technology because I so appreciate the great outdoors and all that you'll find in a forest or the 'woods'.</p>
Sarah	Schamberger	Sarasota	FL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Please. Help combat climate change by helping these magnificent forests thrive and regenerate beyond our lifetimes. Thank you</p>
Marcia	Kellam	Pensacola	FL	<p>Old-growth forests. It's what we call them, but they are more than just a name. They are places of ancient beings who protect our planet in so many ways! To cut them down is criminal. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
Martha	Oddie	South Daytona	FL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I didn't go to school or study ecosystems, but even I know continually killing forests really is effecting the environment. Do you even realize the affects of these forests have on ecosystems? Do you understand if you take these forests, just like the rain forests, you upset the balance of nature? If you want a future for the next generation (your kids or grandkids') please think about this.</p>
Judy	Kessinger	Clearwater	FL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We need to do our part and conserve these natural resources. We look to our leaders to do the right thing. Let our voices be heard for one and all!</p>
Leonard S	Marraffino	Boca Raton	FL	<p>I have been fortunate to have seen many of the beautiful and unique landscapes found in our wonderful nation. Old-growth forests sadly I have not been able to visit yet, though I hope to do so. Please protect these precious uniquely American treasures that once gone are forever lost.</p>
Emilio	Gonzalez	Winter Springs	FL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Not only is it good for the climate, fauna, but for us too. Others can try to deny as much as they want but we live in harmony with the earth. Its older than man by a long shot and we showed up. Maybe birthed by evolution and mother nature or who knows "aliens"... I don't claim to know much if at all but I know what makes me feel alive, connected, sentimental and inspired. Sometimes all at the same time! That only comes from nature, seeing the sheer power and awe of what can be!</p>
Kaylee	Dickerson	Jacksonville	FL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>I want my children to be able to experience the magic of an old growth forest? once they are cut down, it takes too long to replace them. They are not a crop, and deserve to be protected. We can use other materials for toilet paper and paper, like hemp or bamboo. The future is ours to protect.</p>
Linda	Smithe	Jupiter	FL	<p>I am literally related to the forests. My grant-great aunt donated a portion of a redwood forest in honor of my grandfather and grandmother, the Frank and Bess Smithe Redwood Grove in California.</p> <p>I am not in a position to donate a Redwood Forest. But I value forests and are working hard toward preserving natural areas where I can in Florida as a volunteer with the Sierra Club.</p> <p>Unfortunately, there are outdated policies that emphasize logging at the expense of other values put on our forests.</p> <p>80% of outdoor activities including camping, fishing, hiking, to sport climbing have been increased in participation in recent years and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse. https://oia.outdoorindustry.org/resource/2023-outdoor-participation-trends-report. These are critically important activities for children and adults.</p> <p>The US Forest Service should prioritize conservation over logging and other extractive uses.</p> <p>The U S Forest Service Old Growth Amendment can and should: Stop old growth trees from going to the lumber mill there is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to be cut Lay groundwork for durable protections for mature forests to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old growth forests.</p> <p>Please conserve mature and old growth trees in Federal Forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>It's good for humanity and it's good for the economy.</p>

Maria	Pizano-Balatovis	Jupiter	FL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>I am a senior citizen that volunteers with various environmental organizations. Since my retirement 4 years ago, I have dedicated most of my time to advocate for nature and the environment. I greatly value Creation and know that it is our job to preserve it.</p> <p>Old growth and mature forest are one of the best solutions to address the climate crisis the world is facing. I remember learning as a child how plants use carbon and give us oxygen in return. Since then, I have learned so much more about the many other benefits of plants, especially native plants to an area. That is what old and mature forests are-the native plants to the region where they grew and evolved. Therefore, they are the backbone for all other species in that area. Their gifts are endless, and the latest I have enjoyed is forest therapy.</p> <p>I call on the forest service to eliminate outdated policies that prioritize logging, mining, destructive recreational activities, MONEY, over the many other values of forests. The forest service should focus all efforts on CONSERVATION of all our FORESTS, and on the long term benefits that forest offer that are essential for the survival of humanity.</p> <p>Please conserve mature and old growth trees on all federal lands. It can play a significant role to combat climate change, preserve biodiversity and the survival of planet earth.</p> <p>Sincerely, Maria Pizano-Balatovis</p>
Key	Gates	Delray Beach	FL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I've been privileged to visit several parks on the west coast that have large, old growth forest. I was duly awed and relished in the beauty, solitude and peace of such forests. Since then I have learned how these few remaining stands of old growth contribute to the sustainability of our climate and well being, and how little is left. (And that there are some old growth stands in the northeast as well.) Resulting in the need to provide protections for what little is left.</p> <p>I expect my tax supported agencies are able and willing to provide these protections. It is one of remaining wishes that my grandchildren not only have the opportunity to visit an old growth forest, but will benefit from the functions of these places. Thank you for your considerations and efforts.</p>
Brennan	Baryza	Tampa	FL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. These wonderful forests are not something we will be able to re build when people realize their mistakes. Instead of trusting others to do the right thing and keep these woods, we need to conserve it so they don't have the temptation. Im 15 and I know that when there is more possibility to grow you want to take it, but we have to put our foot down when comes to these Forests.</p>
Jann	Johanson	Fernandina Beach	FL	<p>Please join the advocates for the planet and help us save our forests from destruction especially of our old growth forests. The beautiful ecosystem deserves our attention and efforts to preserve what is still remaining. We've taken from our planet it's time to start giving back what was so freely given. For our generations to come Earth Advocate ??</p>
Patrick	D'Annunzio	The Villages	FL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Wood is no longer a vital product. There are many alternatives including recycled plastics and other material. I've seen the scars left on the landscape from logging and studied the environmental impact. We can no longer afford this kind of dangerous, reckless action. you must preserve and protect all our forests. It is your job, after all.</p>
Susan	Giggey	Naples	FL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>I was disheartened and frankly angered to hear there are plans to clearcut a large section of old growth in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, destroying these beautiful old trees, including a 368-year-old cathedral pine! These trees are crucial for biodiversity, carbon storage, soil health, clean water, and so much more.</p> <p>PLEASE look into the eyes of your own children, and perhaps even grandchildren, and think of the catastrophic injury you will impart not only to them, but the many generations to come by not preserving and protecting All our forests. Much rests on your shoulders, please find it in your hearts to do what you know is the right thing! All of us who love this Earth and beautiful planet thank you. Please be one of them. Thank you in advance for stepping up--your heirs and all of us are eternally grateful.</p>
Renee	Duncan	Gainesville	FL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Not only do trees remind us of the future, they help recycle and clean our air.</p> <p>We need to do everything in our power to preserve them.</p>
Tom	Thompson	Sarasota	FL	<p>Wake up, they are burning down!!! Save every forest you can as they are going to have to be protected by the threatened and endangered species act otherwise.</p>
Susan	Safford	Tallahassee	FL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. My happiest times as a child were in the woods. Trees feed us by absorbing carbon dioxide and conserving water. Forests protect a great diversity of creatures.</p>
Sally	Eadie	Longwood	FL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. Most Americans don't know this, but National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop. That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth. Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction. I live in a very high stress environment. Peace is precious. I'm most at peace while in a forest. The smells and the sounds are a song to the soul. Please, please protect our forests.</p>
Chanin	Tong	Sarasota	FL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Save Us!</p>
Jo	Mcmillan	Ocala	FL	<p>Old growth forests are vital to our planet. For wildlife, for the climate, for us. They are irreplaceable. Rampant overdevelopment is a dangerous thing, the greed involved is sickening. Do the right thing, and protect our forest for now and the future. Do any of the powers that be have children?? It's baffling and disgusting to witness.</p>
Anne Marie	Yohe	Naples	FL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Forests provide oxygen to the earth and keep the lands from eroding, while giving animals their natural habitats to produce and live as the were meant to do so.</p>
Barbara	Lamberta	Cape Coral	FL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. The oldest trees must be protected because they're irreplaceable and their longevity alone helps preserve vital ecosystems. They are unique biodiversity reservoirs. And if we are to do anything to slow down climate change, we need to protect and preserve those trees, because the largest 1% of trees store half of all the aboveground carbon. Old growth trees also help to build resilience against climate related impacts such as drought or fires.</p>
Peggy	Connor	Cohutta	GA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity Please consider the rest of the young people in the US who need to be able to see the beauty of the surrounding forests I love to walk among the trees it helps me to calm my mind and enjoy my surroundings please don't take that away please act for my children and grandchildren they deserve to be able to enjoy the forests they are disappearing so fast you have the power to protect them</p>
Wesley	Johnson	Peachtree Corners	GA	<p>The wealth of forests, mountains, and plains is what makes the United States such a unique country. Not only are these features invaluable for the natural world, they are also invaluable in terms of land space, a healthy biosphere, and exploration. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>

Doug	Allen	Roswell	GA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Mature and old-growth forests: Maintain clean air, water and soil Sustain local biodiversity and wildlife habitats Act as critical carbon sinks and essential pillars of our national climate strategy Reflect the cultural values and knowledge of Indigenous stewardship Uphold traditional Tribal livelihoods and food systems Support rural economies Serve as the ideal terrain for outdoor recreation activities These forests are part of our great natural heritage, & must not be destroyed.</p>
Kate	Ruland	Suches	GA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>The old growth forests of Wisconsin's Chequamegon-Nicolet National Parks and all other old growth forests need protection. They are not corn crops to be harvested under the management of the Agriculture Department; they are vital carbon sinks that protect us against climate change.</p> <p>Old growth forests support biodiversity of every species from insects that supply nutrients to the land and birds, mammals of every forest family, while providing us with clean water and air.</p> <p>I grew up in the forests of the Green Mountains of Vermont and now live in the Chatahochee National Forest in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Georgia. I know how important trees are to our ecosystem. Outdated logging policies need to be revised to protect and ensure the health of our forests. We have seen in the past what clear cutting does to the land. It's time for the Forest Service to manage the old growth forests and for the National Park Service to be included in decision making.</p>
Suzanne Phillip	Smith	Savannah	GA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>One of my favorite things to do is to hike in the woods. Smelling the decaying leaves and fresh air does something to restore my soul. The dappled sunlight coming through the leaves or needles creates a peaceful sanctuary. Knowing that those trees have been here way before I arrived on earth and will be long after I have gone brings me great comfort.</p> <p>Recently, I visited Congaree National Park, one of the easternmost old growth forests in our country. Ignoring the mosquitoes (they have a 'skeeter Meter?'), I was simply amazed as I was traipsing along the path, at the size of those huge trees! I am thankful that someone had the foresight to just let them grow. In addition the wildlife and diversity of fauna supported by that majestic forest are astounding. Please continue to preserve this!</p>
Patrick	Bosold	Fairfield	IA	<p>I was traveling down the west coast of the USA some years back, and in Washington State I was marveling at the beauty and majesty of the great coniferous forests I was traveling through, trees that were many hundreds of years old. Then I turned a corner, and came upon a clearcut of a mature forest. It looked like the aftermath of Hiroshima.</p> <p>That moment made me into a conservationist. As I learned more about how such "Forest management" practices were the industry standard, I also learned how clear-cutting and similar practices had been given the ongoing blessing of numerous state and federal agencies. This left me agape with astonishment at how an industry had so cleverly and thoroughly managed to capture the government agencies that were supposed to be overseeing their activities and protecting the interests of the American people.</p> <p>We have seen enough of the massive damage done by the industrial-scale takeover and exploitation of our forest ecosystems. It is long past time for the US Forest Service to stop facilitating the demolition of our irreplaceable old-growth forests for the sake of private profit, and to begin protecting our shared forest heritage for future generations -- particularly our remaining mature and old-growth forests.</p> <p>You will be receiving plenty of comments from knowledgeable public interest and environmental advocates about the many, many ecosystem services and value provided by old-growth forests. I won't duplicate them here. Instead, I will just point out that your agency has a job to do -- and your job isn't to ensure that the companies profiting from forest devastation and business-as-usual keep profiting.</p> <p>Your job is to ensure that America's resource base -- including, in this case, mature and old-growth forests -- is conserved and protected for the long term, not the next-quarter bottom line. Specifically, this means ending logging and other resource extraction activities in mature and old-growth forest areas NOW.</p> <p>So do your job. Show the industry lobbyists, the lawyers and their Congressional minions to the door. Start implementing the sound-science guidance that you've long since been receiving from your own staff and the numerous advocacy groups that have done the homework for you. Protect and conserve mature and old-growth forest areas immediately.</p>
Scott and	Pajer	Mason City	IA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Old-Growth Forest Management</p> <p>Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging.</p> <p>Most Americans don't know this, but National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks</p> <p>National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop.</p> <p>That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth.</p> <p>If we protect these forests, future generations will be able to make those same memories.</p> <p>Forests are Valuable! They Provide:</p> <p>Clean Water</p> <p>For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest.</p> <p>Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions</p> <p>Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period.</p> <p>According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present."</p> <p>Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development.</p> <p>The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.</p> <p>Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love</p> <p>More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests!</p> <p>Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation</p> <p>Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity.</p> <p>In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs.</p> <p>80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse.</p>
Carolyn	Bittner	Malcom	IA	<p>Scientists are discovering how mature trees communicate with other trees and sustain entire ecosystems. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. This is urgent and critical.</p>
Julie	Kamrath	Spirit Lake	IA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. THE LAND AND THE CREATURES FORESTS PROTECT ARE IRREPLACEABLE. THESE PKACES ARE SACRED TO MOST OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS NATION.</p>
Cathleen	Weston	Hauser	ID	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>You can NEVER replace them What can you learn from them?</p> <p>Why do you need to eliminate them??</p> <p>IS MONEY REALLY THAT IMPORTANT???</p> <p>Why is what they provide to the planet NOT IMPORTANT???</p>

Susan	Westervelt	Deary	ID	<p>As an Idaho native, I have lived in and around forests my entire life. My dad was a logger and our first homes were logging camps in and around northern Idaho forests. I now live near a very busy highway and see truck after truck of fallen logs travel by every day. I can't help but wonder how long it will take til there are no longer intact forests to shelter wildlife, protect our environment, and be around for future generations to enjoy as I did growing up.</p> <p>It's very basic science to know that trees protect streams and clean air, provide habitat for wild creatures, give us silence and a sense of peace that cannot be found in the modern world.</p> <p>There are alternatives to wood. We simply must develop a better ability and processes and knowledge to use those alternatives, and do a better job of reusing what we already have. Forests need to remain standing - for creatures that depend on them, for the climate, for the water, and for all of us.</p>
Barbara	Aronowitz	Victor	ID	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Reading <i>The Overstory</i> made me realize the importance of old growth forests. They are a treasure we should value and preserve.</p>
Randy	Heidenfelder	Lake Zurich	IL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>This policy COULD become one of the most meaningful forest protections we have achieved in decades. It COULD help redirect management towards protecting and increasing stands of old-growth trees across the National Forest System over time. However, there is reason to be concerned: if the agency fails to significantly improve its current plan, this initiative could end up as one big missed opportunity.</p> <p>Our oldest forests are national treasures. They provide critical habitat for any number of threatened and endangered species, preserve clean watersheds, serve as natural climate solutions, and provide recreation opportunities that improve our physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Here in the northwest, old-growth forests define our region and are part of what makes it home.</p>
Andrew	Hoffman	Morton Grove	IL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. That they are not protected from logging is a mistake. These are unique environments that we can not afford to lose. Thank you</p>
Jonathan	Hancock	Chicago	IL	<p>I implore you to be courageous and take the steps necessary to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests. Not only are the an incredible gift to the planet and a wonderful gift to us all from our Creator, but protecting these essential trees is one of many vital steps to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>I grew up hiking everything in New England, particularly in the White Mountain National Forest, as well as in the Green Mountains and in Maine. I have volunteered for two summers in the Sierra National Forest. I have hiked, climbed and camped in so many places from Alaska to Arizona to North Carolina and Washington. Please protect these essential areas for the future, take the long term approach and lead well.</p>
Patricia	Martinez	Lake In the Hills	IL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Twenty years ago my husband and I visited the old growth forests of Olympic National Park. It was the most amazing experience of my life.</p> <p>It was like a great natural cathedral. I've never seen anything so amazing before or since.</p> <p>The wildlife was amazing. Twice flocks of hundreds of birds flew into and out of trees.</p> <p>A doe with 2 young fawns hid the kids and came back to continue to eat.</p> <p>I know now how important these old forests are, not only to me and to the wildlife but to the environment, and , the fight against climate change.</p> <p>Please don't side with big business. Side with the planet.</p> <p>Please, please, please protect old growth forests. They are irreplaceable.</p>
Jeffery	Biss	Elgin	IL	<p>Forests are first and foremost wildlife habitat, not a resource for human exploitation. Protect old growth forests as habitat and the wildlife that lives in them.</p>
Rick	Simkin	Chicago	IL	<p>I am a retired computer programmer and an active volunteer in preserving the health of the ecosystem in the region where I live. I value the clean water that our local forests help provide, as well as the peace that comes from visiting the forests; additionally, the forests absorb and help regulate the heavy rains that are becoming more frequent as the climate diverges from historical averages. My volunteer work aims to improve the health of the forests to preserve and expand their benefits for future generations.</p> <p>Mature forests with plenty of old growth trees and the associated other plants and animals are one of the best and least expensive solutions to the climate crisis. The trees extract carbon from the air, convert sunlight to plant matter instead of additional heat, keep soil in place rather than letting it be removed by wind and water. But outdated policies that emphasize logging over other benefits are degrading our forests and put their continued existence at risk.</p> <p>The U.S. Forest Service should prioritize conservation and the health of our forests over extractive uses such as logging. Please preserve federal forests by conserving mature and old-growth trees.</p>
Grant	Levitan	Naperville	IL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I recently read <i>Finding the Mother Tree</i> by Suzanne Simard. I learned a great deal about old growth forests, and their ability to spawn to Growth around them. I realize there may be competing points of view but a literature search over the last several years suggest that there is more and more evidence building as to the importance of old growth forests to the development of new growth which is good for the environment and also good for the logging business. Healthy heterogeneous forests benefit everyone.</p>
Peter	Ayres	Naperville	IL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Old growth forest are Earth it's self. They do the job we need for free.</p> <p>We need to stop the destruction of Old growth in the west and we need to stop Amazon forest destruction in too many places. They give us clean air and capture our waste. Our waste. Created by humans.</p> <p>We need clean water and old growth helps filter it.</p> <p>The world has a source that does it's work to combat the human issues created. Let's not shoot our selves in the foot. Leave old growth and rain forests alone. They are the lungs of the world.</p>
Donna	Cochran	Champaign	IL	<p>Dear U.S. Forest Service:</p> <p>Thank you for considering action that will protect all our remaining old growth forests. I sincerely hope that protection is enacted. I am 81 years old. If I were a tree, I would be a youngster. Maybe an infant. While I want to ask you to protect old growth forests, I don't know you and I am not sure how best to communicate. Please bear with me as I bumble along in this letter.</p> <p>My husband and I keep reading and learning. Husband worked in agri-business for 40 years. He now realizes, he was a player in what he now knows is a serious problem: the Dead Zone in the Gulf of Mexico, for example. In my younger days I loved camping and hiking in the woods. I'm immobile now so I resort to reading a lot about trees. Now I'm understanding why being out in forested areas felt so good.</p> <p>I know you are professionals. You could well be reading the National Best Sellers I have read. You may have seen the <i>Sierra Magazine</i> article on scattered old growth trees remaining in the Northeast. You probably have the opportunity to spend time in Old Growth Forests. Does the experience speak to your senses? Can you feel the presence of all the interwoven life that abounds? When I was younger, I didn't know enough to know if I was in an old growth woods or not. I didn't even know about Old Growth back then. However the feeling of one place has stayed with me all these years. It may have been old growth. The feeling is what I call my Reverence for Life moment. Whenever I need it, it is there for me.</p> <p>After you've retired, you may visit an old growth forest. With age, comes the opportunity to quiet your mind and soak in the feeling of a place. In that quiet time, I hope you will feel a profound satisfaction that you were one of the people who helped preserve a very special community of life.</p> <p>Sincerely, Donna Cochran</p>
Brad	Hanahan	Libertyville	IL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Old-growth forests on federal lands, despite their national admiration, are inadequately protected from logging, unlike National Parks. Managed under the Department of Agriculture as if they were mere crops, these forests face threats that jeopardize their preservation. Personal connections to forests often begin in childhood and can shape our appreciation of these vital landscapes. Protecting old-growth forests is crucial for future generations to create similar memories. Forests provide essential benefits such as clean water for over half the U.S. population, effective carbon storage for climate change mitigation, and critical wildlife habitats for over 3,000 species. Additionally, forests support the economy through recreation, with 150 million visits in 2019 contributing \$10.1 billion in local spending and supporting nearly 154,000 jobs. The preservation of these forests enhances climate adaptation, supports biodiversity, and boosts economic and recreational opportunities.</p>

Steffanie	Feichter	Villa Park	IL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Forests are Valuable! They Provide:</p> <p>Clean Water For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest. Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.</p> <p>Wildlife Habitat Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. 80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse.</p> <p>Do it! We need our Forests!</p>
Chris	Berti	Urbana	IL	<p>Clean Water For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest. Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.</p> <p>Wildlife Habitat Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. 80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse.</p>
Linda	Murphy	Maryville	IL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We have to stop destroying our world, our trees. They give us life, oxygen. It's common sense to stop deforestation. If you care about your children and their future, you will conserve the mature and old-growth trees. Stop this travesty.</p>
Jean	Farley Brown	Chicago	IL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Somebody has to mind the shop - the forest AND IT'S YOUR JOB. Don't put yourselves out of work by letting our irreplaceable forests all be logged. It's too important and we've been rushing ahead too long.</p> <p>Thank you for protecting life on Earth.</p>
Douglas	Scofield	Skokie	IL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Protect and fund our national park systems and treat them as the treasures they are</p>
Ron	Cox	Chicago	IL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. The Climate Crisis is upon us and we must do all we can reverse it. Time is running out! Future generations depend on us.</p>
Susan	Balaban	Wilmette	IL	<p>Our old growth forests are not just beautiful, they are vital to the fabric of our environment and the humans who depend on its ongoing health. Old growth forests must thrive for us to thrive. So much evidence has been found to support the fact that there is a vast system of communication between the oldest trees and those younger trees that surround it. The older trees literally "TALK" to the younger ones and warn them of environmental threats, both pests and fire and keep the forest growing and healthy. It is hubris to the greatest degree to imagine we can exist without protecting the forests that preceded us. In fact, we need them more than they need us.</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
Gary	Hawk	Aurora	IL	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. As a believer in conservation of the natural resources of our country for future generations I believe the Forest Service should plan a new direction in forest management with a focus of protecting old growth forests I grew up in California and took many trips with family and friends to the Sierra's and Mammoth Lakes area as well as the San Gabriel and San Bernadino mountains The experience of solitude and serenity and overall uplifting of spirit from being amongst the pine and redwood forests is unique and indescribable The memories of these trips last forever</p> <p>I have lived in Illinois the past fifty two years and take short excursions to local forests often and venture back to California and the mountains there as often as possible</p> <p>Old growth forests are more efficient at carbon storage and reduce land erosion and enhance water quality while providing a more sustainable and versatile habitat for wildlife as well to protect endangered species</p> <p>Undoubtedly this change in policy will result in more manpower and other resources to implement and maintain However as a taxpayer I would be willing to pay for any increase resulting in your budget as the benefits outweigh the costs by far</p>

