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Organization: Bulk

Title:

Comments: Attached are 3,009 comments submitted by individuals via <http://protectourforests.org>

Mature and old-growth trees and forests filter drinking water for communities, are homes for wildlife and protect our climate by absorbing and storing tons of carbon every year. These trees and forests also boost ecosystem resilience to fire and help regulate forest temperatures. Threats to our mature and old-growth forests include a changing climate and commercial logging. Cutting down our oldest trees deprives Americans of the benefits, beauty and majesty of our largest, oldest trees. These trees are worth more standing. With the proposed National Old-Growth Amendment, the Forest Service has an opportunity to protect our mature and old-growth trees; but the current draft proposal fails to do so. The policy proposals include numerous opportunities for the Forest Service to cut old-growth trees and send them to the mill. All of the proposed alternatives allow agency staff the discretion to manage old growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals. They also contain ambiguous language that could be used to justify continued commercial logging of old growth in the Tongass National Forest. None of the Alternatives proposed would protect our oldest trees and forests. For me to support these amendments, I consider it necessary that the final amendments address these deficiencies: 1. The Forest Service must end the logging of old-growth trees across our national forests 2. The Forest Service must end the commercial exchange of old-growth trees logged on forestlands managed by the agency. No old-growth trees should be sent to mills. 3. The Forest Service must establish protections for mature forests and trees to increase the amount of old growth for our children and generations beyond. ATTACHMENT ProtectOurForests public comments 2024-7-26.pdf includes copies of the letter text above, 3,009 names/signors and contact information as well as the following Form Plus text. I'm against the logging of old-growth forest on federal land. As an amateur mycologist I'm greatly concerned about the impact this logging can have on fungi in old-growth forests and the study of fungi species which are not found in open or deforested areas. These old-growth forests are a significant source of science as we as humans attempt to identify new medicines and other practical discoveries derived from fungi sources.

I am an 18 year old from New Jersey, a state where wooded areas get more difficult to come by with each new neighborhood or warehouse that gets put up. I live in one of the only wooded areas nearby and am beginning college for a degree in environmental conservation. I know the benefits of protecting these lands and see the impacts that development has on an area. Please help protect these trees so that I, and the other future stewards of our planet, can continue to enjoy, respect, experience, and live side by side with these areas. Threats to our mature and old-growth forests include a changing climate and commercial logging. I personally cannot stand with our forests being cut down. Our forests are beautiful and bring life and happiness to many. Please protect our forests. Protecting our old growth trees are massively important and would be a big step towards improving our culture around environmentalism. Protecting our trees can be the first step to a better future. Think about the legacy you want to leave behind; barren land where forests once stood, or productive ecosystems that provide benefits to both the natural and man-made world? It is my great hope and intention to support environmental conservation and try to foster wider concern for the safe stewardship and delicate ecology of our lands. What we do today affects future generations. Please join us in protecting our forests. I am writing this as a 15 year old girl living in upstate New York. My family spent my entire childhood going from national park to mountains to state land, to ensure my brother (who is now 18) and I grow to love this beautiful planet. I remember seeing the beautiful redwoods in California, I remember looking up at the cathedral pines in the Adirondacks. Please let me allow my baby cousins and my children to get to experience the same beauty. Threats to our mature and old-growth forests include a changing climate and commercial logging. Mature and Old-Growth forests

are an essential part of our ecosystems. They are homes to countless amounts of living things, animals, plants, insects, you name it. They also absorb multitudes of carbon and contribute greatly to efforts to mitigate climate warming. On behalf of the future generations that will inherit this planet and have to suffer through the consequences of our ancestors' actions, protect our mature and old-growth forests. Our future has never been more in danger and we have to fight to make a change and do something it fills me with so much anguish to see our planet dying like this. The Lorax is a movie that we should start taking seriously. We are at risk of losing our oldest networks of trees, which are invaluable to humans and environmental health. I love forests so much! I feel peace there and my body relaxes from all the stresses and soul injuries of life. Our forests will be the salvation of humanity. And humanity must, in exchange, preserve those places. You can plant new trees, but you can't plant a new mature old-growth forest. These have benefits that are far more valuable than wood. If we cut down these irreplaceable resources, future generations will marvel at our short-sightedness. Preserving natural endowments, like old growth trees and fresh water, needs to be prioritized as a gift to the future. We need these cultural areas to stay free of micro plastics, chemicals, and human exploitation.

Many times throughout my life I have escaped to these wonderful old forests across the country to find peace and perspective. When I lived in France the French spoke to me about their desire to come and see the stunning vistas of our forests. These help keep America exceptional and inspire our countrymen and those of our fellow humans around the world.

None of the Alternatives proposed would protect our oldest trees and forests. Weeding out the dead trees in our forests may not just help reduce our risk to wildfires, but also help eliminate invasive species that thrive in the area.

As an avid mushroom forager, I'm keenly aware that countless fungal species remain undocumented, especially in our oldest forests. This underscores the irreplaceable value of mature and old-growth ecosystems. These ancient woodlands are vital ecological powerhouses.

4. The Forest Service must create a buffer zone of at least 20 miles surrounding old-growth trees, in which no extraction of resources is permitted.

4.) We must protect our forest for generations to come. Being from Montana, we have a constitutional right to a healthy and clean environment. Protecting old growth forests protects a way of life sacred to many Montanans and citizens of the US.

Since carbon storage grows exponentially with the age of a tree, simply planting new trees will not counteract the destruction of these forests.

Our protected lands are one of the things that make America truly great. People come from around the world to see our national parks, forests, and protected lands. We need to continue to preserve that land for future generations.

