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First name: Crockett

Last name: Marr

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

I am a citizen of the United States of America, residing in the great state of Oregon. Oregon is known for its majestic forests. These forests are working forests - producing vital timber, vital habitat for animals including endangered species, vital ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, generation of oxygen, and filtration of freshwater. Oregon's forests are essential to our state's economy and our collective health and wellbeing. Of Oregon's forests, only a minute portion of old-growth forests remain. It is these old-growth forests that are the subject of this letter.

I am writing to thank you for the exciting proposal you released on December 19th that will reduce the commercial logging of old growth in our national forests. We now call on you to realize the promise of President Biden's forest executive order by finalizing strong standards to protect old growth and by issuing strong protections for mature trees and forests from the clear and present threat of logging. Protecting and recovering these natural climate solutions would be a key pillar of U.S. climate policy and reinforce United States' international climate leadership.

Safeguarding and expanding carbon-rich forests on Forest Service lands is one of the most important, cost-effective, and timely approaches to fighting the climate crisis. Mature and old-growth trees store and continue to absorb large amounts of carbon in addition to providing the public with clean drinking water, habitat for imperiled wildlife, and world-class recreational opportunities. Larger, older trees are also more fire resistant, and the protections would allow for necessary efforts to address the risk of fire.

Unfortunately, vital mature forests and the trees within them are currently threatened by numerous proposed and ongoing logging projects. We need to ensure both mature and old-growth trees and forests on federal lands, including our national forests, remain in place to mitigate climate change, and to maintain their natural benefits for future generations. Thank you for your leadership on these important issues.

If you would like to discuss this issue with me and learn more about how important Oregon's and our nation's old-growth forests are to me and to the citizens of our great country, not to mention our children and our grandchildren, I invite you to contact me. I'll take you for a hike in some of the rare and precious remnant old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you and hiking with you in our precious old-growth forests.

Crockett Marr

Portland, Oregon

ATTACHMENT: PXL_20220905_184701152.jpg photo of person and trees.