Casimir	Kothari	Chicago	IL	<p>Please let us not make the same mistakes of the past again.</p> <p>Trees first appeared in the Devonian period (between 350 and 400 million years ago) long before the first humans made their appearance!!</p> <p>The awe- inspiring giants- the redwoods (Sequoias) were a very large part of the flora of our planet and had existed all over earth for millions and millions of years. Until very recently they had retreated to 2 million acres on the coast of California BUT it took less than a 100 years for logging to eliminate all but 5% of some of the tallest and oldest living things on earth ! It took some very visionary and courageous women and men , a LOT of effort and at least two decades to start a environmental movement to save millions of these awesome old beings, that we all are now able to experience with awe and wonder.</p> <p>Please let us not make the same mistakes of the past again and let us preserve ALL of the old growth forests we have now, and this time its for our own survival, we do indeed need these sentient old giants to help reverse climate change.</p> <p>It has been well documented that these mature and old growth forests are particularly good at soaking up carbon (they remove carbon dioxide from the air and through photosynthesis convert it into all parts of the tree, ancient forests have been doing it for eons- for as long as they've been alive and continue to do so till they die), logging does the exact opposite and actually releases the carbon that the trees had trapped into the atmosphere intensifying climate change!!</p> <p>A bit of really great news- studies have shown that through active management practices and policies that protect these old growth/ ancient forests, allowing trees to grow and minimizing logging , we are able to reverse this release of carbon into the air and actually the trees will allow more carbon to be absorbed making these forests into carbon sinks , mitigating the effects of climate change.</p> <p>I was very surprised to know this fact that National Forests are not managed like National Parks, in that they are within the Department of Agriculture , where trees are treated just like a crop. Additionally old growth forests on Federal lands are not protected from logging !! This has got to change. The US Forest Service needs to stop old growth trees from being logged, there needs to be in place regulations and protections for these treasures, and all mature forests to ensure they endure and the mature forests get a chance to develop into old growth forests for the future generations.</p> <p>These forests of western North America have the highest carbon storage potential of any forest type in the world and are recognized as some of the most valuable ecosystems on the planet. We should do everything in our power with the help of the proper authorities like the US Forest Service to protect and ensure these amazing old growth and mature forests endure, so that we humans can too.</p> <p>My friends and family all are avid nature lovers. We hike, bike, observe the flora and fauna, enjoy regular forays into forests and marvel at the wonders of nature called trees. We also realize the importance of preserving them for our immediate and distant future. Old-growth forest is absolutely necessary for the survival of protected plant and animal (owls, woodpeckers, etc) species, and help to maintain our Earth's threatened biodiversity. It is our fervent hope that the US Forest Service with allied agencies will make the necessary permanent policy changes to ensure that old growth and mature forests are protected from now on, so that they can grow and thrive right into the future.</p>
Jeffery	Biss	Elgin	IL	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. These areas are wildlife habitat, not a resource for human exploitation.
Paul	McElveen	New Albany	IN	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss NOW! We must conserve, protect and preserve Old Growth Forests Forever! Save Our Planet! Save Planet Earth! There is no Plan B!
Janine	Sullivan	Pittsboro	IN	It is up to the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss!! PLEASE protect our oldest and most critical resource. For us, for the animals and birds and bugs, for the continuation of Mother Earth. Please protect our trees, especially the old growth forests. Thank you sincerely.
Susan	Proffitt	Ogden Dunes	IN	<p>Like the Lorax I speak for the trees.</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. There is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut.</p> <p>Lay groundwork for durable protections for mature forests, to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests.</p> <p>Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.</p> <p>Please! Stop killing old growth trees!</p>
Tom	Hougham	Trafalgar	IN	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>My name is Tom Hougham and I with my brother own over 300 acres of forest in Indiana. We have a management plan that prevents logging on a large proportion of our forest. This plan was created prior to recent insight into the importance of old growth in carbon capture. The other day I was walking in the woods and heard dozens of birds like Wood Thrush, Acadian Flycatcher and Scarlet Tanager. During Spring migration I see/hear 20 species of wood warblers of which 10 species nest in my woods. Owning only 300 acres is inadequate especially since it is in a landscape dominated by agriculture. I also hear Cowbirds who depredate songbird's nest. More extensive old growth like forest would prevent Cowbirds from invading the forest beyond the edge. Wood Thrushes need forests of 1000 acres for population viability. Indiana Division of Forestry is in a decades old program to cut forests especially in the areas that have potential for old growth. We are left with the USFS to do the right thing and set-aside forest for development into old growth. There is currently a bill in congress to enlarge the Wilderness area in Indiana in order to support wildlife, recreation, water quality and carbon sequestration. We need more forest left to develop this old growth state if for no other reason than to allow our citizens to enjoy an area that appears as it did before our settlements arrived. The reasons to allow nature to take its course far outnumber the reasons to extract from it. Do the right thing and lay groundwork for durable protections for mature forests, to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests.</p>
Krissa	Schandelmaier	Anderson	IN	<p>When I was younger, I "loved" trees. I put loved in quotes because until I was older, I didn't realize how much I truly do love them. There is an emotional component for me in wanting to save all trees, but especially old growth forest. But this isn't a situation that emotion will be considered as a reason to protect trees and all the wildlife that make their home there. For anyone that has never experienced being in the middle of an old growth forest, especially alone because that is a feeling that I can't put into words, but you can "feel" life. You can feel something very amazing there. It's unlike anything else. And it makes you feel as though you're part of it. Trees can't run away from the threats they face. They count on us to protect them. And even if you don't love trees, we NEED them. If we continue to destroy the old growth forests on our planet at the rate we're doing now it is going to cause a catastrophe. Please do not sell out our old growth forests to industries that will make their quick buck and walk away. This isn't a harmless thing with only emotional consequences. It will continue to make a dangerous irreversible impact on our planet. Trees can't be replaced overnight. Please protect mature and old growth forests. I wish I were more eloquent and I can only hope others have better words to help you understand why this is so necessary. Thank you.</p>
Joab	Schultheis	Evansville	IN	<p>I live in southwestern Indiana and grew up in and around its woods. The first big forest I spent time in was during a family visit to Smoky Mountain National park as a nine year old. Over the years I've experienced magnificent forests in other places like Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, California, Oregon, Washington, Maine, and of course Indiana.</p> <p>Here locally is Wesselman Woods, the largest urban old growth forest in the nation. Visitors today enjoy this place because of concerted efforts by people decades ago who knew it was worth conserving and leaving intact.</p> <p>The old growth and mature forests in this country are national treasures that do so much for all of us. They provide important habitat for wildlife. They give us all kinds of recreational opportunities. And they are particularly good at sequestering carbon - something we urgently need as the stark impacts of climate change bear down all across this country.</p> <p>The old growth and mature forests that remain can continue providing us with all of these benefits if we stop cutting them down. I urge you to give conservation the highest priority regarding the treatment of old growth and mature forests. Making a concerted effort to do this now will ensure people can continue to benefit from these great places now and in the future.</p>
Bridgette	Murray	Gary	IN	I am over 50 years old and rarely have had the opportunity to experience the beauty of an old growth forest. Even so, I consider myself lucky because most people never have the chance. I fear that managing our forests like crops will mean the end of mature forests and the biodiversity they hold. The remaining forests we have in America need to be protected for not only their magnificence but also for the ability to capture carbon and fight climate change. I am calling on our government to protect our remaining mature forests from logging so they may develop into stands of old growth trees.

Karen and Will	Lozow Cleary	Bloomington	IN	We call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Public lands should not be exploited, but cherished as the glorious, beautiful havens they are. Forests help create clean water, absorb carbons, and provide sanctuaries for many species. We cannot survive without biological diversity and clean waters. Toilet paper, fuels and cheap furniture are NEVER acceptable trades for the loss of three thousand species that live on our public lands. We demand that old growth and mature forest be saved in perpetuity for our one and only planet.
Linda	Evinger	Evansville	IN	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I am 72 years old, and I have enjoyed being outside nearly my entire life. As a young adult I began hiking and camping and quickly learned that being outside in a forest is healing for me. I feel renewed by the sunlight shining through the trees. I like hearing the birds and looking for a glimpse of them. Fall and spring are my favorite times to be among the trees. My husband and I frequently took our children camping and hiking and now do the same with our granddaughters! I am fearful that often short-sighted thinking is putting our forests at risk of being destroyed and damaged. Please protect our forests!
Carolyn	Brown	Noblesville	IN	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. If you read 'Braiding Sweetgrass' and 'Gathering Mosses' (both by First Peoples author Robin Wall Kimmerer), you will understand that an old growth forest is a living organism/ community. You can't just chop off its 'limbs'! It destroys the wholeness of the forest! It takes hundreds of years to regrow a healthy forest (or a healthy reef) after it is clear cut/destroyed. These precious areas should be preserved for future generations. Some can never be replaced, no matter how many centuries pass! My first experience of living for 2 weeks in a screened rustic CCC cabin at a 4H camp in an old forest at age 13 was transformative! I learned the beautiful song of the wood thrush and the majestic drumming of the Pileated Woodpecker. That is why I am passionate about this issue!
Renee	Welch	Fishers	IN	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old growth forests do not need management if management means cutting living trees. In wildfire prone areas the dead or fallen trees can be removed but in areas that aren't at high wildfire risk, even the dead trees can remain to decompose naturally and add to the ecosystem. One problem is that human activity increases the risk of fires. A solution could be that some areas that are now open be restricted to the public, so that better protection can be achieved. I sincerely hope that the USFS is doing a close examination of the data that supports a hands off management approach and that you implement this plan of action.
Linda	Pickle	Bloomington	IN	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I grew up on a farm in southeastern Nebraska, where trees grew along streams and forests were a thing one traveled far distances to experience. My family never did. But at 20 I went to Colorado to school, and there I learned the spirit-soothing effect of being in a forest and experienced the pleasures of camping and hiking and picnicking among tall, old trees, their. This became the natural environment I love most. It wasn't until retirement that I was able to choose to live close enough to established and old growth forests to experience being in them whenever I want. Retaining that experience for future generations is important to me. So I donate to organizations that buy and preserve forested land and I write letters to government agencies with the power to strengthen or to weaken this vital legacy. There are more benefits from forests than the ones I have mentioned so far. The water source of the community I live in is a reservoir surrounded by established woods and by state forests. We know that forests filter pollutants and retain soil and moisture. Why would we want to damage their ability to do so by profit-driven logging policies? In addition, the worsening climate crisis makes preserving and increasing forests ever more important. Research has shown that established and old growth forests are an important tool in fighting this crisis. They store carbon from the air and help air and water quality -- and I haven't even mentioned that they protect the wonderful biodiversity of the environments in which they stand. That biodiversity is also a great national resource worthy of protection. I urge the U.S. Forest Service to recognize the immense value that mature and old growth trees and their environment have for our citizens, our country, and also for the world. Please apply the best proven methods in our federal forests to preserve them from disease, fire, and other enemies. Please also protect them from those who want only to profit monetarily from their timber and the land on which they stand and have stood for many years. Trees are much, much more than a crop to be harvested. Sincerely yours, Linda S. Pickle
Barbara	Hargrove	Hammond	IN	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Trees take years to grow. We need to leave of growth trees alone.
Laura	Dailey	Indianapolis	IN	Ancient trees belong to all of us or none of us. Selling them to make toilet paper (like P&G does) is short-sided and wastes beauty and carbon sequestration! Please stop! Preserve these gems which make life better in all ways! Imagine if your legacy could be stopping the destruction! Thank you! I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.
Gloria	Raney	Manhattan	KS	I am 69 years old. When I was in high school the U.S. had billions more birds, wilderness that was actually wilderness and mature and old-growth forests galore. When I was in college, I hiked and backpacked in many different states, parks and forests. The old-growth forests are amazing in their beauty and unique ecosystems. It took them a long time to gain that status. Mature and old-growth forests should be preserved at all costs. I spend a lot of time in northern Wisconsin. Logging is common in some areas up there. I understand the need to log in certain areas. I don't like it, but I tell myself that some areas are managed for logging. BUT, there are some privately owned and protected forest tracts that are not logged. These protected tracts are amazingly beautiful and the logged areas are a stark contrast. If only the whole state had been left untouched, what a glorious sight that would be. Anyway, the point is that mature and old-growth forests are a national treasure. We need to preserve them now, before we lose any more of them. These old trees are not crops, they are treasures that need to be saved. These old trees have stood for decades, even centuries, protecting the soil, providing habitat, cleaning the air and cleaning the water. The beauty of an old-growth forest is something everyone should see and experience. I have seen so many damaging environmental changes in my lifetime. We need to reverse the trend and preserve what we can, while we still can. Once these old, beautiful forests are gone, they will be gone forever. Please, please protect our old-growth and mature forests. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.
Judy	Goldsmith	Lexington	KY	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I am a young person (in my 60s) in a senior living setting, and I spend time with older folks, and see their beauty and hear their wisdom -- and their silliness. Just as we are called on to honor aged people, we must honor the trees who also give us life through their respiration and their magnificence. Old growth forests are not an easily-renewable resource. They take many, many generations to regrow. They help filter our water, store carbon, provide habitat. Do you remember a grandparent or older neighbor who rooted you when your arms were too short to hug them, who provided safe space? Old growth trees, with trunks so big we cannot wrap our arms around them, could continue to provide that nurturing space for us -- but not if they are logged. Please leave them standing.
Stephen	Dutschke	Louisville	KY	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests. Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love. More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.

Beverly	Schuler	Adams	KY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>We live in the forest. After a lifetime of cities and jobs, we're fortunate enough to spend our days in mountains and trees. Been here 17 years now, getting kind of old I guess.</p> <p>These past several years... more and more logging here, more and more as people struggle through the greedflation and politically based interest rates.</p> <p>These logging operations completely destroy our hillsides, dirty our streams and lakes. Make this beautiful place ugly and poorer for their effort. Our great grandchildren will see the utter disregard for the planet, all of it from water to trees to air, that our times have left behind. We see it now ourselves. We should all be ashamed.</p> <p>Our trees are not crops. They are the lungs of the earth. Accept that your public trust is quickly vanishing.</p>
Lisa	Schoenbacher	Louisville	KY	<p>Please make permanent protection of old-growth trees/forests a priority. What we have left is too precious to cut. We must lay the groundwork for durable protections for mature forests, to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests. It is a travesty that old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. I didn't know National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks, that National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop. That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth trees - they are irreplaceable.</p> <p>We must protect these forests for future generations. Forests are Valuable! They Provide: Clean Water For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest. Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests. Also, protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love. More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction. We cannot allow this unsustainable development to continue!</p> <p>Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. 80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse. There are no downsides to preserving mature and old-growth forests - please, please put permanent protections in place.</p>
Carla	Brockman	Louisville	KY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. As a child growing up on a 103 acres farm, I roamed the woods, fields & creek. I loved the plants, trees & wildlife I found & respected. As an adult, I have a greater understanding of the interaction among humans & our planet. If we don't learn to better care for our environment, we destroy every day the very air & water supply necessary for our survival. I want better for my grandson & all those who will follow him.</p>
Jeanne	Stangle	Slidell	LA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I grew up on our Indiana family farm with Wabash River frontage, where hollow sycamores were so big to house 5 kids in a rain storm! And cotton wood trees so tall to reach the sky along the Wabash River. Also, my dad took us to Hoosier National Forest and Indiana State Parks such as Springmill and McCormick Creek. Now in 2024, my son now lives near Schenectady, NY, where I have seen 300-500 year old sugar maple trees, a national treasure. And oh the Oaks of all types, and cypress, and sequoias, please protect the big trees everywhere!</p>
Esther	Tyree	Lafayette	LA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. It's extremely important to preserve and protect our national forests not only for its habitat value for wildlife but also for future generations to have opportunities to get out and explore forests and enjoy the beauty of nature.</p>
Sarah	Stewart	Watertown	MA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Please put irreplaceable Trees and Wildlife ahead of short term thinking and profits.</p>
Nancy	McRae	Pepperell	MA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I understand that the US Forest Service is "considering" adopting a nationwide policy to protect old growth forest. I strongly support this action and hope that the Forest Service moves ahead with this plan for the following reasons.</p> <p>While old growth forest that are part of our National Parks system may be protected, old growth trees and mature trees that are in our National Forests are viewed very differently. They are currently viewed as a crop (e.g. like corn) which can be harvested by logging. This is just plain wrong.</p> <p>Our forest lands (especially old grown and mature) are one of the most cost effective means of capturing and storing carbon. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change "forestry can make a very significant contribution to a "low cost" global mitigation portfolio . We need to take full advantage of this opportunity "now."</p> <p>Protecting "our" forest ... keeping more old growth and mature trees standing ... preserves vital habitat for wildlife. Protecting our forest is a smart economic investment . In 2019 Forest Service lands saw 150 million recreation visits which generated 10.1 billion in local spending supporting over 153,000 jobs. And that was 5 years ago. The popularity of outdoor activities has only increased since then.</p> <p>I strongly hope that the U.S. Forest Service charts a course that will protect and conserve mature and old growth forests ... THEY are a national treasure and a key component to a healthy environment and our nation's future.</p>
Margaret	Mcginnis	Hull	MA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>I have been going to national forests since I was very young - the first being the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire.</p> <p>Old growth trees sequester carbon, helping in the fight against climate change, and they do it for free. They provide important wildlife habitat. Mature forests are not corn or wheat crops to be harvested. They need to remain as is for as long as this planet exists.</p>
Rowan	Mulder	Newburyport	MA	<p>Dear U.S. Forest Service,</p> <p>My name is Rowan Mulder. I'm 19 years old, and I've lived next to a state park in Massachusetts for as long as I can remember. There's a hiking trail only 500 feet from my backyard, so I love to go on walks there and explore. It's gotten me to pursue new hobbies like birding and nature photography, and it was a favorite refuge of mine during the COVID pandemic. The forest has helped me discover who I am, and I want a future where everyone has access to protected forests that can do the same for them.</p> <p>I've also been a volunteer for Mass Audubon for the past few years, where I assist with their public education programs. That experience has given me a greater appreciation for wild places and has reminded me that we need to act to protect them if they are going to survive. I now go to school for biology in the Pacific Northwest, where I've been able to interact with nature of an entirely different kind: old-growth forests.</p> <p>The old-growth forests there are amazingly grand and beautiful, not to mention the countless services they provide for us. They're incredible carbon sinks and provide habitat for over 3,000 species of wildlife. According to your estimates, forests nationwide received 150 million recreational visits and generated \$10.1 billion in 2019.</p> <p>Old-growth forests can live to be hundreds of years old, but unfortunately they can disappear far more quickly. I recently found out that old-growth forests on federal lands are unprotected from logging -- apparently a football field worth of natural land is lost to development every 30 seconds! This is unsustainable for our climate, wildlife, and our people; we need old-growth forests.</p> <p>That's why I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. For the sake of our world, our communities, and their wellbeing, please pass a strong and robust National Old-Growth Amendment so that the generations to come can continue to explore and appreciate the wonders of nature. Protect old-growth forests from logging and safeguard these natural landmarks, for their sake and ours!</p>

Katherine	Plosky	Winchester	MA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old growth forests can be a place for animals and plants to thrive as well as a place for people. Humans need to be out in nature as it can drastically improve our mental as well as our physical health. Forests across the country provide habitats for countless species that depend on old trees. Habitat loss is the number one cause of extinction in the United States. In this era of biodiversity loss, we should be doing all that we can to protect these crucial habitats. Trees also help to fight global warming because they take in carbon dioxide and produce oxygen. They trap this carbon dioxide and prevent it from contributing to climate change. This means that old trees have more carbon dioxide inside them than younger ones, making old growth forests especially valuable. In the state that our environment is in, we cannot afford to cut down more trees, destroying habitats and releasing CO2. Please protect old growth forests!
Brittany	Gravelly	Jamaica Plain	MA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Every day, we hear more and more science backing up what we already know: that these old growth forests are vital ecosystems, carbon and methane sinks, air and water filters, weather balancers, soil protectors, and of course, beautiful, wild places that are becoming rarer by the nanosecond. Forests do best without our management. Protect these magnificent monuments now and forever.
Eric	Cornetta	Hingham	MA	8/8/24 Dear U.S. Forest Service, I am an active citizen and outdoor enthusiast. I visit my local White Mountain National Forest regularly in all seasons, and have toured parks all over our great nation in the past. For more than four decades I have written to every level of my government officials, most frequently with the following basic message, 'more Parks, Less Fossil Fuels'. Right now it is critical to save all the remaining old growth and mature forests for their great help in solving the climate crisis. Over logging and related activities are putting old forests AND earth's climate at risk. So please, immediately, lose those ancient policies that emphasize logging over conservation. It would be the greatest service to all U.S. citizens everywhere to secure the Old Growth Amendment as soon as possible. Doing this now, with all our federal forests, is the best way the U.S. Forest Service can help combat climate crisis, as well as staving off loss of our remaining biodiversity. Thanks, Eric Eldering Cornetta 204 South Street Hingham, MA 02043-2628 EECornetta@aol.com 781 740 0628 (Home)
Gail	Veiby	Westborough	MA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Currently, a football field of natural space is lost currently every 30 seconds. Hard to believe, but our National Forests are currently not protected. National Forests fall within the Department of Agriculture so they don't have protections from logging. They are treated like a crop to make things like paper towels. How can we treat this precious resource like a crop? Old growth forests take lifetimes to achieve. They are vital for cooling our planet, providing much needed carbon storage. They protect and are home to 3,000 species which is significant with so many species in decline. They provide outdoor recreation which provides joy to those of all income levels with an increase in participation of 80 percent in recent years. Our National Forests are not only treasured by visitors, but vital to the future of our planet and all the species living on it. These forests need protection now. In this time of global warming, with climate disasters happening in real time, we don't have time to debate this issue. We need to act now. I call on you to lay the groundwork for durable protections for mature forests to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old growth forests.
Jean	Dubrue	Cambridge	MA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. These old growth forests are irreplaceable in the benefit they provide to us in environmental protection; flora & fauna diversity; community & social health; physical well-being; clean water, air, & soil; and economies. Like many things, this is an issue that presents backwards. It's not the forest that relies on us; it's us whose survival depends on the forests. And, most logically, that means old growth forests. A comparison that works is to think of old growth forests as the principle in your bank account. It is simply sound finance to live on your interest; "don't touch your principle." It is incredible that we could even question their essential nature in a time of such climate chaos: heat waves, earth quakes, mud slides, wild fires, tropical storms, flooding, and rivers-in-the-sky... As a person who grew up in a small town named after trees, I say plainly: These living beings are our betters. It is the worst bad form to injure your benefactors. Say it with me: Hugs, not saws.
Alan	Gordon	Newton	MA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I am a huge fan of outdoor spaces, and my family and I enjoy hiking all around the country. Over the last few years, we have hiked in Arizona, Vermont, the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and mostly recently in the Telluride area of Colorado. The wooded areas are some of my favorite. If you have not been to the aspen forest outside of Telluride, you should go - it is one of the most beautiful I have visited. There are so many other locations still on my list to visit, and protecting forests, especially old growth forests is so important - for biodiversity, for carbon sequestration, for outdoor activity, and more. Please, please, please do everything you can to protect our mature and old growth trees and to avoid having them cut down. Thank you. -Alan
Elisabeth	Shaw	Watertown	MA	Old growth forests do a massively important job of carbon sequestration -- in the trees themselves and VERY IMPORTANTLY, in the deep living soil that is an integral part of old growth forest. Old growth forests provide vital and unique habitat that isn't available anywhere else. Old growth forests play a massively important role in cooling the planet. And for anyone lucky enough to find themselves in an old growth forest, they nurture and restore the human soul. Protect and preserve old growth forests!!
Jenna	Lyons	Northborough	MA	Please conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss!
Ernest	Johnson	Abington	MA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I have been to several old growth forests here in Massachusetts both in the blue hills and on the side of Mt Wachusett. I consider these to be priceless treasures that should be revered and preserved for future generations.
John	Hirst	Feeding Hills	MA	We are at a tipping point regarding the climate crisis and approaching the same for biodiversity loss. The Biden administration has taken some significant, admirable steps towards addressing these global threats. This includes Executive Order 14072 and in particular the US Forest Services' draft National Old Growth Forest Amendment (NOGA). In spite of this progress, NOGA contains exceptions that would allow logging and other harmful practices to continue in old-growth and mature forests on our public lands. Now is time to do the Right Thing - make revisions that document and implement meaningful protections for these old-growth and mature forests. They provide not only vast carbon sequestration, but also contain and nurture a wide array of flora and fauna, including endangered and threat species. Further, these forests provide many other benefits, e.g., water filtration, flood protection, recreation enjoyment, etc. I call on the USFS to preserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.
Matt	Bayne	Lutherville Timonium	MD	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Do the right thing and conserve these trees. M. Bayne

