Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/16/2024 7:15:58 PM First name: Sylvia Last name: Taylor Organization: Title: Comments: Dear USFS,

Old-growth forests are essential for our Nation's health for reasons including wildlife habitat, freshwater storage, and erosion control. And they are essential to mitigating the impacts of climate change, as old-growth forests absorb massive amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis, and store it safely underground in root systems. They are essential to restore and maintain biodiversity. Done properly, they mitigate wildland fire intensity. Please do everything in your power to preserve our old growth forests across the United States.