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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To U.S. Forest Service,

I applaud the Biden administration for proactively working to employ a science-based approach to sustainably manage our diminished and threatened, U.S. old growth and other forest lands. I support the focus on flexibility to apply the resulting laws, rules or orders on a regional forest basis, with inclusion of local stakeholders, and consideration of Native wisdom and practices. Our forest coverage of the continent looks nothing on a map as it did at the time the continent was being settled (see attachment). The destruction of once vast forestland is tragic and disturbing.

But as with the ACA, which still stresses inclusion of private health insurance companies in the U.S. healthcare system mix, the military which has handed off so many functions to private contractors, and private, unnecessary livestock ranches, oil drilling, and mining on public lands, I am deeply concerned about continuing a taxpayer giveaway to private loggers on public lands, and the insulting promotion of the myth that you keep trees from burning by cutting them down and selling them.

First, you start fires easier with the new growth and brush kindling left by loggers, not the huge old trees they cut down the maintain moisture and soil integrity, especially important in our drought-prone warming climate. And equally harmful is the possibility that this is done without fair compensation to the taxpaying public that owns the land and resources. Second, I really fear justifying logging is an excuse to increase roads, which facilitates development of our last wild lands. And in Alaska, this is extremely disturbing to me.

I sincerely hope this proposal is successful, and truly benefits all stakeholders other than powerful business interests, promotes social justice, and truly preserves and increases old and new growth US forests in perpetuity.

"In the end, our society will be defined not only by what we create, but by what we refuse to destroy." - John Sawhill, President and CEO, The Nature Conservancy, 1999-2000

ATTACHMENT: Native Forest Council Native Forest Depletion 1620-2008 Spring 2008 Vol 20 No.2 copy.jpeg  
Graphic of continental US showing native forest depletion.