Leland	Cheskis	Silver Spring	MD	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Ordinary people like to visit and enjoy old-growth forests. It isn't just the timber industry that you need to be concerned about. Outdoor recreation matters to a great many people. They should be able to behold the majesty of trees that have been standing for centuries.
Elizabeth	Biliske	Preston	MD	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. It should be self-evident with only a small percentage of old growth forests remaining, to preserve the trees still standing.
Clarisse	Holman	Silver Spring	MD	These forests are irreplaceable and too important to be cut down. We need to do all we can to protect these valuable spaces as there aren't enough left. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.
Jane	Woltereck	Phoenix	MD	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I live in an old growth forest with century old trees on my property. I spend thousands of dollars on maintaining the health of my trees. The federal government should be doing the same. Not logging or clearing. Due to climate change, many trees on my property and that of the protected watershed adjacent have died or fallen due to storms. Right now, old-growth and mature forests are one of the best solutions to the climate crisis. But outdated policies that emphasize logging at the expense of other values put our forests at risk. The U.S. Forest Service should prioritize conservation over logging and other extractive uses. Please conserve mature and old-growth trees on federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. In addition the Forest Service should promote the advancement of preservation of our trees and forests.
John	Holland	College Park	MD	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. The work of environmental management requires preservation of naturally vital sites like old-growth forests. These sites are called the lungs of the planet and if we allowed all old-growth forests to be clear cut climate change would rapidly accelerate. Protect these sites and the resources they contain for the future of humanity and American citizens.
Kate	Gelhard	New Windsor	MD	I strongly call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old growth trees are an important part of many eco-systems and must be preserved until nature takes it (not mankind).
Marie	Laporte	Reisterstown	MD	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. When I was growing up outside Chicago, my mother taught me her love of trees. She had grown up in Michigan's upper peninsula surrounded by trees. As I grew older, I came to appreciate the old growth trees even more, because there were so few in the midwest. I recall working at a P&G paper plant where they made toilet paper, diapers and other disposable items and watching huge trees get put down the chipper to be made into these paper products. While some were modest pines grown for the purpose, there were also many large old growth trees and I couldn't help but feel the loss of those magnificent specimens that only days before had shaded a home, a sidewalk, a park or lived in beautiful woods. As I'm now retired, I've hiked in state and national parks in many states and rarely see any of these large magnificent specimens. One can easily travel the country and never see one. We are destroying them without even fully understanding the amazing role they play in the woods. I recently read Finding the Mother Tree, by Suzanne Simard and was astounded by the transfer of chemicals between trees and how these "mother trees" help the forest to regenerate. Simard's research shows that leaving them is crucial for regrowth. New trees are better able to tolerate droughts, floods, and heat when a mother tree is nearby to support them, which is especially critical with the stresses of the climate crisis. I also want my children, grandchildren, and others to see these amazing trees in their own lifetime. Some trees take hundreds of years to mature, far beyond one's lifetime. If we don't save what is left, no one who comes after will appreciate what we've lost. Please protect those trees for everyone.
Lisa	Krausz	Clarksville	MD	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. They are incredibly important and valuable resources for so many reasons including, promoting clean water, cleaner air, fighting global warming, their beauty and the gift they provide to future generations.
Anneliese	Schultz	Gray	ME	Dear U.S. Forest Service, From making fairy circles when I was little to breathing deep on forest walks today, I have always loved the woods. Having for many years taught university-level Italian classes as 'green Italian,' incorporating sustainability, I am increasingly concerned about climate change and hopeful that much greater protection of forests on your part can be a low-cost carbon solution that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. As the IPCC has rightly stated, "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." You have your hands on this greatly needed solution, and my family and I fervently ask you to fully protect old-growth trees from logging and to lay solid groundwork for durable protection of mature forests, to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests. With sincere thanks,
Lynn	Spensley	Scarborough	ME	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old growth should not be logged. I live in Vermont and Maine and see logging trucks weekly loaded with old growth trees. Many of them are on Canadian owned trucks heading to the border. The loss of these trees is not only an environmental concern but also lessens our outdoor experience seeing these beautiful trees. Stop the harvesting.
Peggy	York	Portland	ME	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We need to protect the genetics of old growth forest and fauna. They represent the history of life on earth, surviving eons between various catastrophes, representing the most resilient traits adapted to live in their unique environments. Each tree is a product of millions of years of living, each is unique and part of a whole forest, interdependent on each other. The whole forest must be preserved. To lose any organism is to inflict a wound on the whole bioorganism. We need genetic diversity to survive the unexpected challenges to our biosphere. We must not diminish our probability of survival in the future, by killing off this diversity of life. We will not survive the next millenium by the monocultures produced by agri-corporations. We need the rich diversity of the wild to sustain our biosphere. Don't Touch Old Growth Forests or Wildlife.
Dorothy	Wolf	Alto	MI	I am an avid outdoor enthusiast. I have hiked and backpacked all over the Pacific northwest and up into Canada. When I saw the redwoods and sequoia trees in California, I was awestruck and knew they are worthy of protection. They lifted my spirit in ways nothing else can. Recently we learned that our daughter, after many years of trying to have children, is pregnant with twins. I want them to see these giant trees and have the same experience of grandeur that my husband and I have had. I have also been to the Amazon and witnessed monster trees cut down for what? In a factory there, the trees were made into pallets or even shredded for pulp. I felt like I was in a slaughterhouse. Lets do better here. We still have old growth and mature forests that help to mitigate climate disruption, prevent fires and floods, and bring us so much beauty and wonder. The old growth and mature trees in National Forests belongs to all of us, and we cherish them. We don't want them to be cut down. Please recognize the value of these standing trees and don't allow corporate interests to destroy them. Scientists agree these forests are too valuable to cut. Please listen to them. I'm requesting that the U.S. Forest Service Old Growth Amendment includes keeping old growth and mature forests intact, with no logging allowed. So much has already been cut. What is left must be saved. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.
Linda	Prostko	Caledonia	MI	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction

Michael	Wolf	Alto	MI	<p>I am a retired geologist with 35 years of environmental consulting experience. I also am an avid outdoor enthusiast with over 50 years of hiking, backpacking, and camping experience. I value the federal forests and all that is included in them and am working to protect them for the use and enjoyment of my grandchildren and future generations.</p> <p>Right now, old-growth and mature forests are one of the best solutions to the climate crisis. However, outdated policies that emphasize logging at the expense of other valuable uses put our forests at risk. The USFS should prioritize conservation over logging and other extractive uses.</p> <p>Please conserve mature and old-growth trees on federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss!</p>
Pamela	Goodman	Muskegon	MI	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. The amount of CO2 that these trees absorb to remain healthy is the most important aspect of their existence's. They provide us with the oxygen that is needed for all the life forms on our planet to survive. They also protect the areas where the ground is eroded and provide healthy habitats for plants and animals alike. They are needed more for this reason than for lumber, paper or any other use. The human population is the problem, we think that we are more important than the old growth trees. But we are not, we are the problem. We do not make the oxygen, protect the land and help vegetation or animals survive. We must take control and protect these important trees in order for all of life to exist and survive!</p>
JoEllen	Rudolph	Petoskey	MI	<p>I am totally in support of the US Forest Service making rules and plans to fully PERMANENTLY protect old growth forests. I am also a long time donor to FSEEE (Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics) . I understand the pressure that Forest Service employees receive from the logging, mining and fossil fuel extraction industries and some Congress members</p> <p>Being a Michigander, when we were young, my husband and I hiked to see the Leaning Giant white pine in the Keweenaw Peninsula. We were shocked to see that someone had burned the base of this magnificent tree. The tree is now gone and Michigan has lost something precious. My dream is to someday see the California Redwoods before they are destroyed by climate change induced horrendous forest fires.</p> <p>In this age of seemingly uncontrolled drought, heat waves, as well as Congressional denial of climate change, old growth forests are HUGE carbon sinks. WE NEED OLD GROWTH TREES. I sincerely hope the USFS will act to PERMANENTLY preserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests for their soul soothing value as well as to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Thank you.</p>
JoEllen	Rudolph	Petoskey	MI	<p>I am totally in support of the US Forest Service making rules and plans to fully PERMANENTLY protect old growth forests. I am also a long time donor to FSEEE (Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics) . I understand the pressure that Forest Service employees receive from the logging, mining and fossil fuel extraction industries and some Congress members</p> <p>Being a Michigander, when we were young, my husband and I hiked to see the Leaning Giant white pine in the Keweenaw Peninsula. We were shocked to see that someone had burned the base of this magnificent tree. The tree is now gone and Michigan has lost something precious. My dream is to someday see the California Redwoods before they are destroyed by climate change induced horrendous forest fires.</p> <p>In this age of seemingly uncontrolled drought, heat waves, as well as Congressional denial of climate change, old growth forests are HUGE carbon sinks. WE NEED OLD GROWTH TREES. I sincerely hope the USFS will act to PERMANENTLY preserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests for their awe inspiring value as well as to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Thank you.</p>
Charles	Tazzia	Grosse Pointe Farms	MI	<p>Preserving old-growth forests is the cheapest, fastest and most effective way to combat climate change and the biodiversity crisis. This is a no-brainer.</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
Peggy S.	Collins	Southfield	MI	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I am an 80 yr old woman who had the fortune of enjoying a childhood within a block of a forest of mature trees. I spent much time there. This early relationship and appreciation was part of a way of living that was frugal and easier on the community. It is part of my efforts to learn how we can hope to continue on this beautiful and magical planet I call home. What I have been witnessing as an adult is wholesale and systemic rape and pillage of my shared planet for the sake of profit for a few. Because this deadly system is relatively late in the 'progress' of our colonized and controlled 'civilization', I believe we can strive to remember when it was sustainable. There is no reason to continue wholesale destruction, rather we must nurture our fit within the biodiversity of our shared place. Natural resources are for all on the planet and must not fall into the hands of the greedy, destructive, detached, who see our national forests as a crop, for their profit. There are many other views that are tragic for all except the profiteers but the list is a long one and you already know it. One thing I have recently changed and all can do this as well - I switched to bamboo TP. I believe I feel a gratefulness from biodiversity for doing this. You and others can do this - set an example.</p>
Gerald	Link	Cadillac	MI	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>As a high school teacher, I taught in Ketchikan, Alaska. The views along the route leading there by sea, from either Haines or Prince Rupert, were magnificent due to the bounty of thick old growth forests growing from the Inland Passage shorelines up to the surrounding mountain summits. The different shades of green of the Sitka spruce, Alaskan yellow cedar, western hemlock, western red cedar and other species of the mixed coastal forests impart a serenity to observers on a vessel traveling the protected waterway. Skirting the many islands, both large and small, gives the perspective of diversity in such land and seascapes, especially where they meet in marine tidal environments. A most memorable journey for the first-time ferry passenger.</p> <p>Over my teaching tenure in Ketchikan, I traveled to Anchorage on several occasions flying Alaska Airlines for trainings, conferences, and visiting friends. Often these flights were of the "milk-run" variety, landing at one or more of the airports in southeast Alaska to pick-up or drop-off other passengers: Petersburg, Wrangell, Sitka, and Juneau. Often, ground time may only be 15 to 30 minutes before heading back into the sky and resuming the trip to the end of the run. It was during these times air-borne and flying low over the crests of the forested mountains that I became aware of the amount of Tongass National Forest harvesting that is usually unseen from the rail of a ferry. In many places the mountain sides appear as patch-work quilts where the bare areas indicate the loss of the old growth resources that take centuries to replace with natural seeding.</p> <p>It might leave a somewhat less bitter taste in my mouth knowing that these forest resources were being used by our own citizens, in our own country, for our own products, and for our own use. But the reality remains that most of the allotted forest harvesting is rafted together and towed by ships across the Pacific Ocean to be manufactured into products that often are shipped back to the US for sale after the Asian country of purchase has benefitted from raw material purchase prices, and their selling to consumer prices.</p> <p>During two school years, my building construction students built six three-sided and roofed bus stop shelters for school students waiting for their bus to take them to school in the often-wet climate of the Pacific Northwest. In a joint venture, the students prefabricated a 10' x 20' gable-roofed building that was shipped to another Tongass national forest island location to be used by USFS fisheries biologists and related personnel. Another student construction project (however, quite a bit smaller) was building avian nesting boxes for species known to frequent the Tongass National Forest. The finished nesting box was then placed by forest service personnel.</p> <p>We the people have a connection to old growth forests for many varied kinds of recreation: forest bathing, birding, camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, paddling, nature study, and solitude. So do fish and wildlife. As climate change accepters, we know the value of forests in protecting our air, water, and wildlife resources, carbon storage, and other climate solutions. Let's let them perform their function in protecting other living things. But we need policies that promote these ideals and not just the profit from timber sales.</p>
Brad	Snyder	Maple Grove	MN	<p>As a Science Teacher/Outdoor & Environmental Educator, Mechanical Engineer (Emphasis: Energy & Environmental Science), and an extremely concerned citizen, I wholeheartedly value biodiversity and fighting climate change!!</p> <p>Right now, old-growth and mature forests are one of the best solutions to the Global Climate Crisis!! But outdated policies that emphasize logging at the expense of other values put our forests at greater risk!!</p> <p>The U.S. Forest Service MUST prioritize conservation over logging and other extractive uses!! PLEASE conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the Global Climate Crisis and biodiversity loss!! Thanks!</p>
Nicole	Everling	Eagan	MN	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Right now, old-growth forests are one of the best solutions to the climate crisis. They store carbon in the soil, clean water, and provide habitat for more than 3,000 species of wildlife. Yet, outdated policies that emphasize logging at the expense of other values puts our forests at risk. Therefore, the U.S. Forest Service should prioritize conservation over logging. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. Please conserve mature and old-growth trees on federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Thank you.</p>

Karna	Bloomquist	Trimont	MN	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Most of our needs for forest products are better met by managed, trees we've planted more recently. Any pine beetle-killed trees will be useable in many projects, though not all.</p> <p>In some cases, our industries are better off buying lumber from newer Canadian trees. That is cheaper for new housing.</p> <p>It pains me to think that we are still cutting down old growth forests! I'm 66 years old, and I had thought, a few years ago, that we were beyond the old days of putting profit first.</p> <p>Our old growth forests are also important for our current climate fight! We need the trees to continue storing carbon!</p>
lisa	bergerud	Minneapolis	MN	<p>Old-Growth Forest Management</p> <p>Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. Most Americans don't know this, but National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop.</p> <p>That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth.</p> <p>Your Connection to Forests</p> <p>Recall the first forest you explored.</p> <p>Where was it? How old were you? What did you see?</p> <p>Do you remember the first time you saw a photo of a particular forest that captured your imagination?</p> <p>Where was it? Have you been there yet?</p> <p>If we protect these forests, future generations will be able to make those same memories.</p> <p>Forests are Valuable! They Provide:</p> <p>Clean Water</p> <p>For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest.</p> <p>Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions</p> <p>Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period.</p> <p>According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present."</p> <p>Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.</p> <p>Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love</p> <p>More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests!</p> <p>Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation</p> <p>Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity.</p> <p>In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs.</p> <p>80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse.</p>
Ellen	Rozek	Saint Paul	MN	<p>As a millennial who has lived her entire life in the shadow of the looming climate crisis, conserving our nation's resources, wild places, and biodiversity is of immense importance to me. Conserving our nation's old-growth forests is one of the best, most effective ways to sequester carbon and keep it from entering our atmosphere and warming up our planet. Old-growth forests are home to more than 3,000 species, and provide clean water for animals and humans alike, opportunities for recreation, and more than 150,000 jobs as of 2019.</p> <p>Despite the immense value they provide when allowed to remain intact, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging--treated by the Department of Agriculture as just another crop that we can harvest. This is wrong for so many reasons, chief among them being that once truly old-growth forests are gone, there's no bringing them back.</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
Tamara	Rakow	Rosemount	MN	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Old growth Forests are national treasures. They provide habitat for endangered species, Many wild animals and birds live in those forests.</p> <p>Forests also provide clean water and clean air. Forests provide outdoor recreation. Japanese people value it so much that they have a special term for walking in the woods "forest bathing", it improves people's mood and health in general. Please PROTECT OLD-GROWTH FORESTS!!! Thank you for your compassion towards wildlife and people.</p>
Amy	Grace	Stillwater	MN	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We must make every choice possible to save the earth rather than speed the end of humanity.</p>
Juliann	Rule	Avon	MN	<p>I live in Minnesota, and I love the forests of Minnesota as well as those in the rest of our country. They are necessary for the health of the planet and for the habitat they provide for animals. Currently old-growth and mature forests are one of the best solutions to the climate crisis. However, outdated policies that emphasize logging instead of our values are putting our forests at risk. The U.S. Forest service must prioritize conservation over logging and other extractive uses. It is especially important to conserve all of our mature and old-growth forests in light of the many forest fires throughout the country that are decimating other forests.</p> <p>Old growth forests are valued and even cherished by people from across the country; however, the forests on federal land are not protected from logging, and many people do not realize that our National Forests are managed very differently from our National Parks. Because our National Forests are under the Department of Agriculture, they are treated like crops which they are certainly not.</p> <p>Forests are valuable for many other reasons than logging. They provide clean water, carbon storage and climate solutions, wildlife habitat (I love birds!), and outdoor recreation opportunities.</p> <p>The U.S. Forest Service must prioritize conservation to conserve mature and old-growth trees on federal lands to combat the climate crisis and the loss of biodiversity.</p>
Kieran	Kelly	Rochester	MN	<p>Hello, my name is Kieran Kelly and I am a 23 year old recent college graduate living in Minnesota, the state where I was born and raised, and I am massively concerned about climate change. Right now, I want to do as much as I can to stop this problem from getting worse, and then refocus my efforts into improving life on Earth for everyone. Ambitious, I know, but I love our planet, and I believe that the fixes are easy to come by, just hard to implement.</p> <p>Right now, one of the solutions is being handed to us on a platter: The protection of our beautiful, old growth forests.</p> <p>These forests are without a doubt one of our best solutions to our climate crisis. Not only are they beautiful, but they're valuable to us as human beings. They're one of the most efficient, and most cost-effective ways to absorb and store carbon, to a scalable degree! The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, an organization singularly focused on studying the science of climate change, has stated: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present."</p> <p>These old growth trees are low-cost, and already established, climate solutions! Not only that, protecting our forests is an investment into our economy, and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, the Forest Service reported that the millions of visits to our National Parks generated a total of 10.1 Billion in local spending, which in turn created over 154,000 jobs. Based on those numbers, and the fact that participation in outdoor activities and sports, those numbers have the potential to go up. Way up.</p> <p>I can tell you from personal experience that time outside, surrounded by the beauty of these old growth forests, and the nature that surrounds my home here in Minnesota, has only done me good. I've struggled a lot in the past with mental health, and besides therapy, and medication, nothing has helped me feel more secure or helped me breathe easier than being surrounded by the natural world. I can look up, see the sunlight dappled through leaves, breathe in, and feel safe, because that's what this planet does by growing these incredible trees. They keep us safe. They clean our air, our water, and make the planet an outlier in a universe that has, so far, been void of life. We live in a unique, beautiful, so far one-of-a-kind world.</p> <p>With all of that said, it is absolutely incredible to me that these old-growth forests, on federal land mind you, aren't protected from logging. Instead, because they're not in National Parks, they're treated like a crop, like corn or soybeans, by the Department of Agriculture. This is wrong, undeniably so. These forests can't regrow in a season, they can't be sprayed with growth hormones and brought back year after year. They're hundreds of years old, rich with history and are even revered in fantasy novels, like Lord of the Rings, as ancient, and wise. These trees protect us, so why aren't we protecting them?</p> <p>Please, stop old growth trees from being sent to mills, what we have left of them is too precious to cut. Instead, we should be laying the groundwork to protect them for future generations, and the salvation of our beautiful planet, so the trees we plant today, can be the old growth forests of tomorrow.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

