

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/30/2022 4:00:00 AM

First name: Josue

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Organization: Natural Resources Defense Council

Title:

Comments: Dear Secretary Vilsack and Secretary Haaland,

Please accept these 11,254 public comments from members and online activists of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) urging you to define mature and old-growth forests to include all stands and trees older than 80 years. It is critical that you move quickly to propose a rule that would protect these trees and forests from logging. We are deeply concerned about the logging threats facing our mature forests and am encouraged by President Biden's recent executive order recognizing their critical importance in the fight against climate change.

These vital forests fight climate change by removing and storing carbon naturally, protecting drinking water for our communities, and providing habitat for at-risk wildlife. But these public lands are under threat by timber companies. When these mature trees are logged and processed, much of their stored carbon is rapidly released - and recapturing it through forest regrowth takes decades or centuries.

The climate crisis is upon us now. We do not have decades or centuries to regrow forests. Please do your part to help protect mature forests before they're gone forever.

Thank you.

ATTACHMENT: Form letter campaign, excel attachment with organization commenters on it.