With so many patches of forest across the US decimated by clear cutting logging practices, there is ample space for the logging industry to grow their own trees to fulfill demand while leaving mature and old growth forests. Let's work towards US sustainable logging!

I was lucky enough to be able to visit some of these old growth trees in Olympic National Park and Forest, and I want future generations to be able to experience the same awe I did at seeing the old giants. I kept the default statement in here, however I wanted to add that there is a book about this very topic that

completely changed my outlook on life. The Overstory by Richard Powers. I implore you to read it. Protect our earthly neighbors. Fighting the climate change and biodiversity loss crises depends on old growth forests! We need these trees and the habitats they provide to remain protected. Attached below is a copied script that accurately describes my inclinations. In my own voice, I believe that beyond the benefits old growth provides to their ecosystems, these trees are part of our national natural heritage, and our children deserve to see them. The Forest Service must end the logging of old-growth trees across our national forests. With the overturning of the Chevron Deference, it is critical, now more than ever, to ensure we preemptively eliminate ambiguity in our policies whenever possible. We are a part of this world. If we choose to destroy the world we are a part of then we are blindly destroying ourselves. Here in northern Minnesota we are blessed to still have a few hectares of old growth left and we want to make sure these incredible ecosystems stay intact! Trees are the only thing in this world that helps ground me to the present. They keep us cool. They give us life. Protect them and the gifts they give all of us. Hey! I'm another person asking you to truly protect nature and old-growth trees and forests. These trees and forests also boost ecosystem resilience to fire and help regulate forest temperatures. Cutting down forests screws with our biodiversity. It destroys one of our biggest climate emergency fighters. Mature and old-growth trees are not easily replaceable. When one is cut, its replacement may take a lifetime to grow to the same stage. These trees have unique benefits to the environment and the world over younger trees, providing better shelter for wildlife and greater resistance to forest fires. They also have a unique beauty. In many parts of the world, these forests are dying out, as if people show concern at all, they tend to focus simply on the net number of trees cut vs planted. We need specific language enshrining protections for trees codified into policies and laws. My comments in addition to the form are that we can't reverse time and care should be taken now to keep our nation healthy and beautiful. For current and future generations but also as respect for previous generations. Mature and old-growth trees and forests filter drinking water for communities, are homes for wildlife and protect our climate by absorbing and storing tons of carbon every year. These are impacts that are extremely important to me, as a pediatrician who advocates for the future of our nation's youth. Our trees help us every day, especially mature and old growth! Use sustainable logging practice instead and invest in the forest and your future! Please consider the implications of leaving less old growth forests for the generations to come. We must act in the interests of those long after us and respect the little nature we have left. I've only lived in urban areas. I grew up near the Long Island Pine Barrens, and now live near Rock Creek Park. Despite everything else, our love of trees in such urban areas persists. I want to see the rest of our country's beautiful forests and for them to thrive. The proposed National Old-Growth Amendment is unacceptable in its current form, and needs updated language that fully prevents logging of mature and old growth trees. I believe this is incredibly important, not just as a current forestry issue, but as a precedent for future climate conservation efforts and as a sign that the people still have the power to shape our government today. Thank you. Please prioritize protecting mature growth forests and trees as part of our official policy language! When visiting Canada last year, one of our stops was to a forest for a hike. At the base of the trail was a plaque, saying due to logging old growth forests over 100 years old account for less than 4% of the land they used to occupy. We closely guard our Redwoods, why not other old growth forests? Please do not allow logging or deforestation of our old growth forests. We cannot recreate them if cut down. They are irreplaceable in our lifetime. Stop falling for corporate lobbying and do something that benefits the public. As a person who worked as a naturalist in a Redwood forest in Santa Cruz, California I especially care about the protection of our forests. We need them to provide ecological services as well as mental health benefits. The planet absorbed almost no CO₂ last year. If we don't protect our trees in every way possible. We are done! I am writing because having access to old growth forests has changed my life. My time in the forest is the only time I find true respite from the noise of everyday suburban activities. Mentally and physically, I hope that my son can share that peace in the future. I'm from Oregon, and have benefited from growing up in one of the most beautiful parts of the country. Places I loved as a child have now been logged and destroyed. As we suffer more and more devastating effects of climate change, it becomes clearer and clearer how much our existing natural spaces protect us. Mature and old-growth trees safeguard vital genetic diversity and are home to and constitute many different habitats and biomes for numerous species. Hello, I am writing from Idaho to ask that you please strengthen the National Old-Growth Amendment to truly protect old growth trees from extinction. Thank you for keeping forests protected and preserved, the benefits for the public far outweigh the benefits for the mills. This land doesn't belong to them,

and as such should be preserved and protected for use of the people. As someone who lives in a fire heavy region with intense effects on the water and air quality mature growth trees make a large impact on the reducing the negative effects that increase every year. Please protect *both* mature and old-growth forests. Preserving forests is essential to the health of the American people and the planet. Thank you for your consideration. Old growth forests MUST be protected for industrial and commercial use so that the ecosystems that rely on them remain intact. I find it offensive that even after thousands of us made our voices clear on where we stand on the protection of old growth forests and mature trees you are still trying to find ways to undercut our decision to try and make money off of future lumber sales. \They are desperately needed in our fight against climate change and while technically are a renewable resource, they're not a SUSTAINABLE resource due to how long it takes trees to grow. I believe in conservation! I have seen the forests of Washington & can not be silent on their destruction. The clear cuts must stop. The majesty of mature old growth forests hold value. They are full and beautiful and deserve protection! CONSERVE AND PROTECT THEM!