Victor	Poland	Parkville	MO	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. These trees are majestic, awe-inspiring, and provide habitat to numerous animal species and other plants. They are unique to their environments and taking them down would remove a critical piece of the entire circle of life for that ecosystem. Thanks for taking the time to read my comments and concerns.
Margaret Guilfooy	Tyler	Saint Louis	MO	It's imperative the USFS conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I'm calling on you to do the right thing. Old-growth trees provide shade, beauty and habitat for wildlife. They are also a source of respite for those of us seeking peace and solitude away from the cacophony of noise and electronics that dominates our lives. Recent research has shown the restorative power of nature in mitigating anxiety and depression. Old-growth forests cannot be replaced. They've taken decades, even hundreds of years, to mature and provide us and wildlife with their benefits. Don't sacrifice forests for the short-term financial gain for a few.
Larry	Lambeth	Springfield	MO	The United States Forest Service must improve its business model to increase the amount of old growth forest that is protected. It is a disgrace that old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. Many species of flora and fauna are totally dependent upon the type of habitat that these old-growth forests provide. I was born in California and have lived in Florida, Hawaii, Kansas and Missouri. California has done the most to protect old-growth forests and still falls short of protecting sufficient tracts of old-growth forests. Kansas has no old-growth, Florida has some old-growth in the everglades, but it is a different type and inaccessible by many people. I currently live in Missouri and almost all of our timber has been harvested at one time or another. Arkansas still has some remote areas where the hills maintain old-growth in a limited amount. The USFS must act to protect these areas along with those in California, western states, the South and Appalachia. As population increases, there is increased demand for outdoor activities which in turn increases pressure on these habitats. As you know, forests protect watersheds that provide clean water and provide habitat, wildlife, fishing streams, recreational areas, solitude, and provide a reserve for use in reseeded and restoring destroyed forest habitat. With rapidly accelerating Climate Change adversely impacting our old-growth forests, there is an increased need for outdoor activity, wildlife's need for habitat, and needed carbon storage. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I again strongly urge the USFS to preserve much larger areas of old-growth trees. Please note, that I said old-growth trees not timber which is what private loggers are hoping to destroy and utilize them for profit. Old-growth forests provide habitat, recreation, clean water and air along with boosting the economy of localities that have access to these protected areas. For our forests, wildlife, quality of life and future,
Annie	AuBuchon	Saint Louis	MO	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. If we don't protect our land and especially our old growth forests we don't stand a chance. They need our protection but also, we need them. We can't continue to act as if other things are more important. They're simply not. So much life depends on our land. Nothing is worth more than that. I have so many good memories of being in the National Forests in Missouri. I am drawn to these areas. I have been ever since I was a kid. I'm 72 years old now and I still trek those areas. And as long as I can I will continue to do so.
Brian	Coates	Columbia	MO	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Once we lose these forest they are gone, this isn't a matter of just being able to plant new trees, these forest are essential to the ecosystem and survival of many species that call them home. I ask for that we protect them for ourselves and for our futures.
David	Phelps	Saint Louis	MO	Old-growth forests on federal lands are unprotected from logging. Instead, they are treated like another crop, which is the wrong approach. I still have memories of visiting the Shawnee National Forest with family. If we protect these forests, future generations will be able to make those same memories. Forests help provide clean water, store carbon at minimal cost, and provide habitat for wildlife. Forests also help mitigate climate change. Please protect our forests.
Nellie	Medlin	Holly Springs	MS	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I moved to a rural area during Covid from Memphis, both areas have plenty of trees, which I love, old or new. I actually let part of my property, all the trees that sprouted on their own continue to grow. I now have deer, a fox family, raccoon families, rabbits, all kinds of birds, butterflies, etc living there, after having to listen to my previous neighbor tell me, you should cut those saplings down, why? Just because you clear cut your property? Now, 4 years later, as I go out for errand runs, every place I look trees are being cut and bulldozers taking them down. So sad to see this happening but it was the same way in Memphis. I just wish humans could think of wildlife and the environment more than greed for a change.
Norman	Bishop	Bozeman	MT	It is essential that USFS conserves mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. As a graduate student in Forestry and Wildlife Management at Colorado State University, and a national park ranger for 36 years, I have followed forest management in the U.S., ever since. Numerous research projects demonstrate that the best "use" of forests in this time is to remain standing; to provide a carbon sink, give us oxygen, and provide habitat for a galaxy of species that depend on intact forests.
Christina	Meyers	Bozeman	MT	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old trees hold answers to resilience that humanity has yet to learn. We will not learn by cutting them down. Biodiversity is the key to our survival. We need to keep the web of life complex to survive.
Sandy	Schott	Kalispell	MT	I am Sandy Schott. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Please do the right thing here!
Abigail	O'Neill	Durham	NC	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. As a retiree, I travel a few times a year - always somewhere different. The only places I must see again are the old growth redwood and sequoia forests. Of all my trips - of everywhere throughout the world - I value that destination the most. It took my breath away. Please protect them. Please. Please. For all people. For all that they bring to the world. They are living beauty. They are life. And you have the power to protect them.
Cary	Brief	Raleigh	NC	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. There are so many reasons why we need to protect these rare and beautiful forests and only three reasons they are destroyed. Greed, ill will and ignorance destroy and understanding, caring and decency allow life to continue as it should. If I really have to list why not destroying an old growth beauty needs to be saved from the saws - if you let greed win then what does this say about the decision makers?
Deborah	Milkowski	New Bern	NC	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I am deeply concerned about climate change. On a daily basis we are bombarded by its negative impacts but I believe that we can work towards a future where people and nature co-exist and thrive. Therefore, I am working with key environmental organizations to combat climate change through preserving forests, particularly old growth forests. Intact old growth and mature forests provide a significant carbon sink and offer a low cost solution to help mitigate climate related impacts. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Furthermore, in addition to offsetting climate related damages by protecting forests we protect vital habitat for wildlife. Every 30 seconds the United States loses a football field worth of natural space to development. With this habitat loss innumerable species are at risk of extinction. By protecting intact forest ecosystems we can protect these vulnerable species. Therefore, our old growth forests must be protected from logging, agriculture/grazing and other extractive uses. I urge the U. S. Forest Service to conserve and protect old growth forests in perpetuity and develop a plan to protect mature forests and enable these forests to become our next generation of old growth forests. Thank you.

Brian	Slosek	Durham	NC	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Tree are life and fundamental to a healthy land and it's people
Preston	Szczesniak	Chapel Hill	NC	<p>Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging.</p> <p>For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest.</p> <p>Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. Therefore, the best economic and ecological tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.</p> <p>Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love. More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.</p> <p>Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. 80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse.</p> <p>Therefore, I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
Laura	Luyendyk	Raleigh	NC	<p>Trees protect us so we need to protect them! Once they're gone, they're gone. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Thank you, Laura</p>
Richard	Hammer	Raleigh	NC	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old growth forests create a natural environment that promotes health as described by a German forester in the book: The Hidden Life of Trees. I find by walking in old growth forest areas I experience stress release and elevation of mild depression. I am a retired counselor with over 30 years experience in mental health.
Michele	Clark	Chapel Hill	NC	<p>I am very concerned about how the U.S. Forest Service is managing our mature and old-growth forests. These are some of our most critical habitats for our wildlife and our ecosystem's overall health. I've hiked in them ever since I was a kid and would be devastated to know that they are not being preserved for future generations!</p> <p>Please do not allow these to be destroyed by logging, mining or other industrial interests!</p>
Gail	Jennings	Carolina Beach	NC	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We need places for our wildlife, plants to create oxygen.
Robert	Eidus	Marshall	NC	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Not only are the old growth trees important to preserve but the plants under the canopy, many that are medicinal, need those trees to maintain their species. In the past, logging old growth for profit did not take into account the overwhelming benefits of old growth to our air, water and biodiversity. It is now time for a change to recycle and reuse old growth lumber instead of cutting live trees down.
Eric	Thompson	Bismarck	ND	Play a game with nature and reality only if you are prepared to lose. Mankind has never existed without the help of nature and reality cannot be argued with. Personally, I don't want to find out what acting like a fool and dumping on our oldest companion and trying to cheat something that can't be cheated out of anything will bring us.
Ann	Duey	Omaha	NE	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I am a nature lover, an avid birder and a climate voter. The benefits of saving old growth forests are obvious. We are all feeling the effects of climate change. It is a disaster that must be mitigated as much as possible. Yes, even birds and other wildlife are affected by the climate extremes we are experiencing.
Rosemary	Fore	Danbury	NH	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Please end the cutting of old-growth trees and let mature trees grow in all national forests.</p> <p>Under your current proposal, our climate-critical old-growth and mature trees could still be sent to the mill. When these trees are cut down and processed, much of their stored carbon is rapidly released.</p> <p>It can take decades or even centuries to return to the scale of carbon capture provided by our oldest forests. The climate crisis is upon us now as we experience record-shattering heat and widespread climate disasters -- we don't have time to regrow these forests.</p> <p>That's why I'm asking you to ensure that your final policy:</p> <p>? Stops old-growth trees from being cut down and sent to the mill ? Sets the stage for durable protections for mature trees so they can become our next generation of old-growth trees</p> <p>To build upon our momentum and fulfill the promise of the Biden administration's executive order two years ago recognizing the importance of our oldest forests in the fight against climate change, I'm counting on you to stop the cutting of old-growth trees and let mature trees stand in all national forests.</p>
Barry	Trogu	Toms River	NJ	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Trees provide a super source of oxygen which human life and animals require to survive. Removing these trees will cause more harm to planet Earth!
Brittany	Jacobsen	Hoboken	NJ	<p>I aimed to integrate key aspects from the information provided, focusing on the personal connection to the Northeastern forests, the significance of the proposed National Old-Growth Amendment, and the broader environmental benefits of protecting mature and old-growth forests. However, to ensure I've captured all relevant points, I can incorporate more specific details from the original content, like references to the challenges posed by current forest management practices or the specific asks for the U.S. Forest Service. Here's a more detailed revision:</p> <p>---</p> <p>As someone who grew up in the Northeast, I have always been captivated by the ancient forests that dot our landscape. These old-growth forests, teeming with life and history, have fostered a deep connection within me to nature and its preservation.</p> <p>The U.S. Forest Service's proposed National Old-Growth Amendment could mark a pivotal change in how we treat these critical ecosystems. Currently, our federal forests, which are managed within the Department of Agriculture, are often seen as mere commodities, much like crops. This perspective leads to management practices that prioritize logging over conservation, an approach that threatens the ecological and cultural heritage these forests represent.</p> <p>I urge the U.S. Forest Service to adopt the proposed amendment and shift its focus towards conservation. Specifically, I support the calls to halt the milling of old-growth trees and to lay the groundwork for durable protections that allow mature forests to thrive into the next generation. It's crucial that we protect these ecosystems not only for their beauty and biodiversity but also for their role in carbon storage and as havens for recreation.</p> <p>Let us be the generation that chooses to protect and value our oldest forests, recognizing them as more than timber but as irreplaceable parts of our natural heritage and essential allies in the fight against climate change.</p>

Mark	Canright	Asbury	NJ	Greetings!! I am a young person and farmer who cares about safeguarding our environment and ecosystems. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Please consider the following suggestions: Please stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. There is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut. Please lay groundwork for durable protections for mature forests, to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests. Thank you for your time!!
Ellen	Pedersen	Vineland	NJ	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.
Susan	Whitsell	Englewood Cliffs	NJ	I am begging and challenging you, I call on you, the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests. Forests serve many purposes. They are things and places of beauty. Places of peace and tranquility. Trees lower the temperature of the air and help control climate change. Forests provide habitats for millions of animals from tiny centipedes to mountain lions. Without forests, many animals would become extinct. It is up to you, THE USFS, to preserve them. Step up and do what is right. Susan
Karen	Estok	Manalapan	NJ	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I am deeply saddened by the state of our earth and am fearful for what will we are leaving for our grandchildren and their children to come. We have the utmost responsibility to protect our majestic wildlife and pristine wild places for healthy ecosystems and future generations. To allow the unnecessary destruction of these things for the benefit of greedy corporations and special interest groups is not only shameful, it is an international disgrace. What a country chooses to save is what a country says about itself. The whole world is watching. Choose well for our earth, our future.
Bettina	Hempel	Teaneck	NJ	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.
Denise	Lytle	Woodbridge	NJ	I am from Woodbridge, New Jersey and I care deeply about the environment. I may not be a hiker or out in nature a whole lot, but I understand the value and importance of protecting our forests and how this affects everyone. Forests are extremely valuable because they provide: 1. Clean water: For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest. 2. Carbon storage and climate solutions-According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." 3. Wildlife habitat: Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love. 4. Outdoor recreation: Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.
Christy	Morganstein	Randolph	NJ	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. My husband and I are avid birders. We like to drive our van across the country visiting National Parks and Forests hiking, camping and looking for new 'lifer' birds. As bird populations plummet and climate change increases stress on bird populations, a study has found that old-growth forests may provide a refuge for the species most sensitive to rising temperatures like hermit warblers -- a species I haven't had the chance to see yet! Old-growth forests hold much of the Earth's carbon, and their variety of tree species and habitats can be a refuge for many species. Birds that depend on old-growth forests are at risk. The biggest threat to bird populations is habitat loss in the form of unsustainable logging operations, overgrazing on agricultural lands, and the destruction of irreplaceable habitat for housing, farming and warehouses. Halting the extinction of precious bird species and reversing declines means preserving remaining intact habitat, and encouraging good forest management practices that do not include logging of old-growth forests. The US Forest Services needs to preserve this precious resource and end logging. Please conserve mature and old-growth forest to protect North American bird species before it is too late.
Brian	Russo	North Haledon	NJ	Trees absorb carbon dioxide and provide oxygen for us to breathe as well as stabilize soil, absorb water, create shade and provide homes for animals. There is no justification for chopping down trees. Plant bamboo or hemp. They both grow much faster, require less water & pesticides and make the same products.
Leah	Yavuz	Randolph	NJ	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. The magic from my childhood exists among the trees and still holds on today. I have three children who I brought into this world to make it a better place. Without these beautiful old growth forests to absorb carbon, protect our earth, give homes to animals, and beautify the world, my children are left with a WORSE earth than when they were born. I beg you to leave the forests alone. Leah Burkhard
Ann	Van Hise	Cream Ridge	NJ	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. The beauty and wonder of forests speak to my soul. Old-growth and mature trees provide much of what we humans take for granted, but much of what we need to survive - clean water, air, soil and habitat for essential wildlife. Logging destroys what has taken, in some cases, centuries to produce, and will never return to the fullness we require. I feel like these trees are our friends, begging us to let them live. What have they done to you, except provide health and beauty? I have lived near woodlands most of my life and the enrichment provided is immeasurable. As I write this, I view a changing sky through the delightful canopy of mature black walnut trees. I would have it no other way. So many children have never experienced a woodland walk, which would provide a calmer, softer side of the world to them, and would create a much better world view as they grow up. We CANNOT afford to take this possibility away from future generations. The woods and the multitude of creatures inhabiting it are PRICELESS!!!!
Jean	Stevens	Ranchos De Taos	NM	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We must stop climate change and need trees for carbon storage. Also, for recreation and important wildlife habitat which is diminishing each year.
Chemen	Ochoa	Santa Fe	NM	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. This is unacceptable.
Russell	Milazzo	Albuquerque	NM	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old growth forests are a crucial part of our ecosystem and need our help
Carol	A Sassaman	Hanover	NM	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. From the forests of Pennsylvania where I'm from to the Redwoods and Sequoias of California, these forests bring awe and peace. And my visits there remain firmly fixed in my memories. I'm fortunate to own land in New Mexico and can walk amongst the juniper and pinon, the Ponderosa Pine and the oak. It fills something in me that nothing else does. We as humans are connected to this part of the world in important ways and risk losing much if we don't recognize this.

Ronald	Schoenewolf	Henderson	NV	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I have been a person who enjoys discovering new places to explore during my entire life. Forests played a large part of my life growing up. Every time there is a fire somewhere, no matter where, it bothers me. I am asking the U.S. Forest Service to help protect our forests. Thanks.
Kennard	Woods	Las Vegas	NV	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. When I was a boy my family moved from central Kansas to eastern Missouri. I will never forget my first trips into Clark (now Mark Twain) National Forest in the Ozarks, a land of deep magical forests, deep valleys, and clear-running streams emerging from enchanting springs. Although much of the forest was recovering (thanks to the Forest Service!) from years of clear-cutting, there were inspiring sections of tall, old growth short-leaf pine. I felt protected and comforted in the forest that taught me to value and respect the land, and, almost 70 years, I want to ensure that future generations have the same opportunity that I had.
Denise	Martini	Las Vegas	NV	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Logging is counterproductive to the idea of preserving both the forests and the environment that they protect. Old-growth forests, especially, are NOT crops. They are protectors of clean water and habitats for wildlife. We must save the remaining forests in the United States.
Colleen	McMullen	Carson City	NV	I am a life-long westerner who cares deeply about the state of our forests across the country, especially the old - growth forests that are threatened by the timber industry and which the USFS should do more to protect, not exploit. Coming from the Nevada high desert, I do not take for granted the determination to survive that our desert plants and trees make in this demanding landscape that is getting hotter and dryer by the day - as well as the growing struggle to survive that all our national forests face around the country. I ask the following: Stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. There is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut. Lay groundwork for durable protections for mature forests, to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests. Protect the aged as they protect new growth. Despite being cherished by citizens across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. I know that National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks - with the USFS treating them just like a crop. That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth - Protect our precious elderly neighbors just as they protect new growth. Starting when I was a child I have often visited relatives and friends in California, Utah and Oregon and shall never forget the first time I walked among the old Redwood and Sequoia stands in my youth. Nor will I ever forget the many campgrounds sheltered in the Humboldt-Toiyabe's massive forest where I have spent many happy days. If we protect these aged forests, future generations will be able to make those same memories. Forests are Valuable! Water - For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest. Carbon capture -Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests. Wildlife Habitat -Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife of more than 3,000 species that live live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction. Outdoor Recreation -Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. 80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse. While all these "benefits" are important, the overriding truth is that forests that are allowed to thrive undisturbed nurture and protect the precious life-force of our planet on a scale that no human technology can replicate. They deserve to be left free to do this life-sustaining work. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.
G	Clemson	Las Vegas	NV	Old growth trees are NOT a "renewable resource". I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Consequently, your thinking, decisions, and actions really matter for setting needed HOLISTIC trends for the improved future of humans on Earth. Long-standing bad habitual bought CODDLING of the paper/lumber industry by government agencies is antithetical to long term health of Earth for humans and all other beings too. We know better now than in the not too distant past when our planet seemed endlessly "providing", and when we had virtually NO understanding of ecosystem health and human impacts that profiteers try hard to have us all ignore at the peril of even this myopic group of self-justifying take-the-money-and-run exploiters. Humans need to develop and employ new attitudes about what we have thankfully managed to relatively preserve at this point from ANTHRONARCISSTIC localized exploitation (and from externally generated air and water born pollution, and now excessive man caused warming that increasingly preoccupies your service with firefighting), i.e. the myopic cultural attitude that ALL exists for its supposed "utility" to humans, vs having an inherent right to exist for ITS OWN SAKE, whether a rock or stream or tree or "charismatic megafauna". Respect for ALL BEINGS, i.e. anything that "be's" or exists is needed! Old growth and ALL forests are inherently vulnerable to human expansion worldwide, and even though legal "wilderness" status here is wonderful for all beings, it is tenuous given all the greedy and selfish exploiters that continue to try to undermine it as "best" they can. Please help change the MAN "wins" over NATURE attitude and habit that has consciously and sub-consciously dominated Western culture's habits and actions in particular for hundreds of years. A "useful" tree "farm" is a biological desert, while old growth forests are the magnificent diverse complexities that our planet and humans deserve and need. Save what remains.
Alec	Thorp	Yorktown Heights	NY	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. 'survival of the fittest? doesn't really apply to most situations in nature. Humanity, therefore, must stop using that as their excuse to not care about the natural world. So please, pass these new rules and do the right thing.
Beverly	Zilkowski	Slate Hill	NY	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. God made the trees for a good reason,let them live their natural life span. You are not in any position to have the final say. Thank you. All living things deserve this right to live harmoniously without interference from the human race.
Donna Robin	Lippman	New York	NY	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. One chance. Once they are gone, they are gone forever. Do everything to preserve old-growth forests.
Elaine	Sacco	Colonie	NY	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Trees are more than a commodity. Cutting down old growth trees is like canabazing our grandparents. Trees not stop global warming they are anchors to the ecosystem we all benefit and everything around it. With the deteriorating mental health in our country we need honor, protect and study old growth trees not destroy them. When I am near large old trees it a different feeling than a young forest. Doctors even prescribe "Forest baths" to improve mental health. Please upgrade policies to protect giant anchors of protection for us now an a step into the future. Elaine Sacco 28 De Voe Dr Albany, NY

Stephen	Woodard	Malta	NY	<p>Dear U.S. Forest Service,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong support for the protection of old-growth forests and to urge the U.S. Forest Service to adopt the proposed Old-Growth Amendment. These forests are invaluable, and it is crucial that we take immediate action to ensure their preservation.</p> <p>First and foremost, it is imperative to stop old-growth trees from being harvested for timber. There is broad consensus that the remaining old-growth forests are too precious to cut. We must lay the groundwork for durable protections for mature forests, allowing them to develop into the next generation of old-growth forests.</p> <p>Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. Unlike National Parks, which are managed for preservation, National Forests fall under the Department of Agriculture and are often treated like crops. This approach is fundamentally flawed, especially for mature and old-growth forests.</p> <p>Your Connection to Forests</p> <p>I recall the first forest I explored as a child. It was dense evergreens and hardwood in the Adirondack Mountains, and I was 7 years old. The towering trees and the rich biodiversity left an indelible mark on me. I also remember seeing a photograph of the Tongass National Forest that captured my imagination. Although I have not yet visited, I hope to one day experience its beauty firsthand. Protecting these forests ensures that future generations can create similar memories.</p> <p>Forests are Valuable! They Provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clean Water: For more than half of the U.S. population, clean water originates in nearby National Forests, not at the tap. - Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions: Forests are among the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective means of absorbing and storing carbon. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, forestry can significantly contribute to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that synergizes with adaptation and sustainable development. <p>In conclusion, protecting our old-growth forests is not just an environmental imperative but a moral one. These forests provide clean water, store carbon, and offer recreational and spiritual value. By adopting the Old-Growth Amendment, the U.S. Forest Service can ensure that these irreplaceable ecosystems are preserved for future generations.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments. I look forward to seeing the U.S. Forest Service take decisive action to protect our old-growth forests.</p>
Peter	Wood	Cornwall	NY	Please protect our old growth forests - they are national treasures!
Nivo	Rovedo	Lagrangeville	NY	<p>Forests are so critically important to our and the planet's well being.</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Forests are Valuable! They Provide:</p> <p>Clean Water</p> <p>For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest.</p> <p>Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions</p> <p>Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period.</p> <p>According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present."</p> <p>Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development.</p> <p>The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.</p> <p>Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love</p> <p>More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests!</p> <p>Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation</p> <p>Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity.</p> <p>In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs.</p> <p>80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse.</p> <p>Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging.</p> <p>Most Americans don't know this, but National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks</p> <p>National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop.</p> <p>That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth.</p>
Scott	Davis	Fort Edward	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We now know that saving mature trees is vital in protecting the land and water from pollution, erosion, and fire. They are not only a carbon sink but provide the clean air and water we so desperately need. As a father, my concern for the future is to have a livable environment. I understand the politics involved are surrounded by economic sustainability, however with a small amount of progressive change we know there are better ways to supply paper and building materials. I don't believe we can fix the damage we have already done to our planet, but we can stop progression of our eroding environment if we save what we have. Please consider protecting the beauty and necessity of the old growth trees we have remaining.</p> <p>In desperation,</p> <p>Scott Davis</p>
Timothy	Frink	Nassau	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old growth trees by definition are irreplaceable.</p> <p>I cannot think of a single reason why would ever need to cut down these ancient trees. If lumber is needed, we can get it elsewhere from sustainable sources.</p> <p>But, at the end of the day, those trees belong to the the earth, pre-dating every human on the planet. They are part of the earth can/must not be treated like consumable commodities.</p> <p>At some point we have to abandon our arrogance learn to recognize the difference between ownership and stewardship. We do not own old-growth trees, but we ARE responsible to guard and care for them (and the rest of the Earth).</p> <p>Protect what is left before there is nothing left to protect.</p>

