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First name: Swetha

Last name: Pottam

Organization: Earthjustice

Title: Bulk Digital Advocacy Associate

Comments: Dear U.S. Forest Service,

My name is Swetha Pottam, and I work with Earthjustice. I am submitting the names of 2,245 individuals who have submitted personalized comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement that was released on June 20th and we are urging you to protect old growth forests by finalizing stronger standards to protect old growth, including by ending commercial logging of old growth, and by issuing strong protections for mature trees and forests from the clear and present threat of logging. Attached to this submission is the Excel file containing their names, city, state, zip code, and personalized comments.

Sincerely,

Swetha Pottam

Digital Advocacy Associate

ATTACHMENT Earthjustice personalized comments manual submission letter.pdf is letter text above

ATTACHMENT Earthjustice supporters personalized comments.xlsx is additional comment text submitted by the individuals mentioned above

Summary of personalized comment content:

#### 1. Call for Stronger Standards

- \* Protection of Old Growth: Finalize stronger standards to protect old growth forests.
- \* End Commercial Logging: End commercial logging of old growth.
- \* Protect Mature Trees: Issue strong protections for mature trees and forests from logging threats.

#### 2. Climate and Environmental Benefits

- \* Climate Policy: Protecting and recovering old growth forests is crucial for U.S. climate policy and reinforces international climate leadership.
- \* Carbon Storage: Mature and old-growth trees store and absorb large amounts of carbon, helping to mitigate climate change.
- \* Environmental Services: These forests provide clean drinking water, habitat for wildlife, and recreational opportunities.
- \* Fire Resistance: Larger, older trees are more fire-resistant.

#### 3. Current Threats

\* Logging Projects: Mature and old growth forests are threatened by numerous proposed and ongoing logging projects.

\* Insufficient Protections: The current DEIS proposal is seen as insufficient to protect these forests.

#### 4. Specific Requests

\* Prevent Logging: Prevent old-growth trees from being logged or sold.

\* Close Loopholes: Close loopholes that undermine old growth protections.

\* Tongass National Forest: Provide clearer protection for the Tongass National Forest by removing ambiguous language that could justify continued logging.

#### 5. Public and Environmental Advocacy

\* Broad Support: Comments from various individuals, including biologists, parents, and environmental advocates, emphasize the importance of protecting old growth forests for future generations.

\* Interconnected Crises: Highlight the interconnected crises of climate breakdown and biodiversity loss.

#### 6. Additional Points

\* Cost-Effectiveness: Emphasize the cost-effectiveness and timeliness of safeguarding carbon-rich forests.

\* Future Protections: Advance protections for mature forests, which are the future old growth.

The overall sentiment is a strong advocacy for enhanced protection measures for old growth and mature forests to combat climate change, preserve biodiversity, and maintain natural resources for future generations. The document underscores the urgency of implementing robust standards and closing loopholes to prevent further logging and exploitation of these critical natural assets.