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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear President Biden, Agriculture Secretary Vilsack, and U.S. Forest Service Chief Moore,

I am writing to urge the full protection of Mature and Old Growth forests on all federal lands throughout the U.S. Contrary to industry publicity, extensive logging in rural communities, especially in Mature and Old Growth forests, dramatically and negatively impacts the local economy, especially the recreational economy, as well as the property values of adjacent homes, farms, ranches, small businesses, and decreases overall quality of life for local residents.

In the Pacific Northwest for example, local water supplies along the coast have been polluted with harmful pesticides to due aerial spraying of chemicals to control invasive weeds after industrial logging operations. Logging in Mature and Old Growth Forests also decimates bio-regional ecosystems and important habitat for wildlife.

I agree with the comments raised by Maya Khosla, which state that "As Drafted, the DEIS fails to include a range of alternatives that would protect mature as well as old growth forests from commercial logging, other management, and extraction-related actions, and is therefore inadequate as a document that addresses climate change. Logging-related impacts are also ignored. Overall, the plan lacks essential details that are well-established in the scientific literature."

We must protect our Mature and Old Growth forests by taking them off the table for logging, and instead replant already logged forests so that future generations can enjoy access to nature.

I also agree with the views expressed by world-renowned scientists, which suggest that "Old forests are critically important for slowing climate change and merit immediate protection from logging." This includes mature forests, not just the old-growth trees.

<https://theconversation.com/old-forests-are-critically-important-for-slowing-climate-change-and-merit-immediate-protection-from-logging-220771>

Please reject the current DEIS, and consider the following file attachments in your final decision as well.

Thank You,

Abby

ATTACHMENT: MOG Scientist ltr_022824_195final.pdf - letter from concerned scientists, petition signed by 196 people. Commenters state that the DEIS does not provide any standards that require protection of old growth and that this will lead to forest degradation which contributes to climate change.

ATTACHMENT: JMP fact sheet on myth of overgrown forests 28Feb24.pdf - John Muir Project fact sheet highlighting several positions with references: 1) Forests today are not [ldquo]overgrown[rdquo], Dense forests do not burn more intensely, Dense forests are not more susceptible to tree mortality from native beetles or drought, Logging does not curb wildfires[mdash]it does the opposite, Protecting forests, and allowing them to increase their biomass and carbon, is essential to climate change mitigation.