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Title: Co-Executive Director

Comments: Attached are comments from 382 Christians, submitted through creationjustice.org.

Chief Moore,

We are writing to provide our comments on the U.S. Forest Service's recently released Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) concerning the conservation and monitoring of old-growth forests. As Christians deeply committed to the protection and healing of God's Creation, we commend the Forest Service for taking this important step towards fulfilling President Biden's Executive Order to strengthen the nation's forests. However, we believe that the final policy must be significantly improved to provide robust and lasting protections for mature and old-growth forests. Specifically, the final policy must include concrete actions to protect and recover old-growth forests that have been lost over the past centuries.

The final record of decision should:

? End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.

? End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill. ? Remove the exception that allows for "de minimis" logging of old-growth trees.

? Eliminate the agency discretion to manage old growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.

These forests are vital for clean air and water, wildlife habitats, and preventing soil erosion and flooding. Logging old-growth trees to save the forest is a false solution; they are worth far more standing than as timber.

As a person of faith, I believe that God calls us to be healers and restorers of the Earth, safeguarding the intricate web of creation that sustains us all. Trees have a significant place in our Christian tradition. From the Tree of Life in Genesis to the trees lining the river of the water of life in Revelation, trees are sacred symbols of God's enduring presence and care.

By safeguarding mature forests, we can ensure they become the old-growth of future generations. The policy must establish meaningful protections for both mature and old-growth forests to address the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. Our actions today will determine the health and wellbeing of God's Creation for generations to come.

I urge the Forest Service to finalize a strong policy that truly protects our mature and old-growth forests, enhancing the resilience and wellbeing of all of God's Creation.

In Faith,

[See pdf for signatures]

Attachment FaithSigners_OMGF_Summary_9.19.24.pdf includes the above text and 382 names/signors.

Attachment FaithSigners_OMGF_9.19.24.xlsx includes the above next and 382 names/signors and contact information