Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/23/2024 5:48:28 AM First name: Nora Last name: Privitera Organization: 350 Bay Area Action Title:

Comments: I am writing to the Forest Service to urge you to protect all old growth forests in national lands, without exception, from logging, and to severely restrict any logging in our national forests. The world's scientists say that we cannot preserve a livable world simply by reducing emissions. We must also draw gigatons of CO2 from the atmosphere in the next few decades. Preserving and restoring our forests is critical to this effort. As President Biden's Executive Order says: "Strengthening America's forests, which are home to cherished expanses of mature and old-growth forests on Federal lands, is critical to the health, prosperity, and resilience of our communities - particularly in light of the threat of catastrophic wildfires. Forests provide clean air and water, sustain the plant and animal life fundamental to combating the global climate and biodiversity crises, and hold special importance to Tribal Nations. . . . Globally, forests represent some of the most biodiverse parts of our planet and play an irreplaceable role in reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. Terrestrial carbon sinks absorb around 30 percent of the carbon dioxide emitted by human activities each year. Here at home, America's forests absorb more than 10 percent of annual United States economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions. Conserving old-growth and mature forests on Federal lands while supporting and advancing climate-smart forestry and sustainable forest products is critical to protecting these and other ecosystem services provided by those forests." The President has issued this Executive Order. The Forest Service must follow it, and in so doing, it must be mindful of its obligation to protect and preserve our Old Growth Forests, which belong to every American citizen, for future generations to enjoy and admire. Moreover, we are in a major biodiversity crisis. Old Growth Forests provide habitats to countless species, and are thus, besides being extremely effective carbon sinks, havens to species that would otherwise face risk of extinction. I therefore urge the Forest Service to fully protect Old Growth Forests, allowing NO logging in them, and using the most advanced and minimally invasive techniques for logging other forests. Recent scientific developments demonstrate that different species of trees thrive when growing together, and that mycelial networks that connect these trees are essential for forest health. Therefore, any logging that takes place in our national forests must be followed by restoration that takes into account the necessity for planting multiple species of native trees and for not disturbing the mycelial networks that protect these trees from adverse effects, whether they be pathogen or insect invasions, drought, wildfire, or other adverse events.