Linda	Cronin	Rochester	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. People take old-growth forests for granted because they've always been there and they always should be. Old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. This needs to change. National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop. That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth. These forests, should be protected for future generations.</p> <p>Forests are valuable! They provide clean water. Clean water doesn't start at the tap it starts in a nearby National Forest. Clean water needs to be readily available to one and all as it is a necessity of life.</p> <p>Perhaps most importantly now, forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.</p> <p>Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love. More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.</p> <p>As to the economic advantages, protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. 80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse.</p>
Eric	Bare	Vestal	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. They are among the best carbon sinks (in terms of trees) and do what newly planted trees will take decades to do. Simply preserving such trees is a vital, low cost way to address climate change gases. The trees are also essential habit for much wildlife some of which are endangered. The also inspire a sense of awe and attract thousands of tourists. There is not much old growth forest left. The unique remainder should be strongly protected.</p>
Sharon	Nolting	New York	NY	<p>Old growth forests are a national treasure that has been decimated for many years by lack of understanding of their value and the influence of the logging industry, etc. These forests are most effective at storing carbon to show down the rate of climate change. They are also long developed ecosystems that provide habitat for innumerable wildlife species. Cutting them down to be replaced by young forests - or not at all - is a travesty that is totally avoidable. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I urge you to do the right thing for this country and for the planet.</p>
Donald	Banaszak	Stockton	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We live in rural NY State's western region and have spent a lifetime of vacations seeking out and visiting the few remaining remnants of old growth forest. These magnificent specimens of trees which are the oldest living things in this great country. We have spent many nights in National Forest campgrounds and have hiked hundreds of miles of trail system in our USAF park system. Thank you for the work you do. It's the old growth and older growth areas that need protection. These forests are a true example of total forest ecology and the only way they should be managed is to leave them alone. The diverse and unique ecology of these un-manipulated woodlands are a rare source of diversity and unique species of all forms of life from the mycelium in the ground to the spectacular wildflower displays to trees that were here at the birth of our nation. The actual areas of these old growth forests are small in comparison to production forests and need to be preserved for scientific investigation, carbon storage, their water filtering abilities, wildlife habitat and the enjoyment of Americans and visitors wishing to recreate gently in the outdoors. Please protect this vanishing old and older growth forests for the prosperity, of all future generations.</p>
Rita	Racioppo	Staten Island	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>i don't need to write some long letter. the bottom line... forests mean oxygen ... we need oxygen... we need CLEAN air.</p> <p>no one on this planet should NEED to write a LETTER to beg for these things to be saved... we should be planting thousands instead of mowing thousands down!!!</p>
Phillip	Hope	New York	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old-Growth Forest Management Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. Most Americans don't know this, but National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop. That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth. Your Connection to Forests Recall the first forest you explored. Where was it? How old were you? What did you see? Do you remember the first time you saw a photo of a particular forest that captured your imagination? Where was it? Have you been there yet? If we protect these forests, future generations will be able to make those same memories. Forests are Valuable! They Provide: Clean Water For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest. Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests. Wildlife Habitat Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction. Outdoor Recreation Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. 80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse.</p>
Kasey	Jueds	Shokan	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. My name is Kasey Jueds, and I grew up loving and being nurtured by forests in Wisconsin. Now I live in NY State, surrounded by the forests of Catskill Park. Our forests, especially old-growth forests, are national treasures. I was shocked and horrified to learn recently that old-growth forests on federal lands are NOT protected from logging. This seems completely wrong to me, in so many ways. Forests are not only beautiful and healing places, they are incredibly valuable as well. They provide clean water (more than half the population of the US relies on water sources that begin in National Forests). They store carbon incredibly efficiently and cheaply, and for that reason are one of the best defenses we have against the climate emergency. They provide habitat for myriad more-than-human animals and other living beings. And they provide us humans with delight and pleasure, as places where we love to camp, fish, hike, snowshoe, and explore.</p> <p>For all these reasons and more, it is imperative that we protect our old-growth forests. Specifically, please prevent trees from old-growth forests from being sent to the mill. Old-growth trees are infinitely precious, and the ones we have must not be lost in this way. Also, please do whatever you can to lay the groundwork for protecting mature forests, which will become our next generation of old-growth forests in due time.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.</p>

Rona	Fried	Huntington Station	NY	<p>Once again, I forcefully ask you to finalize complete protection for mature and old-growth trees on Forest Service lands across the US.</p> <p>Although you say you're finalizing a plan to protect our forests, I continually read about non-profits that are suing to stop you from destroying forests through Logging.</p> <p>A true forest protection plan BANS logging.</p> <p>Our oldest forests are national treasures and should be treated as such. Their habitat is irreplaceable for countless species, while protecting our water sources, absorbing greenhouse gases, and keeping humans emotionally healthy.</p> <p>I can't begin to tell you how much I rely on healthy forests to keep me healthy every single day. I've spent about 20 years personally clearing out invasive plants in my local forests because I care so much.</p> <p>Would your job be a lot easier if you just left forests alone????</p>
Kyra	Legaroff	Brooklyn	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. This is one of the most important steps we can take!</p>
Patricia	Matteson	High Falls	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I am Dr. Patricia Matteson of High Falls, New York. I am lucky enough to live in an inholding, within Mohonk Preserve, a 12 square mile of protected Shawangunk Ridge that ranges from Rosendale to Port Ewen NY. My house is one of only a half dozen that are within the west side of the Preserve and because of the topography and lack of major roads, virtually the entire west flank of the ridge is a wildlife corridor. I grew up on the east flank of the ridge and I ranged everywhere, in all four cardinal directions, as a child and teenager. Despite the depredations of agrarian people in the 18th and 19th centuries, the current second growth forests have returned. Just in my lifetime I've seen not only the woods growing, but the return of Black Bear, Bald Eagles, Osprey, Beaver, Fishers, and Coyotes. The woods are my cathedrals; the flora and fauna they protect and foster, my comfort and inspiration. The entire area, including the Catskill Mountains Preserve, and Minnewaska State Park Preserve are extremely popular vacation areas because people in the crowded NYC-Boston- New Jersey - Philadelphia region have real needs, both physical and psychological, to be outdoors, in the living woods, on the ridges and in the mountains, away from crowds, cars, roads, buildings and all the noisy, polluted, hard asphalt, concrete, glass, and brick environments.</p> <p>My aim in this note is to ask you to save America's Old Growth Forests especially, and even those that surround me. Their very existence across America is under siege now more than ever before due to climate change and its increasingly extreme effects, due to all sorts of insect infestations, such as pine beetle, woolly adegid, elm beetle, spongy moth and, of course, due to the unfettered predations of humans in the course of their profit-making forest clearances. Specifically please support the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? U.S. Forest Service Old-Growth Amendment o Stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. There is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut. o Lay groundwork for durable protections for mature forests, to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests. ? Old-Growth Forest Management o Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. o Most Americans don't know this, but National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks ? National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop. ? That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth. <p>More reasons to protect Old Growth Forests are because they provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? Clean Water o For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest. ? Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions o Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. o According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." o Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. o The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests. ? Wildlife Habitat o Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love o More than 3,000 species
Susan	Demark	New Paltz	NY	<p>Millions of acres of unprotected old-growth forests remain at risk. These forests are a proven means of carbon capture and storage technology. These forests need to be protected.</p>
Patrick	Mccann	Farmington	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period.</p> <p>According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present."</p> <p>Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development.</p> <p>The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.</p>
Rhoda	Schlamm	Woodside	NY	<p>I'm writing to you today as a 80-year-old urban dweller who like everyone else on our planet depends on the preservation of old-growth and mature forests to help keep them from continuing down the path of destruction that has clearly accelerated in recent months and years. These forests are one of our last best hopes to keep air, earth, and water in some sort of balance for all of us to survive. They are burning up at an extremely rapid rate by human carelessness and naturally triggered fires. It is almost beyond the tipping point now, so clearly we must all do more to protect our forests, especially the precious old-growth and mature ones that can take centuries to replace. As you are well aware, logging is allowed by the Dept of Agriculture in National Forests and should never have been.</p> <p>We can make a difference if many more people become aware of the urgency and importance of preserving our natural inheritance and become conservators instead of destroyers of our environment. Governments can and should be doing much more to protect them. This is where you can make a big difference as well to help protect old-growth forests from logging and save the wildlife in all forms that depend on all forests.</p> <p>I've learned that more than 3,000 species of wildlife live within the National Forests and the US loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds. Can you imagine that it won't be long before these creatures run out of natural space and our carbon levels will rise and be unable to support all life at this rate? This is deadly serious.</p> <p>Lands managed by the Forest Service support not only wildlife but jobs, recreational tourism, and outdoor sporting, camping and hiking, but of course even these need to be supervised activities that don't trigger damage to these precious areas.</p> <p>I am entreating you to prioritize conservation efforts over logging and other extractive uses of our public mature and old-growth National Forests to preserve them indefinitely against commercial logging and development. They are our bulwark against rapid, dangerous climate change and loss of habitat for so many creatures that rely on them to survive. Thank you.</p>
Nanette	Gilligan	Kingston	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Hi, my name is Nanette Gilligan and I love forests. Old growth forests are especially precious. They can't be replaced. Please update your policies and don't let greedy and shortsighted corporations destroy our forests. Thank you, Nanette</p>
Elizabeth	Smyth	High Falls	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Trees are our other selves. I grew up next door to an old overgrown estate, which to a child was an enchanted forest. My family also used to visit an old growth forest in nearby Connecticut called Cathedral Pines. I am a minister's daughter, but I never felt such an awe in any church or cathedral, which, by the way, take inspiration from ancient forests. I am a novelist. Ancient trees are part of everything I write.</p>

Charles	Ruas	New York	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old Growth Forests as a rare national treasure should be administered by the the National Parks rather than the Agriculture Dept. as a crop, or else they should adopt the same policy as if administering a national park for future generations. They are a unique place to teach the history of this country/continent to children, as well as connection to the environment and wildlife for an understanding of nature. They represent this land before the settlement of this nation, as well as nature in its pristine form. You know this from the millions of visitors to Old Growth Forests annually.</p> <p>On the practical level you know that Old Growth Forests are major protection against climate change, a low cost carbon solution, as well as protecting endangered wildlife habitat in the face of our loosing so many native species to extinction, not to mention all those threatened with extinction. Please adopt a management policy that would protect and conserve Old Growth Forests as part of our national heritage.</p> <p>Sincerely yours Dr. Charles Ruas</p>
Jeannette	Lovetri	New York	NY	<p>How Does Someone Who Has Lived in A City All Her Life Come To Love Trees'</p> <p>The old growth forests, ones that have not been cut down and used for products, are a treasure that cannot be replaced. The largest, biggest trees are not just majestic and imposing, they are guardians for myriad other species and offer an opportunity for people to be near something that has been alive, breathing and functioning for hundreds of years. How could they be replaceable? The first time I was in a Redwood forest in California I was awestruck. The trees were majestic and I felt as if I was in a sacred space. Old trees aren't 'just' wood. They aren't things that we can do with whatever we want to do. They do not have a monetary value any more than does Arches National Park or Old Faithful because they are priceless. They are not "man made." If it is the job of your agency to protect these old trees, who cannot speak for themselves except through human beings, I strongly urge you to do as you have been charged to do, put them first at all times. Put them above corporate greed, stockholders of corporations and the CEOs who run them, above their well-paid lobbyists, and above any other consideration except keeping them alive and well. I have lived in an apartment all my life and have only been in an old growth forest once, but it was something I will remember forever. As someone who is now 'an old growth' person, I cherish all of nature, but most particularly our ancient forests. Many other people feel as strongly about this issue as I do, so please hear us. We speak to you directly as the voice of our wise, wonderful and beautiful old growth forests. Save us!</p>
Joslyn	Pine	Port Washington	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Our natural habitat is our most precious resource and the source of health for the entire planet. We must do all we can to protect what's left. Thank you for hearing me out. To be more specific:</p> <p>Stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. There is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut.</p> <p>Lay groundwork for durable protections for mature forests, to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests.</p> <p>Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging.</p> <p>National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop. That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth.</p> <p>Forests are Valuable! They Provide:</p> <p>Clean Water For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest.</p> <p>Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period.</p> <p>According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present."</p> <p>Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development.</p> <p>The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.</p> <p>Wildlife Habitat Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. 80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse.</p>
Patti	Packer	Scotia	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. What trees we have left must be protected. from logging.</p> <p>National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop. This is wrong, especially for mature and old-growth.</p> <p>We need old growth forests for clean water, carbon storage, and preserving wildlife.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
John	Prybylski	Buffalo	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. PROTECT & SAVE THESE IRREPLACEABLE FORESTS NOW...!!!! TREES ARE OUR PLANET LIFE SAVER = NO MORE CUTTING ,DEGRADATION OF THESE VITAL TREES...!!!!!!!!! DO YOUR JOB = DON'T ALLOW ANY MORE DESTRUCTION FOR PROFIT...!!!!!!!!!</p>
Kathryn	Kassner	Red Hook	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>I am a mother concerned about the future for my children do to climate change. As an avid outdoor enthusiast I enjoy spending time in forests and have a deep appreciation for the work of the USFS.</p> <p>Forests are an incredible national natural resource which we need to protect. Old-growth forest need to be protected from logging as they are can sequester carbon to mitigate climate change. They are a cost efficient solution to the growing crisis we face. They also provide wildlife habitat and clean water. As interest in outdoor recreation increases we need to protect forests for future generations to enjoy.</p> <p>The USFS needs to take action to protect old-growth forests from logging and the increasing threat from forest fires. Please take action to protect these national treasures and help combat the climate crisis.</p> <p>Kathy Kassner</p>
Joan	Mullee	Ossining	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. The fact that old growth trees sequester CO2 is reason alone not to cut them, as current global warming mitigation plans haven't proven to be particularly effective. The forests and the biodiversity they provide are a treasure that benefits our planet, including humans as well.</p> <p>Trees for lumber can be grown like a crop on tree farms. Old growth forests should be respected as part of America's heritage.</p>
Tyler	Peralta	Brooklyn	NY	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We should be preserving all life in this planet.</p>
Sue	Stromberg	Mentor	OH	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Mature forests are a huge asset in storing carbon and moderating climate extremes.</p>
Laurel	Gress	Wadsworth	OH	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Old-growth forests are much more efficient at capturing carbon from the atmosphere than newly planted trees. "Tree plantations" just to grow trees for wood are no substitute for trees that have been here for hundreds or thousands of years. People want to preserve centuries-old buildings and prehistoric ruins - why not old trees? They are the oldest living things on Earth.</p>

Brian	Campbell	Delaware	OH	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>I am a 73 year old retired engineer living just northwest of Columbus, Ohio. I value peace at least as high as I value health.</p> <p>The Tongass National Forest was the place where I was best able to live my values. Tongass abundantly offered peacefulness throughout most of my walk in it. Being in the forest reminded me of being in a cathedral. I felt like I was in the presence of God. The only noise was an occasional bird call or gratefully occasional comments from my guide. The growth everywhere was, for me, the epitome of health. And the clean water in the streams was a delight as well as becoming more rare.</p> <p>Old growth forests are too precious for industrial activity including clear cutting. I am looking forward to the day when bamboo or sustainable natural resources fully replace logging of forests and tree lots.</p> <p>Thank you for promoting conservation of and management to encourage additional old growth forests.</p>
Catherine	Glenn	Cincinnati	OH	<p>First, thank you for taking the time to hear my comments.</p> <p>I'll be brief, but I do believe that this is an enormously important issue. Forests are not crops--especially old-growth forests--and we shouldn't be treating them as such. They're protecting us from climate change, giving life to our biosphere, and give us cleaner water. We cannot replace them, we cannot manufacture them. We must preserve them, and we must do it now.</p> <p>For all of these reasons, I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Thank you again for your time--</p> <p>Catherine Glenn</p>
ELIZABETH	DAVIS	Kettering	OH	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. - old forests provide unique environments that can't be replicated by seemingly replanting the forest after logging. I come from Ohio which is always trying to return to being a forest but sadly only has a few old forest left. We can't replace these forests - time is not something we have mastered. Thus all we can do is preserve what we have left.</p>
Jon	Hudson	Yellow Springs	OH	<p>Without our old growth forests, very important biodiversity will be lost. Just look at how many medicines have come from the Amazon alone. The functioning of the earth's ecosystems developed out of a balance among all the elements and if this is destroyed, our planet will be come a wasteland. caused by human greed and ignorance. we cannot let this happen!!!!</p>
Anne	Wardwell	Oberlin	OH	<p>I went to Sweet Briar College in Virginia that actually has a stand of old growth forest. It was a deeply moving experience to walk among those old trees, and a memory I cherish! But more importantly, old growth forests are an important solution to our climate crisis and to the loss of biodiversity. Please conserve these rare forests on federal lands and prohibit logging them.</p>
Emily	Frindt	Bay Village	OH	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Only a small percentage of old growth forests in America still exist, and it is necessary to protect them because of their importance to the environment and people.</p> <p>Old growth forests absorb large quantities of carbon, making them one of our most valuable tools in the fight against climate change. They are also home to thousands of unique species.</p> <p>Additionally, preserved natural spaces are essential for environmental, physical, and mental health. There are several indigenous communities which have depended upon and cared for these forest ecosystems for centuries. It is important to respect and preserve these peoples' histories and ways of life.</p> <p>America's old growth forests have a deep ecological, emotional, and cultural significance. They have inspired art and literature and been part of many Americans' cherished memories. Their destruction would be a devastating loss not only for nature, but for our American heritage. It is our responsibility to protect nature for the health and prosperity of other species and for our future generations.</p>
Ann Marie	Teder	Chardon	OH	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Please stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. What we have left is too precious to cut.</p> <p>We need protections for mature forests, so that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests.</p>
Karen	Yarnell	Marietta	OH	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>When I lived in West Virginia, the Monongahela NF was part of our legacy. Mature and old-growth trees like in the Upper Cheat logging area should not be cut. I was part of a rally outside the FS in Elkins several years ago. Please stop the cut. Locals who live there are worried about flooding and the rest of us just love the trees and the mature forest habitat and the wildlife that live there.</p>
Adam	Filer	Yukon	OK	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Growing up surrounded by towering trees, the forest was my playground, my classroom, and my sanctuary. I spent countless hours exploring the woods, discovering hidden trails, and marveling at the creatures that called it home. The old-growth forests near my home were more than just trees; they were the heart and soul of my community.</p> <p>Ecologically, these ancient forests are irreplaceable. The towering Douglas firs and massive cedars I climbed as a child are home to countless species I've learned to identify. From the elusive spotted owl to the vibrant salmon that return to spawn in our rivers, these forests support a web of life that is as intricate as it is awe-inspiring.</p> <p>Beyond their ecological value, old-growth forests are the foundation of our recreational lifestyle. Hiking, camping, fishing -- these are more than just hobbies; they are a way of life for us. Sharing these experiences with friends and family has created bonds that run deep. The peace and tranquility I find in the woods is a constant source of renewal.</p> <p>As the world grapples with climate change, the importance of old-growth forests has never been clearer. These forests have stood for centuries, silently absorbing carbon dioxide and stabilizing our climate. Protecting them is not just about preserving nature; it's about safeguarding our future.</p> <p>The old-growth forests of my youth are a precious inheritance, and I believe it's our duty to protect them for future generations. Just as these forests have shaped me, I hope to play a role in ensuring they continue to thrive for generations to come.</p>
Makenna	Hartman	Oklahoma City	OK	<p>I am Makenna Hartman, a lifelong lover of the peace and solitude nature brings. I envision a world where my children and my children's children can enjoy the wild places as I have and live in a world free from stress of the climate crisis. According to various studies, some even dating back to the 1980s, old-growth and mature trees are one of the best ways to combat the climate crisis and support a plethora of critical habitat for innumerable species. Moreover, these studies show that simply cutting down and replanting trees does not have nearly the same impact as just leaving the trees in place. When you replant logged trees, it takes just as long to build back the carbon stores of old-growth and mature trees as it did to grow them in the first place. As such, the importance of leaving these old-growth and mature tree stands needs to be understood and made standard practice. People on both sides of the aisle all over the US support protecting these untouched nature preserves. We need a place to go when the world becomes too much. Nature is proven to be one of the best ways to do that with more and more citizens visiting the outdoors. This also generates income for areas near these natural places- a whopping \$10.1 million per year and counting! I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. There is no Planet B!</p>

