Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/19/2022 4:45:47 PM First name: Tabitha Last name: Donaghue Organization: Tabitha Donaghue Title:

Comments: The Biden administration must do everything it can to ensure lasting protections for our remaining mature and old-growth forests, for many vital reasons.

Old-growth forests of the Pacific Northwest are some of the best in the world for carbon storage and sequestration. The older trees in our nation's forests are climate champions-absorbing and storing carbon for centuries, and helping slow down climate change. Old forests with fire resistant trees can also help buffer communities from extreme wildfires.

With so much of the country and even the Pacific NW experiencing ongoing severe heat and drought, old growth forests are an important piece of keeping our region from drying completely out or burning completely down.