Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/9/2024 9:05:09 PM First name: Anne Last name: Barker Organization: Title: Comments: Dear U.S. Forest Service Officers,

I strongly urge that the old growth forests of North Carolina be preserved as much as possible. The wide range of plant and animal species that live in these forests are becoming more endangered every year. Without this special habitat many of these species will be lost.

I know that there are budgetary concerns had make the payments from lumber companies difficult to turn down. And I am concerned about forest fires as are all citizens.

My primary concern is that once these forests are significantly diminished there is no way to replace them.