

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/2/2024 5:00:00 AM

First name: Swetha

Last name: Pottam

Organization: Earthjustice

Title:

Comments: Hello,

My name is Swetha Pottam, and I work with Earthjustice. Thank you for requesting public input on the Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System. I am submitting the names of 29,105 individuals who have signed this petition urging the United States Forest Service to finalize strong standards to protect old growth and mature trees from logging. Below you will see the letter that Earthjustice supporters and members of the public have signed, and I have attached the excel spreadsheet containing their names, the date they submitted, and their city and state.

I have also attached the file of 1,712 individuals who have submitted personalized comments to this comment period.

Dear U.S. Forest Service:

I am writing to thank you for the exciting proposal you released on December 19th that will move our climate fight forward by reducing 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.

Sincerely,

[undersigned]

Attachment: Climate Forests Jan 2024 list of petition signers.xlsx - is a spreadsheet of petition signatories.

Attachment: Climate Forests Jan 2024 personalized comments.xlsx - is a spreadsheet of petition signatories with personalized comments.