

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/19/2024 4:00:00 AM

First name: Mary

Last name: Martin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the Forest Service -

Thank you for your important work and for accepting input on the mature growth forests. I am compelled to write for the trees of North Carolina, a state I have visited often and love dearly. I actually hope to move there one day. During several trips to Asheville, we noticed the ravages of insect damage on many mountainsides that were once beautiful forests, and I cannot imagine what more hillsides would look like without trees, both young and old. Research on how trees communicate and thrive is being shared, aside from the obvious fact that we humans owe our very breath to them.

Please tighten the loopholes for management to include better plans to care for the existing old growth forests; and make sure that there is are absolute mandatory requirements to prioritize mature forests for stewardship. Hopefully, one day they may become (and replace) old growth, to be more abundant and resilient.

Attachment IMG_8018.jpeg - photograph of a waterfall over bedrock in a mixed pine forest