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First name: Brenna

Last name: Bell

Organization: 350PDX

Title:

Comments: Chief Forester Moore,

Last Thursday in Portland, OR, several hundred folks gathered at the Region 6 Forest Service Headquarters to both learn about the various forest planning processes underway in the NW, and also to call for a halt in logging old growth while the National Old Growth Amendment is underway. Today, 70 organizations and over a hundred individuals sent this letter to the President emphasizing the need to protect mature and old growth forests on federally managed lands from logging, and we want to make sure both you, and our Region 6 leadership, see the letter also.

thanks for your consideration,

Brenna Bell, 350PDX

Re: Request a Halt to Logging in Mature and Old Forests During Rulemaking Process

President Biden,

We are in the midst of two interrelated crises: a rapidly changing climate and the escalating loss of biodiversity throughout this continent. Bold action is needed to address these twin crises, action that you could take right now with an Executive Order directing an immediate halt to commercial logging in mature and old forests on land managed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Conserving forests is one of the most effective and lowest-cost options for managing atmospheric carbon dioxide, and mature and old-growth forests do this job best. Protecting and expanding these forests does not require expensive or complex energy-consuming technologies and supports the multiple uses mandated on federally managed lands.

Allowing mature and old-growth forests to continue growing will remove large amounts of atmospheric carbon from the air and store it in the critical decades ahead. Furthermore, mature and old-growth forests help moderate our planet's climate by providing cooler, wetter weather, thus contributing to the mitigation of global warming effects. The sooner the federal government stops logging these forests, the more climate benefit they can provide.

Now is the time to issue a moratorium on logging mature and old-growth forests. We appreciate that the old growth management rulemaking is underway, but the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are still planning and implementing commercial logging projects in these important forests even as the rulemaking process moves forward, undermining the intent of your Executive Order 14072 and the ecological integrity of these special places. A new Executive Order, establishing an immediate moratorium on logging old growth

forests, would ensure that these critical forests are still standing by the time the rulemaking is complete.

Prioritizing carbon storage in mature and old-growth forests has the co-benefits of providing high-quality habitat to imperiled species, making forests more resilient to disturbances like wildfire, and providing cold clean water for drinking and for terrestrial, avian, and aquatic species.

We ask that your Administration:

- * Establish a moratorium on logging all mature and old-growth forests on federally managed land until such a time as permanent and legally binding protections for these forests are in place.

- * Ensure that agencies identify logging, including post-disturbance logging, as a primary threat to these forests in the Environmental Impact Statement for the National Old Growth rule and related rulemaking for Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands.

- * Establish requirements for agencies to include mature forests in developing policies to protect older forests on federal public lands, as per E.O. 14072. Given that only a small percentage of old growth forests remain, it is imperative to provide strong and durable protections for mature forests, in addition to old forests, to ensure a supply of future old growth. Thus far, agencies have excluded mature forests in their initial analyses.

- * Require the FS and BLM to comply with the direction and intent of Biden's Executive orders as part of current and future Forest Plan revisions and amendments to ensure that protections for mature and old forest are strengthened[mdash]not undermined or weakened[mdash]in future Forest Plans.

- * Reduce or eliminate the annual timber targets set by the Forest Service and BLM. This will reduce pressure on forest managers to meet specific harvest quotas, for which they rely on logging large trees and intensive logging practices. .

Contrary to prevailing forest fire management perspectives, intensively managed and logged forests burn more severely than protected forests. Protected forests are less likely to burn at high severity than managed forests, with increasingly higher levels of protections for forests corresponding to increasingly lower severity wildfires.

Brave leadership is needed to enact a paradigm shift for federal forest management that prioritizes biodiversity, clean cold water, carbon storage, connectivity and core habitats for wildlife, and unfragmented forests. It is long past time to move away from outdated strategies of large scale resource extraction on federal public lands. Such changes are needed to avert the worst of the climate crisis, as well as for ensuring clean drinking water and livable communities.