Barbara	McLean	Portland	OR	<p>Dear US Forest Service.</p> <p>I live in the Pacific Northwest in Oregon and I am begging you to preserve and cherish our mature and old growth forests.</p> <p>I first learned about and saw photos of old growth trees when I lived in Hawaii. These trees were in the Kaimiopsis Forest in Oregon. They were wonderful and I wanted to see them. Huge old trees are national treasures and as such they should be treasured and preserved and not logged!</p> <p>Unfortunately the US Forest Service has been complicit in logging our wonderful forests so the wood from OUR trees can be sent overseas and made into diapers. What a travesty! Instead of saving and protecting trees the US Forest Service puts them out to bid so they get logged.</p> <p>Old growth trees do so much good for our planet. They provide terrific habitat for so many wild creatures. They provide calm and sanctuary for human beings. They sequester carbon dioxide which helps combat the climate crisis confronting our world.</p> <p>Unfortunately the US Forest Service instead of preserving these huge and wonderful old growth trees seems to be intent on getting them cut down.</p> <p>It takes hundreds of years for these trees to grow and the Forest Service is not protecting them as it should. I am hoping that the Forest Service will now begin to protect these wonderful trees instead of trying to convert them to cash.</p> <p>So many of our old growth trees have been logged and there are so few left. When a person is in one of these remaining old growth forests it is as if you are in the presence of ancient and wise beings. With our world heating up we humans need these trees to help combat climate change. Our remaining wild animals need them as a place to live.</p> <p>It is time that the US Forest Service adopted a policy of vigorously protecting all remaining mature and old growth trees. We in the United States are lucky to have these magnificent trees and everything should be done to protect them.</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>We the citizens of the United States are relying on the USFS to protect our remaining old growth trees. Please, please, please do this for this generation and all future generations. Protect and conserve mature and old growth forests. We are counting on you. I thank you!</p> <p>Sincerely, Barbara McLean</p>
Heather	Dale	Wilsonville	OR	<p>Old growth forests have a wealth of unique mycorrhizal networks and 'memory' that cannot survive plantation crop assaults, and can keep 5 degrees cooler on average than other forests, acting as a critical refuge for species threatened by changing climate. I ADORE old growth forests and walk them almost daily along Oregon's coast--they are a reason to live, a source of wonder and joy and well-being. We must robustly protect them.</p> <p>The benefits they provide to the biome, other species, and to humans through clean water, temperature control, mental health, carbon storage, hiking, pharmaceuticals, and potentials yet unknown is massive. Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development.</p> <p>Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
Greg	Jacob	Hillsboro	OR	<p>Thirty years ago, the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) was developed under the Clinton Administration. It aimed to protect and restore old-growth forest and healthy stream habitat for threatened species, covering forestlands in western Oregon and Washington and northwestern California.</p> <p>Today the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is updating the NWFP, ('NW old growth forests get more protections under new federal plan,? Dec. 23). The original plan did not adequately consult Indigenous peoples or account for the impact of climate change on wildfire behavior, water systems, imperiled species and communities. Furthermore, The USFS has increased the cutting of timber from our national forests, and made it harder for people to challenge ecologically damaging timber sales. Its priority should be climate mitigation and biodiversity.</p> <p>Ideally, President Joe Biden will sign an executive order to ensure protection for mature and old growth forests (MOG) and close a loophole allowing logging under the pretext of forest health or fire management. There is significant documentation of the role that MOG forests have on climate, severity of wildfire and biodiversity.</p>
Andrea	Pellicani	Coos Bay	OR	<p>Old growth forests are so important to slow climate change. We desperately newer logging practice that protect these areas.</p> <p>I grew up in Washington State and saw private interests destroy the Cascade forests, along with that species like grizzly bear went into huge decline I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. There is no greater need now than to protect what still exists.</p>
Tyler	Kreipke	Portland	OR	<p>Hello,</p> <p>My name is Tyler Kreipke, CSC. I am a priest and professor of engineering at the University of Portland in Oregon. I am writing to express my concern for our old growth forests in the United States, and to ask for further protections for them.</p> <p>Currently, the world is experiencing the effects of climate change, from increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events. This is in part caused by and in part causes significant changes in/destruction large amounts of natural habitat. One habitat of particular value is forests, particularly mature and old growth forests.</p> <p>The destruction of old-growth forests by logging or other means can cause numerous problems for climate change, like the increase of greenhouse gas emissions and the loss of trees and habitat. Forests help provide clean water, greenhouse gas emission storage, and wildlife habitat to support biodiversity.</p> <p>Beyond this, old growth forests are natural treasures that cannot be easily or quickly replaced. They have immeasurable value for being places of beauty and biodiversity, and they are so much more than just potential sources of lumber. It is a great joy for me to be able to be in the forest; they are places of great peace, relaxation, and reconnecting with the wonders of God's creation.</p> <p>Because of this, I am asking the U.S. Forest Service to strengthen protections for old-growth forests with the U.S. Forest Service National Old Growth Amendment. Specifically, I want to ask the amendment to favor the conservation of old-growth forests, rather than logging or extractive activities. Please add protections from logging/extraction for our old-growth forests, especially those in national forests, which do not have the same protections as those in our national parks.</p> <p>Please keep these considerations to protect and conserve mature and old growth forests in mind as the U.S. Forest Service National Old Growth Amendment moves forward. Thank you for your time and your consideration.</p> <p>Pax, Tyler</p>
Charlie	Graham	Hillsboro	OR	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. The fact that National Forests are managed within the Department of Agriculture and are treated more like a crop. Old-growth is so much more than a crop and it is wrong to look at forests like that.</p> <p>I was raised in a family that loved being in the forests of the Sierra Nevada Mts. A mature forest provides more than just magistry and wonder. There is sense of connectedness one feels. There is message of consistency and stability. An old-growth forest knows so much more than we think we know about them. In order to hear those messages for ourselves and our future, these advanced environments must be preserved.</p> <p>Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon. Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.</p> <p>Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love. More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests!</p> <p>Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity.</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
Ingrid	Cook	Joseph	OR	<p>In Wallowa County, Oregon we have an organization called Wallowaology that conducts seminars, nature studies, and evening programs. Dr. David Mildexter gave a presentation on old growth forests. He explained their importance in carbon sequestration, being a home for endangered species, preventing erosion, and keeping the land cooler as the average temperatures of our earth increase. I believe what he said. Therefore, I urge you protect the old growth forests that are under your control.</p>
Robert	Smith	Clackamas	OR	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We need a healthy planet!!!!!!</p>

Nancy	Fleming	Lake Oswego	OR	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon – period.</p> <p>According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present."</p> <p>Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest – our trees and forests.</p> <p>Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests!</p>
Gregory	Ellsworth	Portland	OR	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old-growth forests are the life-blood of this nation; without them we would shrivel up and die. Once they are cut down it takes 100's of years to replace them, and sometimes things never come back to the way they were. We all need them and only you can protect them for us. Thank you !</p>
Hella	Nordberg	Salem	OR	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Hiking is one of my favorite activities and I often hike in areas that are used for tree agriculture here in the Oregon coastal hills. While these forests are often also nice, the difference to hiking in a place like Silver Falls State Park, which has beautiful old growth forest, is stunning: Silver Falls (or any other preserved old growth I have had the pleasure to hike in) has thick, peaty topsoil and a rich understory of plant and animal life that look lush and beautiful even with climate change causing severe drought conditions. Our tree agriculture forests are denser, darker, dustier, and drier, with some sparser understory, and do not hold a candle to the beauty and richness of old growth. There is just no question that these old stands are special and important to preserve plant and animal life in the face of so many human caused challenges right now. As one of our US government supported strategies to become more resilient in the face of climate change and chemical contamination of our soils, the preservation of our remaining old growth stands should become a priority. I hope that you agree and act. Thank you. Hella</p>
T	Jeffries	Bend	OR	<p>Now in my 70's, I feel very grateful I began my backpacking life over 50 years ago. So far, I've thoroughly enjoyed that endeavor and serious hiking in 6 states and western Canada, and most of the backpacking trips were solo, from 30-100 miles in length and in every season. Nothing else compares to spending sometimes up to a month alone in the Sierra Nevada and the Rockies.</p> <p>One thing these experiences cemented and strengthened over these decades has been the irrefutable, absolute and crucial necessity to protect these incredible natural, wild places to the highest degree.</p> <p>With ACD existentially threatening the entire planet and virtually all its species, now is the moment to increase every method to restore the Earth's wild places already heavily damaged by clearcuts, vehicles in prohibited areas, illegal mining and dumping egregious pollutants in the lakes and waterways in most place. It's sad and shocking that a huge number of assaults have occurred--and continue to damage--our National Forests, with far too many people believing it's their right to treat even designated Wilderness Areas as if they were amusement parks. Add to that the overly generous awarding of permits to commercial guiding and pack outfits which act as if they have special rights to flaunt regulations.</p> <p>Still, these abuses pale compared to the war on OUR Forests by corporations that have for generations been given a green light by the USFS to wrest every bit of profit out OUR wild and beautiful lands and waterways with what can be described as only wanton greed, with nothing but contempt for everything real and natural--just another commodity to bleed more and more.</p> <p>Historically, the USFS has gifted them with license to utterly destroy intact, old-growth forests with massive clearcuts, in some of the steepest mountainsides, with disastrous dumping of soil, and chemicals into once- pristine streams and rivers, wiping out spawning grounds and all fish habitats for many miles downstream.</p> <p>I hope that the recent statements made by the USFS to the effect that the agency has learned some valuable lessons in how it must protect the wild places left are sincere and will humbly move to mitigate some of the huge errors of the past. If this proves to be true, then the Service will earn a lot of lost respect, and can begin to receive more cooperation and support from its constituents. Once a wild area is desecrated it can take centuries to have a chance to heal and rebound; otherwise it will be another case of "once it's lost, it's lost forever".</p> <p>Again, the environmental rehabilitation and strict protection of wild areas is crucial to the sustainability of natural ecosystems that all affect the entire planet. One other factor: the profound and humbling spiritual (not religious) illumination of the continuum of existence gained by experiencing truly wild and natural places can guide everyone--especially the young people who will take on the responsibility of preserving and protecting the Earth for all species--to treat the only planet we have the way it deserves to be.</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
Andrea	Pellicani	Coos Bay	OR	<p>My family spends time in the forest at least once a week. We rejuvenate and have fun, we forage for food. The forest is our spiritual home. Stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. There is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut. Lay groundwork for durable protections for mature forests, to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests.</p> <p>Old-Growth Forest Management Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. Most Americans don't know this, but National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop. That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>

Robert	Albee	Grants Pass	OR	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Please see all the great points below and take immediate action now to protect our precious Old Growth and other Forests: Specific Asks for the U.S. Forest Service Old-Growth Amendment Stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. There is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut. Lay groundwork for durable protections for mature forests, to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests. Old-Growth Forest Management Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. Most Americans don't know this, but National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop. That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth. Your Connection to Forests Recall the first forest you explored. Where was it? How old were you? What did you see? Do you remember the first time you saw a photo of a particular forest that captured your imagination? Where was it? Have you been there yet? If we protect these forests, future generations will be able to make those same memories. Forests are Valuable! They Provide: Clean Water For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest. Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests. Wildlife Habitat Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction. Outdoor Recreation Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. 80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse. Thanks for your consideration, Robert Albee</p>
Margaret	Quentin	Portland	OR	<p>Dear Sir/Miss: I am an older American and have long been an environmentalist and conservationist. I believe that America's natural resources -- especially our Old Growth Forests -- belong to the American people. As such, they should be conserved for present and future generations -- NOT used as a commodity. We have very little of our original Old Growth Forests left. What remains must be conserved. These beautiful old stands should not be 'harvested' and sent to the mill, to make money for some company, at the expense of the American people. We must also protect Mature Forests, so they have the chance to develop into future Old Growth Forests. The Cut-Baby-Cut philosophy, fueled by greed, is not to the benefit of Americans. These Mature and Old Growth forests are environmental stewards; clean water begins in these forests; they store massive amounts of carbon. In fact, they are the best tool for addressing carbon pollution. Americans love their wildlife, and Mature and Old Growth Forests are the protectors of our wildlife. If we retain the forests, we help to retain the wildlife. They are also a wonderful place for the American people to reconnect with nature and breathe and exhale. There is nothing else like it. It cannot be replaced. I guess that's my final point. There's an old Joni Mitchell song, with the line, 'You don't know what you've got 'til it's gone.' This couldn't be truer for our Forests. Once we chop them all down to make a buck, they are never coming back. Do you want to hear your great grandchild ask, 'mommy, what's a forest?? Thank you for giving me a chance to speak out.</p>
Laura	Hanks	Portland	OR	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. This is very important to me and to the future of our planet.</p>
Pia	Klamper	Happy Valley	OR	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. Please protect mature and old-growth tree from destruction. I think we all know how we feel when we walk on trails and in the woods with old trees right and left. I feel enchanted when I do that. I leave behind the daily stress of work and life's hardships. I feel renewed, hopeful and I trust again in nature's ability to help us stay connected. Nature is a miracle that needs to be protected. We all need to come together to protect our trees, our forests and our water for future generations to enjoy. If we protect these forests, my children and your children will be able to make those same experiences and memories feeling energized and hopeful when walking in the woods. They will know that we care. Our trees do so much for us; please keep them alive and well.</p>
Susanna	Askins	Bandon	OR	<p>Old growth and mature forests are one of the best answers to the climate crisis. I live in Coos County, Oregon and the outdated logging policies are putting what forests we have left at risk. You should see the destruction here. This is not a never-ending supply, folks! Conservation should be prioritized over logging and other extractive uses. It's time for the Forest Service to actually do the job of protecting the forests and stopping the loss of biodiversity instead of sucking up to rich men so they can make more money. We must conserve mature and old growth trees on federal forest land to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss! Shortsightedness and greed are destroying us all.</p>
Karen	Ashikeh	Beaverton	OR	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Protect Old Growth Trees for protections of forest areas, wildlife and watersheds for forest and non-forest areas. These protections should be nationwide with consultation with indigenous groups who know those forests and hired to advise and to MONITOR CUTS, if made, to make sure limits set on cutting are honored at the sites, before the cuts are started or completed. Limits to building new forestry roads and closing off unused roads would be helpful to control damage to forests. As possible public lands should be OFF Limits to commercial timber harvests and left alone. Access to forest lands can be made off-limits to human activity at times of high risk for fires. Follow Sierra Club recommendations for varied forest lands throughout the USA.</p>

Ella	Kothari	Eugene	OR	<p>Please let us not make the same mistakes of the past again.</p> <p>Trees first appeared in the Devonian period (between 350 and 400 million years ago) long long long before the first humans made their appearance!!</p> <p>The awe- inspiring giants- the redwoods (Sequoias) were a very large part of the flora of our planet and had existed all over earth for millions and millions of years. Until very recently they had retreated to 2 million acres on the coast of California BUT it took less than a 100 years for logging to eliminate all but 5% of some of the tallest and oldest living things on earth ! It took some very visionary and courageous women and men , a LOT of effort and at least two decades to start a environmental movement to save millions of these awesome old beings, that we all are now able to experience with awe and wonder.</p> <p>Please let us not make the same mistakes of the past again and let us preserve ALL of the old growth forests we have now, and this time its for our own survival, we do indeed need these sentient old giants to help reverse climate change.</p> <p>It has been well documented that these mature and old growth forests are particularly good at soaking up carbon (they remove carbon dioxide from the air and through photosynthesis convert it into all parts of the tree, ancient forests have been doing it for eons- for as long as they've been alive and continue to do so till they die), logging does the exact opposite and actually releases the carbon that the trees had trapped into the atmosphere intensifying climate change!!</p> <p>A bit of really great news- studies have shown that through active management practices and policies that protect these old growth/ ancient forests, allowing trees to grow and minimizing logging , we are able to reverse this release of carbon into the air and actually the trees will allow more carbon to be absorbed making these forests into carbon sinks , mitigating the effects of climate change.</p> <p>I was very surprised to know this fact that National Forests are not managed like National Parks, in that they are within the Department of Agriculture , where trees are treated just like a crop. Additionally old growth forests on Federal lands are not protected from logging !! This has got to change. The US Forest Service needs to stop old growth trees from being logged, there needs to be in place regulations and protections for these treasures, and all mature forests to ensure they endure and the mature forests get a chance to develop into old growth forests for the future generations.</p> <p>These forests of western North America have the highest carbon storage potential of any forest type in the world and are recognized as some of the most valuable ecosystems on the planet. We should do everything in our power with the help of the proper authorities like the US Forest Service to protect and ensure these amazing old growth and mature forests endure, so that we humans can too.</p> <p>My husband and I, our two kids, their significant others, we all are avid nature lovers, we hike, bike, observe the flora and fauna, enjoy regular forays into forests and marvel at the wonders of nature called trees. We also realize the importance of preserving them for our immediate and distant future. It is our fervent hope that the US Forest Service with allied agencies will make the necessary permanent policy changes to ensure that old growth and mature forests are protected from now on, so that they can grow and thrive right into the future. Thanks very much in advance for listening to us all !!</p>
Kim	Davis	Salem	OR	<p>The U.S. Forest Service must better conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and catastrophic biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Mature and old-growth trees and forests filter drinking water for communities, are homes for wildlife and protect our climate by absorbing and storing tons of carbon every year. These forests have also been proven to boost ecosystem resilience to fire and help regulate forest and water way temperatures.</p> <p>Threats to our mature and old-growth forests include a changing climate and commercial logging. Cutting down our oldest trees deprives all of us the multiple benefits, beauty and majesty of our largest, oldest trees. These trees are worth more standing.</p> <p>With the proposed National Old-Growth Amendment, the Forest Service has an opportunity to protect our mature and old-growth trees; but the current draft proposal fails miserably to do so.</p> <p>The policy proposals include numerous opportunities for the Forest Service to cut mature and old-growth trees. All of the proposed alternatives allow agency staff the discretion to manage mature and old growth trees out of existence in pursuit of 'proactive stewardship?' goals. They also contain ambiguous language that could be used to justify continued commercial logging of mature and old growth trees in the Tongass National Forest, which is absolutely unacceptable! The Tongass is the greatest stronghold among the PNW temperate forests. None of the Alternatives proposed would protect our oldest trees.</p> <p>The final amendments must address these deficiencies: The U.S. Forest Service must completely end the logging of mature and old-growth trees across all national forests; it must end the commercial exchange of old-growth trees logged on forest lands managed by the agency; and it must establish protections for mature forests and trees to increase the amount of old growth for all generations to come.</p> <p>As a tax supported agency, the National Forest Service needs to better align with the goals of the majority of citizens and work diligently to protect what's left of our national forests.</p> <p>On behalf of our grandchildren, thank you in advance for becoming stewards, not salesmen, or our forests!</p>
Paul	Palla	Greencastle	PA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>ONCE THEY GET CUT DOWN THEY ARE IRREPLACEABLE, AND YOU KNOW IT!</p>
Donald	Lambert	York Haven	PA	<p>My wife and I live 12 miles from Gifford Pinchot State Park located in York County, Pa. Mr. Pinchot will no doubt roll over in his grave if the U.S. Forestry Service allows removal of old growth mature trees to be allowed to be removed by special interest companies.</p> <p>We have enjoyed the outdoors and realize the beauty of our natural resources, resources that prior legislators and former Presidents have placed under lock and key to be enjoyed by our descendants for years to come.</p> <p>Please remind yourselves about violating the oath of office when unlocking our forests !</p>

Elaine	Dellande	Fountain Hill	PA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>I am deeply concerned about climate disruption and biodiversity loss. For centuries we have treated land and life as resources to be extracted, exploited and consumed for profit, for the benefit of a tiny minority. This endless extraction and consumption cannot continue without dire consequences for us all. Climate disruption and endangered species are a perfect example of the consequences of our actions and our lack of respect for the web of life that we rely upon. It's the biodiversity of this earth that supports us, not economy, politicians, money or business.</p> <p>I value biodiversity and believe we need build a culture of caring for the earth rather than destroying it. Old growth forests are biodiversity hotspots. When the forests are degraded, we deprive whole plant and animal communities of their home and possibly their existence. We also harm ourselves. Since living organisms interact in dynamic ecosystems, the disappearance of one species can have a far-reaching impact on the food chain. It is impossible to know exactly what the consequences of mass extinctions would be for humans, but we do know that the diversity of nature allows us to thrive.</p> <p>Healthy ecosystems provide us with many essentials we take for granted. Plants convert energy from the sun make it available to other life forms. Bacteria and other living organisms break down organic matter into nutrients providing plants with healthy soil to grow in. Pollinators are essential in plant reproduction, guaranteeing our food production. Plants and oceans act as major carbon sinks.</p> <p>Right now, old growth forests are one of the best solutions to the climate crisis. Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon. Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.</p> <p>But outdated policies that emphasize logging at the expense of other values put our forests at risk. We now understand that trees accumulate carbon over their entire lifespan and that old, wild forests accumulate far more carbon than they lose through decomposition and respiration, thus acting as carbon sinks. We now know that the concept of 'over mature' forest stands, used by the timber industry, does not apply to carbon. Protecting old growth forests is an important strategy for reducing atmospheric carbon.</p> <p>The US Forest Service should prioritize conservation over logging and other extractive uses. When everything is judged solely by its potential to create profit, the abundance of life, communal value, and cultural significance of land and place are disregarded, and our connection to the land around us is severed.</p> <p>Please conserve mature and old growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and prevent biodiversity loss. Our failure to protect the ecosystems that support us is a very sad commentary on the state of humanity and our short-sightedness.</p>
Ron and Susan	Munson	Merion Station	PA	<p>Dear US Forest Service managers,</p> <p>I am appealing to you to protect all of our remaining old growth forests with the clear understanding that these old trees are supremely efficient at sequestering carbon to mitigate the climate disaster we all face. The USFS is uniquely positioned to have jurisdiction over many significant tracts of old growth. The question is whether or not you all have the courage and conviction to prioritize human survival and long term environmental welfare over short term profiteering.</p> <p>I spent my childhood in the forests and creeks of the New England, where I frequently fantasized that I was the first human to set foot in some of these areas (until I ran across a discarded beer can or an old stone wall) the point being that I acquired my love of nature and understanding of the interconnectedness of all species early in life.</p> <p>I was privileged to pursue a career as a California State Park Ranger and Superintendent, which provided me with many opportunities to protect the state's native environments, and to help connect people to the gifts of nature that sustain us all. And my amazement at the immense complexity of the inter-species connections that sustain us continues to grow and astound.</p> <p>If you have not yet read Finding the Mother Tree, by the Canadian forester, Suzanne Simard, or Braiding Sweetgrass, by the Native American botanist Robin Kimmerer, I recommend both books to your attention.</p> <p>So I conclude these remarks with the reminder that each of you has the authority and the honor to protect the old growth forests that can help buffer us from the climate emergency that is barreling down on this fragile planet and the vast number of other life forms that share this moment in time with us.</p> <p>With the sincere and that you are able to make the wisest decision, Ron Munson</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
James	Smoker	York	PA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old growth forests are magnificent in their timeless beauty and more importantly they are vastly better carbon sinks than younger trees.</p>
Elizabeth	Seltzer	Media	PA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Clean Water For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest.</p> <p>Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period.</p> <p>According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present."</p> <p>Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.</p> <p>Wildlife Habitat Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests!</p> <p>Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. 80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse.</p>

