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First name: Van

Last name: Decker

Organization: Decker Tree Farm

Title: Owner

Comments: See attached document.

Aug.29,2022

Request for information : Federal Old-Growth and Nature Forests

<https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?project=NP-3239>

Only 25 % of the National Forest System is available for regular timber management..

We need to keep these lands open to active management so they do not become overgrown with fine fuels and become more risky to wildfires .Efforts to restrict management in all ages of forests ignore the fact that forests are dynamic ecosystems that are growing every day.This effort to define and inventory" older forests undermine the Biden Administration's own 10-year wildfire strategy to significantly increase forest management treatments and diverts limited resources away from our national wildfire and smoke crisis.Any single definition of old-growth and mature forests could be so general that it is useless in guiding forest management across the nation.In the 1800's and early 1900's most of the open land was grazed with livestock which ate the grass and fine fuels which controlled the wildfires.My family and our hired crew of loggers work everyday in the forests harvesting trees which are made into construction grade lumber. for domestic building.We recommend this Federal Old-Growth and Mature Forests definition project be stopped, and the resources be used by the Forest Service to better use.Thank you,Van Decker