

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/25/2024 4:45:50 PM

First name: Char and Bill

Last name: Kennedy

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am so excited to see that the Forest Service is drafting a management plan for the Old Growth forests of the nation. As a Christian, I believe in the physical, mental, and spiritual benefits that old growth forests provide to not only humans, but all of God's creation. I urge the Forest Service to draft a robust management plan that prolongs the lives of our old growth forests, protects the creatures that call these forests home, and prevents loopholes that would allow the logging industry to take advantage of this important environmental resource.

Through many years our family has made use of state and federal parks and facilities which hold old growth and newer forests. From infancy to adulthood our children and grandchildren have been introduced to the natural world of forests in many U. S. States and Canadian Provinces. We have camped as a family and with families of friends in these wondrous places. Please draft a plan that will continue to preserve and protect the old growth forests of the United States.

We have also taken young people from many backgrounds on camping and hiking trips in the forested areas of New England, but especially in CT, MA, VT, NH, and ME. We are avid hikers and always take waste materials out with us including some of that left behind by others. We are distressed when we see preserved forests with facilities that have been allowed to deteriorate due to lack of maintenance.

Thank you for the time spent on this management plan and the continued care of God's creation!

In faith and hope,

Char and Bill Kennedy