Magdalena	Sikora	State College	PA	<p>Hello U.S. Forest Service.</p> <p>I am encouraged to hear about the Old-Growth Amendment proposal because it signifies that old-growth management is being recognized as important! To me, this demonstrates how we have grown as a society; we are moving away from treating forests purely as commodities and instead see their value for people, wildlife, and our planet at large; notably, old growths sequester more carbon than younger forests, making them even more imperative in the face of climate change.</p> <p>I recently read an article about tiny pockets of old-growth forests in the Northeastern US, where I live. I was astounded to learn that trees so large and old (over 500 years!) are still in existence, albeit they are very few in number. I also learned that in 1772 King George III decreed all white pines with 12-inch diameters or more were his personal property and that between the 17th and 20th centuries, European settlers logged nearly 100% of the forests in New England and New York. Hence why it feels momentous that the NFS is recognizing the wonder of old-growth forests.</p> <p>However, I also have learned that old-growth trees are still being logged and this clearing has been underreported, notably in the White Mountains. I know this is largely economic, but I have to ask -- in the 21st century, can't we find more creative ways for economic activity and to source materials we need? Can we be more creative in how we design and build the things we are logging precious trees for?</p> <p>It saddens me greatly to learn about old-growth logging and so, I write my comment to urge the NFS to include protections for old-growth forests and to prohibit deforestation entirely, as these are endangered species. These ancient trees deserve to be protected. We deserve to live in a world where not every square inch of land has been cleared for human use at one time or another. We must protect these trees for our future and the future of this planet. Old growth forests are one of the most powerful tools we have to combat climate change, we can't risk destroying them. We also have a duty to protect precious ecosystems like these forests.</p> <p>I also ask you to outline plans that will protect mature forests and allow them to develop into vibrant, diverse old-growth forests where insect, plant, and animal species may thrive. Some of those plants may actually include medicines we humans use!</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope the NSF protects old-growth forests from logging and will develop and uphold plans that allow more forest to develop into old-growth. This will benefit us all and is a major contribution to human and non-human life!</p>
Anne	Patterson	Wakefield	RI	<p>I am Anne Patterson.</p> <p>We are in a race against climate change. Old growth forests are one of our most significant ways to combat global warming.</p> <p>Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period.</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Thank you for seriously considering this issue.</p>
Linda	Goldman	East Providence	RI	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Honestly, I can not wait until the USFS understands that it should protect our forest environments. (especially old growth forests)</p> <p>It seems way past time that the USFS would understand the importance of preserving our national treasures rather than letting them be destroyed for the profit of a few.</p>
Margaret	Meinert	Lexington	SC	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat biodiversity loss and protect animals' habitats.</p>
Deborah	Lewis	Piedmont	SC	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. With a PhD in Wildlife Biology from Cornell University, I have had the opportunity to visit many of the countries old growth forests. These forests represent a precious resource, sequestering carbon, supporting important root fungi and providing habitat for a wide range of plants and animals. Many of these benefits stem from their age, they should not be treated as a harvestable crop. We owe it to the world and future generations to protect these forests as they, in turn, nurture future generations of many species.</p>
Carol	Hoch	Fayetteville	TN	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. The only reason USFS would not be able to do this critical action is because Republicans would be in charge. Republicans care only for corporations, fossil fuel endorsements, and a lying ex-president, a felon, who disparages all life except for his own.</p>
Gloria	Gajownik	Hixson	TN	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Since only 17% of U.S. Forest Service land has been identified as true 'old-growth' forest (because of the U.S. Forest Service cutting them down), please now do whatever you can to protect these old-growth forests. Let's let the older, larger trees, remove Carbon Dioxide from the air and give back Oxygen to it. Let's keep in place habitats for many birds and even some mammals in these trees. Wildlife is at our mercy. Let's do them right, as they give so much to our lives. Thank you.</p>
Neil	Smith	Kingsport	TN	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. If we don't protect and conserve all of our natural resources we will all be gone from Mother Earth!</p>
Belinda	Hedge	Lenoir City	TN	<p>I live about 30 minutes from The Great Smoky Mountain National Park here in TN. I volunteer for the park service doing tree phenology and these older forests and trees are important in many MANY ways</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present."</p>
Caitlin	David	Bristol	TN	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old-Growth Forest Management</p> <p>Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. Most Americans don't know this, but National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop. That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth.</p> <p>Your Connection to Forests</p> <p>Recall the first forest you explored.</p> <p>Where was it? How old were you? What did you see?</p> <p>Do you remember the first time you saw a photo of a particular forest that captured your imagination?</p> <p>Where was it? Have you been there yet?</p> <p>If we protect these forests, future generations will be able to make those same memories.</p> <p>Forests are Valuable! They Provide:</p> <p>Clean Water</p> <p>For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest.</p> <p>Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions</p> <p>Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period.</p> <p>According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present."</p> <p>Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.</p> <p>Wildlife Habitat</p> <p>Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love</p> <p>More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests!</p> <p>Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation</p> <p>Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity.</p> <p>In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs.</p> <p>80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse.</p>

Christopher	Ryland	Nashville	TN	<p>I am writing to ask the US Forest Service to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests. As I'm sure you know, mature forests are irreplaceable ecosystems that cannot be replaced once they are gone. Not only are they home to a multitude of species--many of which are threatened or endangered--but they provide services to humanity as well. They clean the air, the earth, and the water, and they store massive amounts of carbon.</p> <p>I ask you to preserve the mature forests, but also to allow young forests to grow up and become the old growth of the future.</p>
Mark	Goodman	Dallas	TX	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Thanks for reading my letter and taking action.</p>
Lisa	Brenskelle	Houston	TX	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests. Having recently visited one of the California state parks where majestic redwoods are found, I can say that the benefits to the human spirit alone of time in mature and old-growth forests make them worth saving. This experience, of awe and wonder among mature and old-growth forests, must be preserved for future generations. Once lost, it cannot be replaced.</p>
Margaret	Schulenberg	Round Rock	TX	<p>Our mature and old growth forests need to be protected.</p> <p>These forests not only support biodiversity, carbon capture, water collection and cleaning, they are our heritage.</p> <p>Our shared heritage is preserved in these old growth forests, and we owe it to our children as their legacy.</p> <p>They belong to us all, not an elite few who choose to make money and profit off our legacy while, at best, providing us with carbon copy imitation forests that simply serve their needs, not ours, not the planet's, and not the wildlife's and ecosystem's.</p> <p>Conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
Kris	Venkat	Houston	TX	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. There is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut. Lay groundwork for durable protections for mature forests, to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests.</p>
Tracey	Bonner	Arlington	TX	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We ALL have a responsibility to work together in order to Protect and SAVE our Wilderness, Waterways and Environment from senseless Destruction and Poisoning in the name of Ignorance and Greed.</p> <p>We have to SAVE our Wildlife, including OUR incredibly amazing old I growth Forests where some of OUR magnificent Wildlife live!</p> <p>We have to STOP the senseless killing of our Wildlife out of Ignorance and Greed!!!</p>
David	McGowin	San Antonio	TX	<p>I don't need someone to tell me what to say. I'll put MY comments in MY words and I'll be short. Let the old growth trees live a continued life so that my and your grandchildren can enjoy their beauty. Why cut them down to line the pockets of the wealthy. Let them live because they aren't harming anyone whatsoever. Leave the damn trees alone once and for all.</p> <p>Sincerely, David McGowin Thank you.</p>
Lisa	Stone	Houston	TX	<p>I join all those asking the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat both climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>We all know how important forests are for human welfare in many ways.</p> <p>We also know it's much more costly to have to repair or replace forests once they're damaged or destroyed.</p> <p>You already know all the data and details.</p> <p>Please do the smart and right thing by maintaining and protecting forests.</p>
Nancy	Latner	Dallas	TX	<p>We are at a critical time to save our National Forests, and you are the key to this! It is imperative that the USFS conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Our oldest forests are national treasures. They provide critical habitat for any number of threatened and endangered species, preserve clean watersheds, serve as natural climate solutions, and provide recreation opportunities that improve our physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. In the northwest, old-growth forests define the region and are a major reason why we visit the area. More than 3,000 species of wildlife live in and depend on our National Forests. Thanks for saving our National Forests. If you don't act now, it will be too late for us and future generations.</p>
William	Schmidt	Palestine	TX	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>I grew up from an early age going to my family's land, which was half farm and half wild. I learned in some hard ways to respect the land, and that once old things, like landscape features and trees are changed or taken away, they don't come back quickly or at all. Routinely harvesting old growth trees wipes out part of the planet's air filter, reduces the bank of available seeds, destroys wildlife habitat, compacts the soil, and destroys numerous YOUNG trees - a process I've witnessed on neighboring properties. I try to protect my land, trees, and soil now, but my land isn't big enough to save the planet, capture carbon, and provide clean air and water for everyone. So I believe protecting public lands from mining, drilling, logging, senseless killing of predators is something that should have been done generations ago on ALL public land. If it's REALLY public, no person or corporation should have the right to dominate and destroy it! People need to recreate there, find quiet time and family time, and have a break from indoor pollutants. These things are not easily done amongst a bunch of stumps! Thank you!</p>
Pamela	Miller	Tolar	TX	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Our oldest forests are national treasures. They provide critical habitat for any number of threatened and endangered species, preserve clean watersheds, serve as natural climate solutions, and provide recreation opportunities that improve our physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Here in the northwest, old-growth forests define our region and are part of what makes it home.</p>
Henry	Beautelman	Austin	TX	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Yellowstone is my home.</p>
Brant	Kotch	Houston	TX	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Forests are Valuable! They Provide:</p> <p>Clean Water For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest.</p> <p>Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period.</p> <p>According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present."</p> <p>Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.</p> <p>Wildlife Habitat Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests!</p> <p>Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs.</p> <p>80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse.</p> <p>Thank you, Brant Kotch</p>

Brittany	Hall	Lufkin	TX	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I was born and have grown up in the Deep East Texas Pineywoods. It's funny that no matter how much I travel, my home remains one of the most beautiful places I have ever seen. Why? Because of the trees. Because of the wildlife it supports. Because of the color it enriches my life with. Because of the peace I feel when I am able to connect with nature. Not everyone is so lucky as I am, which is unfortunate. Please take action now to protect our forests so that future generations can grow up and enjoy their majesty as I have. Nature is a right everyone should share.
Alana	McDowell	Austin	TX	We are losing ancient habitat that cannot be restored at a staggering rate. It would take thousands of years and continued protection just to allow forest that has been cut to return to a mature state. We can't foolishly throw away the little old growth we have left. It would be an insult to the earth, to God, to our children, and to ourselves. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.
Tracey	Bonner	Arlington	TX	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We ALL have a responsibility to work together in order to Protect and SAVE our Wilderness, Waterways and Environment from senseless Destruction and Poisoning in the name of Ignorance and Greed. We have to SAVE our Wildlife, including OUR incredibly amazing Old-Growth Forests where some of OUR magnificent Wildlife live! We have to STOP the senseless killing of our Wildlife out of Ignorance and Greed!!!
Renee	Rabb	Austin	TX	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We need nature to survive . Earth is our home and there are future generation depending on us to be aware and start doing all we can to protect and renew it. Thank you
Penelope	Nederlander	Austin	TX	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We can never stop increasing protections for our surrounding environment and ecologies. We are already living unsustainably and our future selves and generations will pay the price. But we can work now to try and slow and reverse the damage we have caused.
Grace	Lappin	Cypress	TX	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Most of us love and protect our elders, should we not also love and protect some of the oldest living beings on earth
David	Zambie	Austin	TX	I am David Zambie, a 60 year old Finance/Accountant professional from Austin, Texas. I realized early in life the importance of nature for both physical and mental health. Being outside, whether it has been backpacking in Western National Forests or exploring the hill country of Texas has enabled me to cope with the grinding work of being a tax CPA and Finance Director at a Fortune 500 tech company as well as the non-stop demands of raising a family. I believe we are at a pivotal point in the US and the world where we still have things on Earth worth saving; however, they are disappearing fast. Climate change is real and has the potential to be devastating to life on earth, but the worst effects can still be mitigated. I am hopeful, but we need to make smart science based decisions with the resources we have. In regards to climate change, old growth and mature forests are one of the best solutions to climate crisis. Old-growth forest and mature forests play an irreplaceable role in our ecosystems and communities; however, they are managed by the USFS and Department of Agriculture as crops, not the mature climate resilient ecosystems that they are. This practice allows for logging of old-growth and mature forests to the detriment of local communities, wildlife and climate. Old-growth and mature forests are critical to save because they provide the following benefits: ? Clean Water: National Forests are the source of drinking water for over half of the U.S. population. Protecting these forests means protecting our water. ? Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions: Trees are one of the most effective tools for absorbing and storing carbon, a vital component of addressing climate change. ? Wildlife Habitat: More than 3,000 species depend on National Forests for survival. Logging threatens their homes and accelerates habitat loss. ? Outdoor Recreation: Our National Forests generate significant economic benefits from outdoor recreation. In 2019 alone 150 million people visited National Forests resulting in recreation tourism that supported more than 150,000. Your NOGA (National Old Growth Amendment) draft proposal fails to protect these climate resilient trees and forests. The proposal includes many opportunities to send old growth and mature trees to the mill and allows agency staff to manage old-growth out of existence. The proposal also contains language that could be used to justify continued commercial logging of old growth in the Tongass National Forest. I support a National Old Growth Amendment for our national forests that will: 1. End the logging of old-growth trees and in old-growth stands where fire is infrequent. 2. End the commercial exchange of old-growth trees. No old-growth trees sent to mills! 3. Establish protections for mature forests and trees to increase the amount of old growth for the future. Thank You for listening, David Zambie
Henry	Beutelman	Austin	TX	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. The film, CROWN JEWELS, is an excellent summary concerning the need to preserve mature and old-growth forests, as overcrowded and uninteresting cities take over America's landscape. Yellowstone and its trees, in fact forests all over this country, are my second home. Nothing preserves America's heritage and future like its pristine forests and fantastic trees! Henry Beutelman henrybeut@yahoo.com

Carol	Smith	Tooele	UT	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. As a wildlife supporter I think it is vital to maintain old growth. I would request the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. There is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut. -Lay groundwork for durable protections for mature forests, to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests. -Old-Growth Forest Management. Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging, that needs to change. I didn't realize that National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks. National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop. That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth. -I have a great respect for our forest, knowing that we are destroying them makes me angry. Their beauty is priceless, don't let them be destroyed. -If we protect these forests, future generations will be able to make those same memories. Forests are Valuable! They Provide: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Clean Water. For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest. -Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions <p>Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present."</p> <p>Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wildlife Habitat <p>Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. <p>In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. 80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -You must be everything you can to prevent future damage to our forests, I'm counting on you to protect them.
Robert	Okazaki	South Ogden	UT	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Forests provide 1) clean water for more than half of the population of the United States; 2) most carbon absorption and storage; 3) climate solutions by making very significant contributions to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development.</p> <p>Forests preserves vital habitat for the >3,000 wildlife species. Loss of forests will be detrimental in increasing extinction of species.</p> <p>Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. Forest Service lands provide recreation visits which generate \$billion in local spending, and support >100,000 jobs. Outdoor equity include camping to fishing to sport climbing, and provide human connection to nature.</p>
Alexandra	Laney	Alexandria	VA	<p>Forests are not timber; they are valuable and unique places of respite and life. My first encounters with Redwood trees still shape memories of my childhood. More than any building or city, they are what I miss when I think of California and home.</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Once logged, these places are lost. We need to conserve them, to protect our heritage and to keep our air and water clean and healthy.</p>
B	Dorries	Staunton	VA	<p>I understand that the service is undertaking development of a new old growth forest plan. That's good for the planet, our forest,, and the American people.</p> <p>When I was a kid in the 70s, I remember watching news reports about the devastating effects that untethered timbering was having on Woodland Giants. It was heartbreaking, and, as we've learned, exceptionally poor policy. We've done a lot better since then. We need to do more.</p> <p>My daughter studied forestry at Warren Wilson College, and graduated this spring, I am proud to say. This fall she begins working with the Appalachian conservation corps. For her, her generation, and those that follow -- I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis, as well as to maintain healthy, beautiful ecosystems.</p> <p>Very Sincerely, Bruce Dorries</p>
Anne	Bailey Baker	Chesapeake	VA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. These trees are the living history of this country. The most important thing for survival is the environment, not money. These trees are priceless and must be saved.</p>
Elizabeth	Ketz-Robinson	Alexandria	VA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. There is no reason on earth not to save our old growth trees/forests!!!!</p>
Scott	McBane	Springfield	VA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. As an avid hiker and walker in natural areas, I know firsthand the great value of old growth forests. I often visit our National Forests: I have hiked the Jefferson and George Washington National Forests in Virginia, extensively in Hiawatha National Forest in Michigan, and National Forests in North Carolina, Montana, Arizona, New Mexico, and California. It has been my experience that, compared to a new growth forest section, the old forest is quite different : the trees are often bigger and more spread out, the forest is more spacious; there are noticeably less invasive species; if there are tree diseases in the forest, and there are many in the East, there is often less tree disease in the old forest; there are more diverse species of trees and native ground plants, and the trees, ferns, mosses, and other wild plants are more numerous, robust, and healthier than in the new forest areas; and these areas are just greener and more beautiful than the surrounding areas of younger trees.</p> <p>But for me, the greatest value of an old growth forest is how these things combine to make me feel. Being in an old forest is an experience of beauty and mystery unlike any other; there is nothing quite like it. An old forest is so special because it is a relatively pure expression of the mysterious creative force of nature because the forest has been left alone and not significantly interfered with by you and human beings. Walking through old growth grants us a direct and pristine connection with that creative force; this is a rare experience in our crowded and industrialized world, and something precious and to be cherished. And certainly this feeling of awe in the presence of mystery is not unique to me: I am certain that almost everyone who experiences old-growth forest has similar emotions more or less.</p> <p>Although it is relatively easy to find mature trees and old growth areas in our National Parks, it is not easy to do in our National Forests; in fact, it has been my experience that there is a little old growth left in our federal forests.</p> <p>This is a great shame that I hope we can rectify by protecting the mature trees and order growth that is left. The Hiawatha national Forest in Michigan, for example, seems to be largely a patchwork of new and older cuts covered in dense thickets of smaller trees. The new cuts are often heartbreaking, the ground covered in lopped off limbs and root balls, the humus churned up and deeply scarred by the heavy equipment used to get to, cut down, and remove the trees. And after a generation or so when the trees have regrown to size, the process is repeated. The Hiawatha is by almost any standard over harvested, with almost no consideration for the preservation of old-growth areas. The emphasis in this forest is on providing timber, and almost no real consideration on any other value this forest provides the citizens. But the tiny remnant patches of older trees left here hint at the amazing beauty and value of this forest in its pristine, unaltered condition. Protecting sections of old-growth forest has so many benefits for all who live near it and use it for recreation and renewal. There is so much lost value for the public and wildlife going to waste by not adequately protecting older sections of forest.</p> <p>Let's start protecting the remaining old-growth areas in our Nation Forests and allow them to grow and spread so that all people and wildlife can reap the benefits they offer. They help clean our water and provide some of the best carbon storage and climate solutions; they provide incomparable habitat for our native trees, forest plants, and wildlife; and maybe their greatest value is how they make us feel, creating awe as we experience the mystery and beauty inherent in pristine nature, our ultimate home.</p>

Anne	Bailey Baker	Chesapeake	VA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Humans can not exist without our environment. Every living thing is a part of the whole life force. Cutting out chunks for greed or convenience is destroying the future. So in the short term humans ignore all other life so humans are satisfied. That selfish motivation is already showing itself in larger and larger disasters. Trees are already burning at an alarming rate. Trees are critical for the environment in many ways. Do not make matters worse just because you might live long enough to feel the severe impact.
Wayne	Teel	Keezletown	VA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. I grew up near these forests in the Pacific Northwest, though they are found in small amounts in other regions of the country with different species. It was partly my experiences with the old growth of Douglas Fir, Sitka Spruce, Western Red Cedar and more that led to my becoming an environmental science and agroecology professor for many years. The forest grows on you as you walk beneath the branches, looking with reverence at their massive presence. Logging targets old growth, but it then diminishes the forest, ultimately making it far less productive. Our limited remaining old growth harbors the remnants of biodiversity sorely needed for rejuvenation of our National Forest Land. Old growth keeps the mycorrhizal fungi healthy and reproducing. Old growth anchors soils and cleans water. Old growth keeps fish populations safe and stable. Old growth preserves genetic and biological diversity. All of this is lost when we log. Clear-cutting is especially damaging because it does not allow a thriving reproductive population of mother trees to coat the forest floor and cradle the local ecosystem. It is time to close all logging operations in old growth. Let them thrive and nurture both the forest and us. We need this healthy interaction with nature. Our own evolution and character are enhanced by having these intact ecosystems throughout our landscape. There is nothing like walking beneath the canopy of old growth, smelling the soil and breathing the cleansed air. My favorite spot is along the Elwa River inside Olympic National Park. But we need old growth outside our park system, inside our National Forests. I now live close to the George Washington National Forest along Massanutten Ridge in the Shenandoah Valley. There are only a few old growth trees here. They were mostly logged in the 19th century for iron production and only came back after farms were abandoned in the 1920s and 30s. Even so the near 100 year old red oaks, white oak, bitternut hickories and tulip poplars are inspiring. What is not inspiring or healthy is watching them cut down in clear cuts that mangle soil and lead to the planting of a monoculture in its wake. These are poor policies. We need more intelligent harvest that leaves to oldest and best to provide the replacement seed stalk and conserve the biodiversity. It is time to rethink your policies to make this so.
Stephen	Hackney	Virginia Beach	VA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. As a youngster in Pennsylvania, my favorite times were spent, walking in the forests surrounding my hometown. I noticed the different shaped leaves on the trees that were growing there. Some areas were all leafy trees, and then some were evergreens; fragrant needles, etc. I learned to see the value in growing trees; large and small, the way they preferred different locations to thrive. Early on in the 1950's, I had no idea that my hometown would experience global warming, that brought on extreme heat, and longer summers. But, since that time, I have studied the changes in the environment, enrolled in engineering school, and studied organic chemistry. I began to specialize in the environment, atmospheric science, and the gradual CO2 in our air. It has become obvious to me and my fellow scientists that we are responsible for how the climate has warmed and why we are seeing extreme weather, wildfire and widespread flooding. We extract coal, oil and natural gas, so that we have ample energy to heat our homes, power our vehicles, and supply electricity to almost everyone on earth. But... in the process of extracting all of these fossil fuels, we have set a path to rising CO2 concentrations and global warming on a scale never seen before! It is a fact that all new construction that produces an increase in fossil fuels, is a death sentence for our citizens of the world. This fact is part of what we call "The Inconvenient Truth" of man's striving to unearth more and more fossil fuels, to burn, to process and to sell to other countries of our world. The more that we extract, the higher the death count will be for our people. Transportation uses an obscene amount of fuels to fulfill our appetite for travel, trucking, all forms of shipping. It is the emissions from all of our fuel combustion due to travel, that affects our citizens, the ones that live near highways, warehouses, airports, and power stations, burning all types of fossil fuels. Our air is loaded with poisons, organics, derivatives of the alkanes in diesel fuel, gasoline, jet fuel and still places that burn coal, still...??? Will we ever learn to stop all of the practices that emit pollution into our air, the air that gives us life and energy...??? We need to protect all of the areas, and all of the growing plants and trees that are life saving carbon sinks. Some of the largest carbon sinks are old-growth forests. Since we have already clear-cut many of our old growth areas, we can't afford to lose one more tree, and especially any more expansive forests that have been growing for hundreds of year. Don't people realize that the trees are giving us oxygen, and all they ask is to take some CO2, out of the air in return. When you walk among the giant trees, or a simple stand of hemlocks near your home, you need to feel the fresh air, the O2 flowing out of the trees, and giving life to all of us... We all need these trees! We need the life-giving oxygen that they produce. We also need to protect these trees, which are homes for all manner of wildlife. Speak up for trees. Speak up for wildlife. Breathe in that fresh air that forests give us...!!!
Tyler	Hernadi	McLean	VA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Forests are important to me for so many reasons. I love their beauty- I love their leaves, soft ground, mosses, bird calls, unique tree shapes. I love how much cooler it is in the forest than other places. The forest is always so calming. It also reminds me of my childhood, when my mom and I would go on adventures and hikes.
Tracy	Ouellette	Bow	WA	I am a parent, a physician, and an optimist. I value our planet and all of the biodiversity that we share it with, which also makes life possible for all of us. Old growth forests are a miraculous habitat and defender against the existential threat of climate change. However, we have allowed the very short term interests of logging and resource extraction to take precedence over conserving these tremendous gifts that old growth forests provide. We need to prioritize conservation of old growth forests over extractive industries, to preserve them for future generations and to protect the biodiversity and habitat that they contain. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.
Eric	Burr	Mazama	WA	As an ancient retired forester(lw1961),I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Political forest management is bankrupt, so now maybe it's time at long last for real forestry, based on healthy old forests, of the kind described by Dr. Susan Simard -in her "mother tree" book.
Gary	Albright	Snohomish	WA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Many people have never walked in an old growth forest. I have. Walking in an old growth forest, just being there amongst the trees, is good for the soul. It is not a feeling I can put into words, it is just good for me.
Andrea	Chin	Redmond	WA	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.
Paul	Roberts	Seattle	WA	I am a 71 year old American physician who grew up in the positive influence of forest and wilderness. Fifty years ago I learned in sophomore Biology that human fossil fuel use is causing rising CO2 in the atmosphere and that this will cause global warming of potentially catastrophic degree. As a prediction it was so shocking as to challenge belief. Now that this warning is in our faces daily, many people can only retreat into fantasy and psychotic denial of the obvious, to preserve the illusion that we can continue to take whatever we want from the earth without condemning our children to live, or die, in a wasteland. Forests, especially old growth forests, are not just aesthetically and culturally desirable. They are a crucial element in stabilizing the network of environmental influences. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.

