

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/26/2024 7:00:20 AM

First name: Susan

Last name: Ryan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS:

I am writing to urge you to protect all remaining mature and old-growth trees from logging!

It is well-known that many endangered species of plants and animals are dependent upon the specific habitat of old-growth forests. And scientists are just beginning to explore the diversity and richness of microbes in their soils; they hold potential for human survival too. We cannot throw away the "last chances" which old-growth forests provide for logging interests!

We cannot duplicate these existing old-growth forests, but we can protect them and hopefully establish practices that-over time-will allow "younger" forests to age and become "older" forests in their turn.

In his book, *The Tree*, British biologist Colin Tudge marvels at the depth of knowledge of the "materos" (indigenous tree specialists) in South America. He gives the example of western scientists arguing with the "materos" as to whether 2 similar trees were the same species, and then seeking confirmation in DNA sequencing. Tudge remarks, "I have never known the 'materos' to be wrong." And so, I also write to urge you to work with the indigenous tribes! Their practices-gathered, learned, and culturally transmitted to generations for thousands of years-are an important part of any plan to restore degraded forests and to preserve the oldest ones.

Sincerely,

Susan Ryan, Los Angeles, CA