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First name: Deb Last name: Baker Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a Christian active in several climate action and creation care ministries as well as secular efforts in that area, and as a healthcare worker, I am heartened that you plan to protect old growth forests. These places are essential to the world's efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change and are also important to human health as trees contribute to keeping our air cleaner. In m view, there is also an imperative for humans to protect the creatures who lives in these magnificent ecosystems from further disruption as well. Old growth forests as you know are shrinking worldwide and are irreplaceable. Planting new trees does not replace the biodiversity and carbon capture of old growth forests which take decades or centuries to mature and are home to countless species -- our kin in creation. I am concerned about ensuring that industry does not get to wrote loopholes into this plan. My view is that we have a moral obligation to prohibit logging, and to also prohibit easements, rights of way, or other exceptions for mining or other extraction. None of these activities should be allowed in the protected old growth forests if we are to truly preserve them. thank you.