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First name: Richard

Last name: Bailey

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear President Biden: While I applaud your efforts to protect ancient trees in US national forests, the present proposal does little to guarantee forest ecosystem survival. We shouldn't be protecting big trees alone, but ancient (old growth) forests in toto. Logging impacts a forest even if the big trees are left. Forest succession depends on medium and smaller trees, and many animals depend on dense forest for habitat, including the trees that would be scheduled to be removed due to misguided "fuels reduction" projects that are being fast-tracked by the US Forest Service.

Respectfully, you should not be relying on this agency for advice on how to protect forests. The US Forest Service is a bureaucracy whose budgets, staffing and internal philosophy are all based on contracting for the logging of forests. Their answer to every question and solution to every problem is "more logging." We must be protecting our national forests from this agency, not relying on it to set policy, which will inevitable result in copious loopholes that they can drive more log trucks through.

The Forest Service is presently engaged in a process to add loopholes to the Northwest Forest Plan to enable more logging in critical habitat that was presumed protected. It is proposing massive timber sales in sensitive forests under the guise of protecting people from fire, when there is no indication based on science these projects will reduce wildfire risk.

PLEASE obtain the advice of forest scientists and wildlife biologists in development of the old growth protection policy, not the industrial foresters of the US Forest Service, and create an old growth protection policy that our nation can be proud of, as a means of ensuring maximum carbon sequestration from our priceless forest legacy.

I have attached a paper that was sent to the US Forest Service by my organization objecting to one of their so-called "fuels reduction" logging projects.

Thank You,

Ric Bailey

Winthrop, WA 98862

ATTACHMENT: Midnight DEA Comments 3 copy.docx - copy of comment letter from Phillip Fenner of the North Cascades Conservation Council to Cynthia Sandeno as acting Forest Supervisor of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, RE: COMMENTS OF THE NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL ON THE DRAFT

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE MIDNIGHT RESTORATION PROJECT