

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/23/2024 9:44:15 PM

First name: John

Last name: Ida

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Old and mature growth forests have been eradicated throughout most of the continental United States. These forests have been part of God's creation for at least 150 to 250 years. With only 50,000 square miles of old growth forests and 125,000 square miles of mature growth forests left, we need to take immediate action to safeguard these forests for ourselves and those to come.

God speaks through forests and trees, provides for us nourishment, clean air, and gives us a place to rest. Many of us seek God in the forests around us, giving us a spiritual reset and the peace that passes all understanding. If they are logged, most of that pollution is quickly released into the atmosphere and it takes many decades or centuries for younger trees to recapture it.

Fortunately, the U.S. Forest Service is forming a land management plan for Old Growth forests across the National Forest System. While this is a great first step, it is important that we as Christians speak up for God's creation and give input on how this management plan is drafted. The management plan needs to truly protect old growth forests without logging loopholes that can be exploited by industry.

Thank you very much