Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/27/2024 1:55:19 PM First name: Chris Last name: Scranton Organization:

Title:

Comments: I completely support the protection of Old Growth Forests. Old growth trees support more wildlife and sequester more carbon than younger age forests. The Forest Service needs to get out of the logging business and focus on habitat protection and increased wildlife habitat enhancement. These forests belong to all Americans not logging companies. Forests that have older trees that do not meet the definition of old growth should also be managed with the aim of increasing old growth forests in the future. Not only do these forests sequester more carbon but they also increase water system viability and aquifers. Many species such as wolverines, recently listed as threatened, elk, deer, grizzlies, and a variety of smaller animals rely on undisturbed areas for breeding and winter habitat. There is very little remaining old growth left on our National Forests after centuries of "getting the cut out". Remaining old growth areas should be given the protections that their status in terms of increased biodiversity warrants.