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Organization: Idaho Recreation Council

Title:

Comments:

August 23, 2022

Mr. Jamie Barbour

Assistant Director

Ecosystem Management Coordination

USDA Forest Service

Washington, D.C.

RE: Request for Information (RFI) on Federal Old-growth and Mature Forests, 87 Fed. Reg. 42,493 (July 15, 2022); Docket Number: 2022-15185

Dear Mr. Barbour:

The following comments are submitted on behalf of the Idaho Recreation Council (IRC). IRC is an organization composed of Idahoans from all parts of the state with a wide spectrum of recreation interests and a desire to preserve recreation opportunities for this and future generations. Our members include 4X4ers, ATVers, Motorcyclists, Mountain Bikers, Rockhounds, Jet Boaters, Rafters, RVers, UTVers, Backcountry Aviators, and Snowmobilers.

Our members use every forest in Idaho. We tax ourselves, pool the funds and use them to help build and maintain the infrastructure for our sports. We consider ourselves partners with each Forest.

Devastating fires have taken their toll on Idaho Forests which impacts the quality of life of Idahoans and their visitors and the economies of many communities and businesses throughout the state. We can and must do everything possible to eliminate the risk of more fires. We support your plan called Confronting the Wildfire Crisis Strategy and your efforts to increase the pace and scale of treatments to reduce fire hazards. However, we do not support The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to define and inventory "old-growth and mature forests" on federal lands.

Taking on this project at this time, makes no sense. The agencies are short on staff and they do not need more bureaucracy and rules to complicate their work. The focus needs to be on fires because it is a threat to wildlife, water quality, air quality and the economies of many communities.

Sincerely,

Sandra F Mitchell

Executive Director

We adopt by reference the comments by the AFRC