

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/12/2024 6:20:50 PM

First name: Laura

Last name: L

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in regard to the December announcement by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) of a Notice of Intent to amend the management plans for all units of the National Forest System, to include consistent direction to conserve old-growth forests. This is an unprecedented process -- never before have all forest plans been amended at the same time -- for which I am very appreciative.

Old-growth forests are absolutely vital for wildlife habitat, freshwater storage, and erosion control. And they are essential to mitigating the impacts of climate change, as they can absorb massive amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and (if left undisturbed) store it safely deep underground in the soil almost indefinitely.

Please do anything and everything possible to preserve and protect these irreplaceable forests.