

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/3/2022 12:00:00 AM

First name: Rose

Last name: Jenkins

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Time is running short: the climate and biodiversity crises are growing exponentially worse, and its critical that you fulfill the presidents directive to provide lasting protections for old growth forests.

I urge you to enact an immediate moratorium on logging of mature and old-growth forests until the inventory process is complete and more permanent protections can be put in place.

These forests collectively contain the bulk of the carbon already stored in federal forests, and they continue to sequester carbon at high rates. They also provide vital habitat and biodiversity benefits and are important sources of drinking water for communities. Critically, protecting mature forests and trees today will provide the foundation to recover old-growth ecosystems, which have largely been lost to logging across the landscape.

I urge the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of the Interior to work together to soon initiate a rule-making process based on a definition of mature forests and trees of 80 years old in order to permanently end the avoidable loss of their critically important carbon, water, and wildlife values to logging.