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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS,

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen who values the old-growth forests on our public lands. I urge you to support the National Old-Growth Forest Plan Amendment, and to ensure that it includes the following provisions:

- A clear and comprehensive definition of old-growth forests and trees, based on scientific criteria and age thresholds.
- A moratorium on logging in all old-growth forests and trees, with limited exceptions for non-commercial purposes that benefit the environment, the public, or the indigenous communities.
- A restoration plan for the degraded and fragmented old-growth forests, with funding and incentives for sustainable management of second-growth forests.
- A recognition of the ecological, social, and economic benefits of old-growth forests, especially for climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, and recreation.

Old-growth forests are among the most biodiverse and carbon-rich habitats on Earth, but they are also among the most threatened. According to a recent report by the Climate Forests coalition, federal logging proposals are targeting nearly a quarter of a million acres of mature and old-growth forests and trees across nine states<sup>1</sup>. This is unacceptable and counterproductive, as these forests are essential for our nation's climate commitments and the well-being of millions of Americans.

The Biden Administration has taken a positive step by proposing the National Old-Growth Forest Plan Amendment, but it needs to be improved and implemented as soon as possible. I urge you to use your influence and authority to make this happen, and to stand up for the old-growth forests and the future generations that depend on them.

Thank you for your attention and your action.

Sincerely,

Bill Bailey

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