Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/24/2024 10:33:45 PM First name: Jeanne Last name: Melchior Organization: Title:

Comments: a.Leave mature forests alone - there is no way to hurry along the process that nature has to create an old growth forest, but there are many ways humans can thwart such natural ecological succession b.Stop burning central hardwood forests. There no evidence fire was ever a significant disturbing influence within our forests

c.Stop logging mature hardwood forests for they sequester the most carbon, and logging introduces more invasive species

d.Restore old growth forests in the HNF and other national forests to continue a diversity of plant and animal life. e.Forests can prosper without humans, but we cannot live without them.