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First name: Steve

Last name: Holmer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Friends,

I greatly appreciate this initiative and urge that the remaining old growth forests be protected from logging, and that suitable mature forests be identified and also protected to provide for replacement old growth, or to increase the percentage in areas where appropriate. I am concerned about continuing political pressure to unsustainably manage National Forests and believe a strong protection policy is needed help maintain biodiversity and address climate change.

It should be noted that:

*North America has a fraction of the primary forests it once supported. If we fail to protect remaining old-growth and allow mature forests to age into old-growth, we are fundamentally failing to address a key impact of the climate and biodiversity crises at home.

*In order to deliver on President Biden's Executive Order promises, there must be real protections for both mature and old-growth trees - including from the threat of logging and 'inappropriate management' techniques by the agencies.

The recovery of numerous ESA listed species also depends on old growth forest protection, including the Northern Spotted Owl, California Spotted Owl, and Marbled Murrelet.

Due to the length of the proposed process, a moratorium of logging of both mature and old growth forests pending completion of the process would be an appropriate interim measure that would benefit biodiversity and help mitigate climate change.

Thank you for undertaking this initiative and considering these comments.