We appreciate the action that this administration has already taken on behalf of biodiversity and the climate, and implore you to take this next important step to keep mature and old-growth forests standing. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Organizations:

350 Eugene Patricia Hine, President

350 Salem Philip H. Carver, Ph.D, Co-coordinator

350 Seattle Linnea Scott, Federal Policy Co-Lead

350PDX Brenna Bell, Forest Climate Manager

Alliance for the Wild Rockies Mike Garrity, Executive Director

Applegate Siskiyou Alliance Luke Ruediger, Executive Director

Athens County's Future Action Network Heather Cantino, Steering Committee Chair

Bark Jordan Latter, Forest Watch Coordinator

Biofuelwatch Gary Hughes

Great Old Broads for Wilderness Amy Stuart, Bitterbrush Broads, co Leader

Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project Paula Hood, Co-director

Buffalo Trace Preservation Group Steven Stewart, President

Cascadia Wildlands Grace Brahler, Wildlands Director

Christians Caring for Creation Connie Hanson, Director

Climate Communications Coalition Sonia Demiray, Director

Coast Range Association Chuck Willer, Executive Director

Communications Workers of America Meg Ward, Local 7901

Conservation Congress Denise Boggs, Director

Cowpasture River Preservation Association Andrew W Young, Watershed Keeper

Creation Justice Ministries Karyn Bigelow, Co-Executive Director

Dogwood Alliance Danna Smith, Executive Director

Earth Ethics. Inc. Mary Gutierrez, Director

Earth Neighborhood Productions Karen Ashikeh

Elders Climate Action Marianne Krasny, Member of Policy Committee

Empower our Future Alison Burchell, Snr. Scientist; Energy & Environment Policy Advisor

EPIC Thomas Wheeler, Executive Director

Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (FUSEE) Timothy Ingalsbee, Director

Flathead-Lolo-Bitterroot Citizen Task Force Patty Ames, President

Friends of the Bitterroot Larry Campbell, Conservation Director

Friends of the Wild Swan Arlene Montgomery, Program Director

Gallatin Wildlife Association Clinton Nagel, President

Heartwood Council David Nickell, Chair

Helios Resource Network Oregon Cary Thompson

Indiana Forest Alliance David L. Haberman

Inland Empire Task Force Paul Sieracki, lead member

Interfaith Oceans program Marybeth Lorbiecki

John Muir Project Jennifer Mamola, Policy and Advocacy Director

Kentucky Heartwood Lauren Kallmeyer, Executive Director

Kettle Range Conservation Group Timothy Coleman, Executive Director

Klamath Forest Alliance Kimberly Baker, Executive Director

Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center Michael Dotson, Executive Director

Legal Rights for the Salish Sea Kriss Kevorkian, PhD, MSW, founder

Mighty Earth Katie Yared, Associate

National Religious Coalition on Creation Care Fred Krueger

Northcoast Environmental Center Larry Glass, President

Organized Uplifting Resources & Strategies (OURS) ErNiko Brown, Founder & CEO

Our Climate Audrey Alonso Environmental Justice and Communications Manager

Planetary Emergency Institute Richard Miller Ph.D.

Protect Our Woods Andy Mahler, Director

Rachel Carson Council Bob Musil, President & CEO

Restoring Earth Connection Lynn Fitz-Hugh, Executive Director

SAFE Alternatives for our Forest Environment Executive Director Larry Glass

Snohomish County Healthy Forest Initiative William Phipps

South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership Stanley Petrowski, Director

Sustaining Way Kennedy Davis, Development VISTA

Ten Thousand Grandmothers Joan Kleban

The Conservation Angler David A. Moskowitz, Executive Director

The Enviro Show Don Ogden, Co-founder

Partnership for Policy Integrity Laura Haight, U.S. Policy Director,

United Plant Savers Susan Leopold

Wellspring Spa Sunny Thompson, Curator

Wild Heritage Dr. Dominick A. DellaSala, Chief Scientist

Wild Nature Institute Dr. Monica Bond, Principal Scientist

Williams Community Forest Project Cheryl Bruner, Director

Individuals:

