

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/28/2022 12:00:00 AM

First name: Rosemarie

Last name: Anderson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service, Last Earth Day President Biden issued an executive order calling on the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to conserve mature and old-growth forests as a climate solution. This was a momentous step towards meaningful protections, but now it's up to us to ensure that this turns into real and lasting changes in how federal agencies manage — and protect — older forests. In response to the executive order, the Dept of Agriculture and the Dept of Interior have opened an official public comment period https://www.regulations.gov/document/FS_FRDOC_0001-3708 to solicit feedback on how "to define, identify, and complete an inventory of old-growth and mature forests on Federal lands." It is critical that we demonstrate widespread, overwhelming public support from every corner of the country for urgent action to permanently protect mature & old growth forests and trees across all federal lands. The Forest Service and BLM continue to log these forests and trees, badly damaging their ability to store climate pollution and to preserve biodiversity — and setting a terrible precedent internationally. There are limited chances for the public to weigh in, so we need to take advantage of every opportunity. The IVM (Late Mungers) is an example of continued logging that needs to be stopped. The Forest Service and BLM are intent on logging to stop wildfires, cutting our 36 inch trees will not stop wild fires.

To help you engage in this important process, please send in the letter below and it is important to add in your own unique comment to make sure the federal agencies hear from you directly. They are asking for characteristics of mature and old growth. Examples of unique comments that are specific to our locale and describe mature and old growth forests are listed and in your comments request a moratorium on all federal logging until assessment of mature and old growth timber is assessed and a moratorium on old growth logging .

1. Old Growth and Mature forests are diverse in structure, species, composition and are regenerative.
2. Home to endangered species such as the marbled murrelet, coastal marten, pacific fisher and plant species of concern.
3. Late Successional Reserves (LSR) that are designated to protect habitat for endangered species and old forests.
4. Forests containing downed wood and snags
5. Connectivity values
6. Rare conifer species
7. Unusual geologic features
8. Coho streams
9. Presence of drinking water streams
10. Dense canopy
11. Water retaining soil
12. Presence of lichen that indicate mature and old growth forests
13. Wildlife habitat
14. Efficient at retaining carbon
15. Forests that give peace of mind
16. Forests that are used for recreation
17. Forests that offer wild crafting
18. Forests that offer us the sheer beauty of nature.

Rosemarie Anderson, PhD Professor Emerita