Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/4/2024 10:14:03 PM First name: Alyson Last name: Montione Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm writing in support of the proposed plan to prohibit logging of old growth forests in National Forests.

Our old growth forests are a finite and dwindling resource, playing a crucial role as habitat, carbon sink, and security against erosion and biodiversity loss. Once gone, they would take hundreds of years to replace, if they can be replaced at all. It's very important that we protect old growth forests as much as possible, and prohibiting logging (except where necessary to prevent fire, etc.) is an important step.

I also urge the Forest Service to consider limiting logging in mature forests in National Forests, as well. By preserving mature forests, we can eventually expand the amount of old growth forest in the US, and continue the important work of restoring resilient, diverse forest ecosystems.