

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/15/2024 8:17:12 PM

First name: Linda

Last name: Kelley

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment. The NW forest plan is crucial in setting guidelines for acceptable use of our publicly owned forests. While President Biden's EO will hopefully stand and protect old growth forests, mature growth is not covered. In the east, there is almost no old growth due to a century or more of logging. Here in the Northwest we still do have Old Growth and hopefully those will remain under protection. This will take monitoring and steep fines for any entity who does not follow the new rules. This is good action however mature trees also must be protected on public lands. These mature trees are more fire resistant and important for water quality in our rivers from which we derive our drinking water; for other species who live in forests, and for water retention in soils which helps mitigate dryness and thus at least forest fires. Commercial tree plantations can cover our needs for wood products, judicious, supervised thinning on public lands can offer additional lumber while protecting the forest ecosystem. Thank you for accepting my comment.