Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/24/2022 7:25:34 PM First name: CA Last name: O'Donnell Organization:

Title:

Comments: Here in Washington State I am very familiar with the natural treasure that old growth trees are and the benefits they provide to mitigate climate change as well as habitat for notable species Perhaps many think of Redwoods or Sequoias when picturing old growth. There are other trees that live long and should be recognized and valued for the same reasons. I am asking the Biden administration to consider the value of dry land old growth forests of the desert Southwest as well as the value of old growth and mature forests here in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere. Both are integral to the health and survival of humans and non-humans alike. Like other iconic conifer forests, Pinyon-Juniper forests can live to 500+ years of age providing habitat for numerous species. They were here before all living humans. They need to be identified and protected in Utah in particular as well as all areas that these historic trees grow.