Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/18/2024 3:29:28 AM First name: Doug Last name: Gledhill Organization: Title:

Comments: The protection of mature (80 years old) and old growth forest (>120 years old) is for me, paramount in addressing the climate and biodiversity crisis being realized today. These trees have the resilience that is needed to survive the future, while providing needed wildlife habitat, microclimates, soil stabilization, carbon storage and water purification abilities.

In order to deliver on Biden's executive order promises, there must be real protections for both mature and old growth trees from the threats of logging and of inappropriate "management" techniques employed by the agencies.

I think it would be refreshing to see the Forest Service actually care about the forests ecosystem's health and prioritize it over its current role of appeasing industry as it has and currently does, while trying to keep the public from weighing in on our public lands management.

We need real solutions to addressing the poly crises we face in biodiversity and environmental health. The protection of mature and old growth forests goes along way in addressing some of these concerns.