

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/14/2022 11:25:50 PM

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Comments: Trees are one of the most important assets in fighting climate change. Mature and old-growth trees sequester carbon from the atmosphere, are more fire-resistant than younger trees, and are critical resources for supplying clean and fresh water to our communities.

However, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are still logging these forests at a time when we need them to remain standing.

In response to President Biden's Earth Day Executive Order calling on the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to conserve mature and old growth forests as a climate solution, the agencies have now opened an official request for public commentary on how to define and inventory mature and old growth trees.

I urge these agencies to permanently protect these mature and old-growth trees on all federal lands across the country. When developing "climate-informed restoration plans," the federal agencies must protect these mature and old-growth trees that are vital for ecosystem and community health. It is essential for the agencies to let these trees stay standing and continue to grow. They are worth more standing!