Abby Q Goodman Portland, OR

Allison Muench Arcata, CA

Amy Terepka Portland, OR

Andrea Miller Albany, Ohio

Ann E Prezyna Seattle, WA

Ariel Basom Seattle, WA

Artyce Mathes LaPine, OR

Audrey Moore Portland, OR

Austin Starnes Portland, OR

Barbara J. Powers Lynwood, WA

Bonnie Felix Point Reyes Station, CA

Brenna Sahatjian Portland, OR

Brodia Minter Grants Pass OR

Brooks Bennett Bothell, WA

Camilla Dartnell Portland, OR

Camilo Velasco Portland, OR

Carol Valentine Selma, OR

Carole Richmond Olympia, WA

Carole Klein Ketchum Idaho

Carolyn Johnston Everett, WA

Cheryl Braginsky Portland, OR

Cheryl Davila Berkeley, CA

Chris Bolgiano Fulks Run, VA

Christina deVillier Lostine, OR

Clara N. Hsu Edmonds, WA

Dani Leon Portland, OR

David A.Lipstreu Newark,Ohio

David Tvedt Eugene. OR

Elena Giorgi Mountlake Terrace, WA

Elizabeth Chandler Eugene, OR

Elizabeth Eng Portland, OR

Elizabeth Johnson Aloha, OR

Ellen Mendoza Portland, OR

Frances O'Halloran Newport, OR

Gayle Hunt Prineville, OR

Ginsy Stone Quilcene WA

Hazel Robin Eugene, OR

Heather Ikeler Portland OR

J.T. Netherland Shepherdsville, KY

Janice Habermehl Hudson, MA

Jared Kennedy Portland, OR

Jessica Bass Enterprise, OR

Jessica Vaughan Portland, OR

Jim Bloss Monroe, WA.

Jim Yarbrough Newbury Park, CA

Joanna Weitzel Prosperity, SC

JoAnne Kelly Olympia, WA

John Felsner Portland OR

John Holley Portland, OR

Judith Lienhard Portland OR

Julie Martinson Everett, WA

Kate Kelley Amesville, Ohio

Kate Lunceford Bothell WA

Kathryn Lewandowsky Arlington, WA

Kelly O'Hanley Portland, OR

Ken Jones Eugene, OR

Kim Davis Salem,OR

Kima Garrison Portland, OR

Kristin Kelly Snohomish, WA

Kyle Krakow Lynnwood, WA

Lael White Mountlake Terrace, WA

Laurie Solomon La Center, WA

Lynn Lichtenberg Everett, WA

Lynne Man Lunenburg, MA

Marcelyn Bible Glendale, CA

Margaret Lunnum Stanwood, WA

Marion Edey Silver Spring, MD

Marjorie Fields Edmonds, WA

Mark Shubert Amesville, Ohio

Mark Whittier Hood River, OR

Martin Dawson Athens, OH

Mary Addams Eugene OR

Mary Ann Kirkpatrick Edmonds, WA

Mary Jo Mann Portland, OR

Mathieu Federspiel Powell Butte, OR

Matt Stevenson Portland, OR

Maya Elson Santa Cruz, CA

Michael Corso Bradenton, FL

Michelle Murphy Bellingham, WA

Nancy Ahnert Eugene, OR

Nancy Chang Seattle, WA

Nancy Johnson Edmonds, WA

Nicole Ng-A-Qui Stanwood WA

Nikki Dennis Portland, OR

Patricia Fischer Eugene OR

Patrick McKee Mercer Island, WA

Peter E. Hapke Seattle, WA

Philip Cantino Athens, OH

Phillip Callaway Crawfordsville OR

Rachel Haymon Santa Barbara CA

Rachel Maxwell Edmonds, WA

Rae Gholson Asheville, NC

Ray Quisenberry Salem OR

Rebecca Lipton Springfield, OR

Rev. Dr. Lucy Hitchcock Salem, OR

Robert Morton Chicago IL

Sally Lider Lynnwood, WA

Sara Foerster Bend, OR

Sarah Deumling Rickreall OR

Sarah Gardam Blaine, WA

Sophie Smith Portland, OR

Stefan Gleissberg La Crosse, WI

Stephanie Miller Pasadena, CA

Stephen Brady Oakland, CA

Stephen Fuller-Rowell Eugene, OR

Susan Bartow Pasadena CA

Susan Byrd Ukiah, OR

Susan Heath Albany, OR

Susan Palmiter Portland OR

Susan Zimmerman La Pine, OR

Suzanne Cunliffe Edmonds, WA

Tara Hershberger Portland, OR

Ted Jones Bainbridge Island, WA

Teri Wright Port Ludlow, WA

Tonja Y. Chi Campbell, CA

Tyler Gilmore Portland, OR

Virginia Fitzpatrick Silverdale, WA

William Rucker Athens, OH

Yelizaveta Bakhtina Toledo, OR

Attachment 20240617EmailBellreennaToChiefMoore.pdf includes 64 organizations and names of their representatives as well as 119 individual names/signors and contact information.