Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/26/2024 7:32:44 PM First name: ROBERT M. Last name: HUGHES Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support setting aside all mature and late-successional old growth forest tracts nationwide. This is an essential step for storing carbon and responding to the global climate & amp; biodiversity crises. I also favor implementing the FEMAT protections (no logging, no roading) for riparian zones for both fish-bearing (2 potential tree heights) and non-fish bearing (1 potential tree height) streams and rivers. In our research on Amazonian streams, we found that as little as 1% watershed deforestation and 6-11% local riparian deforestation resulted in the loss of sensitive fish and macroinvertebrate species, respectively (Martins et al. 2021 Ecological Indicators 127: doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2021.107773). We also found that stream/road crossings reduced fish assemblage functional richness (Leitão et al. 2018 Ecography 41:219-232) and Odonata diversity (Ferreira et al. In Press Insect Conservation & amp; Diversity).