

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 2:34:56 AM

First name: George

Last name: Gessert

Organization:

Title:

Comments: President Biden's 2022 executive order directs the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior to address threats to mature and old growth forests. Late in 2023, the Biden administration announced a plan to protect old growth trees in national forests, but mature trees and forests were not mentioned. The President's 2022 executive order is clear: threats to mature forests must be addressed. Furthermore, the 2022 executive order was issued in the context of accelerating climate crisis, and can be understood to mean that actions regarding mature and old growth should advance natural climate solutions.

US public lands contain about 25 million acres of old growth, and 67 million acres of mature forest. Both types of forest are essential for sequestering carbon and slowing climate change. Please extend protections to mature forests, even if this results in reduced logging. Our children's futures depend on it.