

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/10/2024 5:00:00 AM

First name: Josh

Last name: Kelly

Organization: Mountain True

Title: Public Lands Field Biologist

Comments: We, the undersigned, are writing to thank you and express our full-hearted support for your proposal to conserve and steward old-growth forests on national forests and grasslands by amending forest management plans nationwide in accordance with President Biden's Executive Order. Under the deeply flawed Nantahala-Pisgah National Forest management plan that was adopted early in 2023, more than 100,000 acres of old-growth forests, natural heritage areas, roadless areas, and sensitive habitats were placed in zones that are open to commercial logging. We ask that the management plan be amended to protect these areas of old-growth and mature forest from commercial logging and emphasize the restoration of wildfire resilience and old-growth characteristics across the plan area. As residents, visitors, and forest users who love the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests of western North Carolina, we believe that this is a critical opportunity to correct some of the critical deficiencies within the forest management plan so that it reflects our current climate realities and the overwhelming public support for the conservation of old-growth forests and sensitive habitats. Thank you for your time and consideration.

ATTACHMENT: KellyJ_Incoming_8935866.pdf Petition with 2 signatures.