Charles	Collier	Redmond	WA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Forests are Valuable! They Provide: Clean Water For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest. Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests. Wildlife Habitat Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction. Outdoor Recreation Protecting our forests is an investment in our economy and expands outdoor equity. In 2019, Forest Service lands tallied 150 million recreation visits, generated \$10.1 billion in local spending, and supported 153,800 jobs. 80% of outdoor activities -- from camping to fishing to sport climbing -- have seen an increase in participation in recent years, and those visiting the outdoors are becoming more diverse. 512 SIGNATURES OF 5,000 GOAL</p> <p>Your Information</p> <p>Charles Collier Email: chcollier@gmail.com Zip: 98052</p> <p>Details not correct? Reset form.</p> <p>Street Address 17708 NE 88th PL City Redmond State Washington Your Message</p> <p>Subject Please protect mature and old-growth forests! Message I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. 3871 characters remaining</p> <p>By clicking Send My Message, you will also receive periodic communications from the Sierra Club. You can unsubscribe at any time.</p>
Derek	Benedict	Lynnwood	WA	<p>Your organization is responsible to ensure that future generations of animals and plants have forests to live in, and for people to visit.</p> <p>So I strongly call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
Melissa	Eriksen	Seattle	WA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>I, like so many other Americans, am deeply proud of our National Forests, yet greatly concerned about their future. Old growth forests are a critical resource for biodiversity and carbon sequestration, as well as a direct resource for the millions of Americans who recreate in these forests.</p> <p>Our country is consistently losing natural spaces to development, increasing the risk of extinction for countless species. This loss of biodiversity threatens all of us, as it increases the spread of pathogens such as Lyme disease, West Nile encephalitis, and hantavirus pulmonary syndrome.</p> <p>Policies that prioritize logging are antiquated and out of step with what the American people want. National Forests need to be managed in step with the current times, and be preserved for recreation, supporting biodiversity, and combating climate change.</p>
Marie	Bailey	Bellingham	WA	<p>I grew up in northern Wisconsin, and spent a lot of time in the Chequamegon National Forest hiking, camping, attending summer camp. It felt magical as a child. It is a beautiful lush forest but more importantly, it is a vital habitat where diverse species thrive and mature trees support the earth. I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
Jill	LaRue	Cashmere	WA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>As a retired healthcare provider I recognize that our forests are valuable to our health collectively as well as individually. I go to the mountains and our national forests on a regular basis. I go there to enjoy the trees. I go there to forage mushrooms, nettle, huckleberries. I backpack through and camp in our forests for exercise and respite. I have taken my children into the forest before they could walk and I plan to do so with my grandchildren.</p> <p>Our oldest and largest trees contain wisdom from our planet and provide solace. I have taken trips for the sole (soul) purpose of being able to see the largest tree in that forest.</p> <p>Please protect these old growth and mature forests while we can.</p>
Malcolm	Cumming	Clinton	WA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests. A huge portion of our forests that are within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service have already been logged during the last 100 years. To continue targeting the remaining stands of our most robust forest ecosystems is completely senseless and irresponsible. Our growing knowledge tells us - what should be obvious - that the rich biodiversity that maintains the strongest ecosystems is the result of millions of years of evolution. The elimination of the remaining product of that evolution undercuts our own human security.</p> <p>It's time to not only stop targeting old growth forests, but to protect forest lands that are maturing once again into well-established ecosystems.</p>

Judith	Anderson	Tacoma	WA	<p>I am using the words provided by the Sierra Club because I agree with them wholeheartedly. I am tired of having to defend undeveloped areas because some man with issues wants more money. These forests CANNOT BE REPLANTED. They are home to beings who cannot just pick up and move to another location. Many of them will be shot by the same cretanous people who want to cut down the trees. I am leaving out the part about human recreation in the forests. HUMANS HAVE TAKEN OVER EVERYWHERE. THEY DO NOT NEED ACCESS TO REMOTE ANCIENT FORESTS. YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT HUMANS DO, THEY RUIN IT. STOP DEVELOPING OLD GROWTH FORESTS. Here are Sierra Clubs words:</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old-Growth Forest Management</p> <p>Despite being cherished across the country, old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. Most Americans don't know this, but National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop. That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth. Forests are Valuable! They Provide:</p> <p>Clean Water For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest.</p> <p>Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests.</p> <p>Wildlife Habitat Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.</p>
Matthew	Cloner	Seattle	WA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. There is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut.</p> <p>Lay groundwork for durable protections for mature forests, to ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests.</p>
Angie	Dixon	Clinton	WA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. The USFS has the opportunity to safeguard our old growth forests. I ask you to think and look at history. How much of our old growth forests are really left? Not much - and our losses to species, clean air, water and soil health are catastrophic. These are facts. It is time we left our old growth forests alone and also help them thrive and expand. WE need them for the health and well being of us ALL! It has to be more than just a tree museum. Forests are alive and functioning ecosystems that keep the planet healthy which keeps us all healthy. Old growth is vital. New forests don't have the capacity of old growth to handle what needs to be handled for environmental health which is why we need larger and connecting forests that are allowed to reach climax - old growth. You know this already so use it as your guideline to protect and preserve our remaining old growth forests and expand them according to the region to which they are native - to support native species NOT invasive species. Thank you. All our lives on the line - including yours and your families' - if you make rules that destroy our old growth forests and ignore protecting and preserving them and expanding them. This is also a fact, so if you love this earth and your families, you will make decisions that support old growth forest health and well being because it supports ours and much much more.</p>
Tanya	Lasuk	Kennewick	WA	<p>I am a retired engineer who has been following global climate change since I was an engineering student in the 1970s. I imagined people would take up mitigating the atmosphere warming gasses when the glaciers melted but no such luck.</p> <p>I imagine at some point, science and engineering will save us. Until then, our best systems for converting carbon dioxide into oxygen and carbon are old growth trees. They resist fire by shading the understory, preventing high heat burning undergrowth from burning the trees. By sequestering carbon, resisting fire, and cooling the earth, old growth forests are our best defense against global warming.</p> <p>We have no way to stop the extreme weather volatility that climate change brings, but by conserving old-growth trees on federal forests we are giving ourselves a little more capacity to prevent the most dire of possible catastrophes.</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>
Krista	Hammer	Blaine	WA	<p>USFS should prioritize conserving mature and old-growth trees in federal forests because our climate is in crisis and we are rapidly losing essential biodiversity. Even more important there is an essential ethical imperative to not destroy these incredible giants that are completely irreplaceable once they are cut.</p> <p>I am the parent of two sons who have both solo hiked the WA and OR sections of the PCT. My husband and I are also both hikers and outdoor lovers. My grandfather once owned a logging mill up in Terrace B.C. and my dad worked there in high school. Unfortunately, now, when I hike in logged forests, I see the stumps of old growth trees and feel how wrong it was that endless forests are gone forever. These enormous trees can never regrow in my lifetime or that of my kids or grand kids. We humans are profit motivated and very shortsighted. The remaining old growth trees are irreplaceable; it is totally unethical and wrong to cut any more. Conservation needs to be prioritized over profit. I hope we humans are now able to stop doing some of the bad things we have done in the past. We have knowledge about climate change, about the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem health. More and more people are getting outdoors and realizing how critical our natural spaces are to being mentally and physically healthy. Cutting old growth is so shortsighted.</p>
Steven	Smith	Bellingham	WA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Please do everything possible to save these very last, very limited and important old growth trees which nourish the water, the animals, the environment, and The human soul. Once CNN lost, they are irreplaceable and forever gone!!!</p>
Stephanie	Bell	Seatac	WA	<p>It's not hyperbole to say that without healthy forests, none of us will make it in the long haul. Forests are our burning planet's lungs. They are home for wildlife who are on the brink. They are also sources of sanity for those of us still managing to cling to it in the midst of so many modern-day crises.</p> <p>I BEG the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests for all of these reasons and, of course, to stave off biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Might I hear from you soon?</p>
Gregg	Arnold	Edmonds	WA	<p>I'm sitting on the deck right now with my grandson. I hope he gets the chance to enjoy old growth for us as he grows up. Yes we definitely need lumber, but let's protect the unusually beautiful old forest and get our lumber from farming the rest.</p>

Tien	Vu	Renton	WA	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Forests are Valuable! They Provide: Clean Water For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest. Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which is specifically dedicated to advancing climate change science: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the current institutional context and lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized at present." Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is clear, the best tool for addressing carbon pollution is also the oldest -- our trees and forests. Wildlife Habitat Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing -- it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests! Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction. What?</p>
Bruno	Grande	Seattle	WA	<p>Please let us not make the same mistakes of the past again.</p> <p>Trees first appeared in the Devonian period (between 350 and 400 million years ago) long before the first humans made their appearance!!</p> <p>The awe- inspiring giants- the redwoods (Sequoias) were a very large part of the flora of our planet and had existed all over earth for millions and millions of years. Until very recently they had retreated to 2 million acres on the coast of California BUT it took less than a 100 years for logging to eliminate all but 5% of some of the tallest and oldest living things on earth ! It took some very visionary and courageous women and men , a LOT of effort and at least two decades to start a environmental movement to save millions of these awesome old beings, that we all are now able to experience with awe and wonder.</p> <p>Please let us not make the same mistakes of the past again and let us preserve ALL of the old growth forests we have now, and this time its for our own survival, we do indeed need these sentient old giants to help reverse climate change.</p> <p>It has been well documented that these mature and old growth forests are particularly good at soaking up carbon (they remove carbon dioxide from the air and through photosynthesis convert it into all parts of the tree, ancient forests have been doing it for eons- for as long as they've been alive and continue to do so till they die), logging does the exact opposite and actually releases the carbon that the trees had trapped into the atmosphere intensifying climate change!!</p> <p>A bit of really great news- studies have shown that through active management practices and policies that protect these old growth/ ancient forests, allowing trees to grow and minimizing logging , we are able to reverse this release of carbon into the air and actually the trees will allow more carbon to be absorbed making these forests into carbon sinks , mitigating the effects of climate change.</p> <p>I was very surprised to know this fact that National Forests are not managed like National Parks, in that they are within the Department of Agriculture , where trees are treated just like a crop. Additionally old growth forests on Federal lands are not protected from logging !! This has got to change. The US Forest Service needs to stop old growth trees from being logged, there needs to be in place regulations and protections for these treasures, and all mature forests to ensure they endure and the mature forests get a chance to develop into old growth forests for the future generations.</p> <p>These forests of western North America have the highest carbon storage potential of any forest type in the world and are recognized as some of the most valuable ecosystems on the planet. We should do everything in our power with the help of the proper authorities like the US Forest Service to protect and ensure these amazing old growth and mature forests endure, so that we humans can too.</p> <p>My friends and family all are avid nature lovers. We hike, bike, observe the flora and fauna, enjoy regular forays into forests and marvel at the wonders of nature called trees. We also realize the importance of preserving them for our immediate and distant future. Old-growth forest is absolutely necessary for the survival of protected plant and animal (owls, woodpeckers, etc) species, and help to maintain our Earth's threatened biodiversity. It is our fervent hope that the US Forest Service with allied agencies will make the necessary permanent policy changes to ensure that old growth and mature forests are protected from now on, so that they can grow and thrive right into the future.</p>
Patrick	Pastore	Seattle	WA	<p>Please let us not make the same mistakes of the past again.</p> <p>Trees first appeared in the Devonian period (between 350 and 400 million years ago) long before the first humans made their appearance!!</p> <p>The awe- inspiring giants- the redwoods (Sequoias) were a very large part of the flora of our planet and had existed all over earth for millions and millions of years. Until very recently they had retreated to 2 million acres on the coast of California BUT it took less than a 100 years for logging to eliminate all but 5% of some of the tallest and oldest living things on earth ! It took some very visionary and courageous women and men , a LOT of effort and at least two decades to start a environmental movement to save millions of these awesome old beings, that we all are now able to experience with awe and wonder.</p> <p>Please let us not make the same mistakes of the past again and let us preserve ALL of the old growth forests we have now, and this time its for our own survival, we do indeed need these sentient old giants to help reverse climate change.</p> <p>It has been well documented that these mature and old growth forests are particularly good at soaking up carbon (they remove carbon dioxide from the air and through photosynthesis convert it into all parts of the tree, ancient forests have been doing it for eons- for as long as they've been alive and continue to do so till they die), logging does the exact opposite and actually releases the carbon that the trees had trapped into the atmosphere intensifying climate change!!</p> <p>A bit of really great news- studies have shown that through active management practices and policies that protect these old growth/ ancient forests, allowing trees to grow and minimizing logging , we are able to reverse this release of carbon into the air and actually the trees will allow more carbon to be absorbed making these forests into carbon sinks , mitigating the effects of climate change.</p> <p>I was very surprised to know this fact that National Forests are not managed like National Parks, in that they are within the Department of Agriculture , where trees are treated just like a crop. Additionally old growth forests on Federal lands are not protected from logging !! This has got to change. The US Forest Service needs to stop old growth trees from being logged, there needs to be in place regulations and protections for these treasures, and all mature forests to ensure they endure and the mature forests get a chance to develop into old growth forests for the future generations.</p> <p>These forests of western North America have the highest carbon storage potential of any forest type in the world and are recognized as some of the most valuable ecosystems on the planet. We should do everything in our power with the help of the proper authorities like the US Forest Service to protect and ensure these amazing old growth and mature forests endure, so that we humans can too.</p> <p>My friends and family all are avid nature lovers. We hike, bike, observe the flora and fauna, enjoy regular forays into forests and marvel at the wonders of nature called trees. We also realize the importance of preserving them for our immediate and distant future. Old-growth forest is absolutely necessary for the survival of protected plant and animal (owls, woodpeckers, etc) species, and help to maintain our Earth's threatened biodiversity. It is our fervent hope that the US Forest Service with allied agencies will make the necessary permanent policy changes to ensure that old growth and mature forests are protected from now on, so that they can grow and thrive right into the future.</p>

Tenaya	Kothari	Seattle	WA	<p>Please let us not make the same mistakes of the past again.</p> <p>Trees first appeared in the Devonian period (between 350 and 400 million years ago) long before the first humans made their appearance!!</p> <p>The awe- inspiring giants- the redwoods (Sequoias) were a very large part of the flora of our planet and had existed all over earth for millions and millions of years. Until very recently they had retreated to 2 million acres on the coast of California BUT it took less than a 100 years for logging to eliminate all but 5% of some of the tallest and oldest living things on earth ! It took some very visionary and courageous women and men , a LOT of effort and at least two decades to start a environmental movement to save millions of these awesome old beings, that we all are now able to experience with awe and wonder.</p> <p>Please let us not make the same mistakes of the past again and let us preserve ALL of the old growth forests we have now, and this time its for our own survival, we do indeed need these sentient old giants to help reverse climate change.</p> <p>It has been well documented that these mature and old growth forests are particularly good at soaking up carbon (they remove carbon dioxide from the air and through photosynthesis convert it into all parts of the tree, ancient forests have been doing it for eons- for as long as they've been alive and continue to do so till they die), logging does the exact opposite and actually releases the carbon that the trees had trapped into the atmosphere intensifying climate change!!</p> <p>A bit of really great news- studies have shown that through active management practices and policies that protect these old growth/ ancient forests, allowing trees to grow and minimizing logging , we are able to reverse this release of carbon into the air and actually the trees will allow more carbon to be absorbed making these forests into carbon sinks , mitigating the effects of climate change.</p> <p>I was very surprised to know this fact that National Forests are not managed like National Parks, in that they are within the Department of Agriculture , where trees are treated just like a crop. Additionally old growth forests on Federal lands are not protected from logging !! This has got to change. The US Forest Service needs to stop old growth trees from being logged, there needs to be in place regulations and protections for these treasures, and all mature forests to ensure they endure and the mature forests get a chance to develop into old growth forests for the future generations.</p> <p>These forests of western North America have the highest carbon storage potential of any forest type in the world and are recognized as some of the most valuable ecosystems on the planet. We should do everything in our power with the help of the proper authorities like the US Forest Service to protect and ensure these amazing old growth and mature forests endure, so that we humans can too.</p> <p>My friends and family all are avid nature lovers. We hike, bike, observe the flora and fauna, enjoy regular forays into forests and marvel at the wonders of nature called trees. We also realize the importance of preserving them for our immediate and distant future. Old-growth forest is absolutely necessary for the survival of protected plant and animal (owls, woodpeckers, etc) species, and help to maintain our Earth's threatened biodiversity. It is our fervent hope that the US Forest Service with allied agencies will make the necessary permanent policy changes to ensure that old growth and mature forests are protected from now on, so that they can grow and thrive right into the future.</p>
Randolph	Schoedler	Milwaukee	WI	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Myself and many others feel that a natural forest is necessary to give to our descendants to enjoy as the world should.</p>
Isaiah	M Laitinen	Pulaski	WI	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Reforestation is a great tool to combat climate change, but protecting existing forests is even more important. Old-growth forests are historical time capsules, they are incredibly significant ecologically even compared to newer forests, they provide crucial habitat to countless species of birds and mammals threatened with extinction, and they store countless tons of CO2. Cutting down old-growth forests releases harmful climate chemicals into the atmosphere and further damages our beautiful home.</p> <p>Please protect old-growth forests!</p>
Aleks	Kosowicz	Abrams	WI	<p>Everyone is looking for the next best solution to our climate instability, and the truth is that it is, has been, sitting right in front of us from the start. Our trees, our forests--and particularly our old growth forests, have all the capacity to regulate each and every one of our planetary systems if we'd only protect and grow them to mitigate the damage we've already done. That's the science that will heal our world. It is imperative that the USFS works to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Thank.you.</p>
Amy	Mueller	Dousman	WI	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Old growth forests are a treasure we need now more than ever. They are not a commodity or a crop that should be harvested. They need to be preserved and protected so that they can provide all their many amazing ecological services impacting our air, water, soil, and wildlife. As an avid nature lover, I need these forests to explore, hike, and recharge. I need them to be a place I can escape to and experience true wilderness, and even hear a wolf return my howl after dusk. These are special places that provide REAL value as they exist, and shame on anyone who spoils these amazing places for us and future generations.</p>
Colleen	Krohn	Lake Geneva	WI	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. There is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut. Forests are one of the most efficient, scalable, and cost-effective ways we have to absorb and store carbon -- period. We are at inflection point. Climate Change is bearing down upon us like a freight train. One of the Simplest, most Inarguable ways to combat it is simply this; Do Not Cut Down Our Old Growth Forests!</p> <p>It is Time for durable protections for mature forests, Ensure that they are able to develop into our next generation of old-growth forests.</p> <p>Old-growth forests on federal lands remain unprotected from logging. This Must Change! Immediately! Most Americans don't know that National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop. That's wrong, Especially for mature and old-growth trees that sometimes hundreds of years of life, protecting our lives, and our water. Forests are Incredibly Valuable! Forests Provide: Clean Water For more than half of the population of the United States, clean water doesn't start at the tap -- it starts in a nearby National Forest. Carbon Storage and Climate Solutions According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: "Forestry can make a very significant contribution to a low-cost global mitigation portfolio that provides synergies with adaptation and sustainable development. However, this opportunity is being lost in the lack of political will to implement and has resulted in only a small portion of this potential being realized? Protecting forests is not only a low-cost carbon solution but also one that boosts climate adaptation and sustainable development. The science is Clear, One of the Best Tools for addressing carbon pollution is the oldest -- Our Trees and Forests.</p>
Nathan	Dombeck	Janesville	WI	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Trees are one vital component of the fight against climate change and provide so many benefits. Home for animals and even other plants, food for insects, and a boost in psychological well being for us humans as well.</p>
Mary	Cappaert	Freedom	WI	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. We need to do this NOW as otherwise our children and their children, etc will not have the wondrous places to visit that we were able to see! These are precious to our world/country and we have squandered too much time already in not doing enough for our mature forests!! We need to act now!</p>
Ali	Printz	Shepherdstown	WV	<p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>As someone from West Virginia, I see the state constantly clear cutting national and state forest land that is supposed to be protected to private interests. My state ok particular has old growth forest that is rare and currently in danger of being logged in Tucker County specifically. Please preserve these forests for the sake of the planet and so that younger generations can learn from them. Greed is temporary but the effects of it are forever, let's respect the environment and protect our trees.</p>
Bernhard	Opitz	Cody	WY	<p>Great forest have taken centuries to become what they are today for us! Short term profits are secondary to the natural health of our country. Protect what you can't recreate!</p> <p>I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.</p>

Mike	Selmer	Laramie	WY	My wife and I visit old growth forests as part of many of our vacations. It is important that we protect and nurture these natural assets throughout our country.
Kerstin	Opitz	Cody	WY	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. There are so many idiotic plans out there to reduce carbon emissions, when the most obvious answer is right there - support the old growth forests (and other plant life) who NEED the carbon emissions to LIVE. Old-growth forests are such vital ecosystems for the health of our planet in so many ways, protecting them is a must.
Diane	Verna	Alta	WY	I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Trees are more stressed than ever. They need all the help we can give them since we are responsible for the changing climate. Let's work hard to protect our old growth and living forests before they all burn up!!
Eric	Dalton	Cheyenne	WY	America has very few old growth forests remaining. I would like to see all of them protected. Old growth forests are a tool to help us moderate climate change. They are also invaluable wildlife habitat. Many of them serve as important watersheds. In addition to old growth, we should also be protecting mature 2nd growth forests as well. Thank you for your service and for your consideration.