

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/7/2022 1:09:34 AM

First name: Kate

Last name: Gessert

Organization: Climate Writers

Title: member

Comments: I welcome the opportunity to provide public input. Thank you very much.

First of all, there needs to be a moratorium on cutting any forests with mature and old-growth trees in them (working definition of mature 80 years and up) at least until the inventory process and the next planning stage (implementation?) have ended.

Characteristics that I think would be good to include in defining mature and old-growth, characteristics that are durable and can reflect changes over time, include the following:

- \* age of trees and stands
- \* carbon storage power (nearly as high after a fire as before it, according to recent studies)
- \* ability to protect of wildlife and biodiversity and provide refugia during climate change
- \* protection of clean water and protection of human water sources from drought
- \* protection against floods, erosion, and landslides
- \* fire protection, since old trees have greater resistance to fire than younger trees
- \* spiritual and community connections between older trees and people, both indigenous and not

I also want to include information that you may consider better suited to the second public input period, but I urge foresters to start thinking about it now. It's necessary to have forested buffer zones around mature and old-growth trees and groves, so they are not damaged or destroyed by edge effect, proximity to clearcuts and roads. Edge effect includes wind throw, drought, etc. and extends 240 and sometimes 480 meters into what was intact forest.

Sincerely yours,

Kate Gessert