

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/17/2024 4:00:00 AM

First name: Ellen

Last name: Montgomery

Organization: Bulk

Title:

Comments: Attached are comments submitted by 37 people through <http://protectourforests.org>

Mature and old-growth trees and forests protect our climate by absorbing and storing carbon, boost resilience to fire, help regulate temperatures, filter drinking water and shelter wildlife. Logging these trees deprives us of the benefits and beauty of our largest, oldest trees. Your draft proposal fails to protect these trees and forests. The proposal includes many opportunities to send these trees to the mill and allows agency staff to manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals. It contains ambiguous language that could be used to justify continued commercial logging of old growth in the Tongass. I support a policy for our national forests that will: 1.End the logging of old-growth trees and in old-growth stands where fire is infrequent. 2.End the commercial exchange of old-growth trees. No old-growth trees should be sent to mills. 3.Establish protections for mature forests and trees to increase the amount of old growth for the future

ATTACHMENT: ProtectOurForests pubic comments 2024-7-17.pdf includes copies of the letter text above, 37 names/signors and contact information as well as the following Form Plus text.

I grew up in a woody area, and having a childhood filled with nature has fueled my love of it. I am so grateful for my experience, and I would hate to see that taken away from future children. Let's protect our beautiful trees! The Forest Service must establish protections for mature forests and trees to increase the amount of old growth for our children and generations beyond.