

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 2:55:57 PM

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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the old growth issues across the National Forest Lands. Given the climate change issues world wide, and everything I have read regarding the issues, I believe old growth needs to be left in tact for climate resiliency and carbon sequestration. Absolutely, harvest of mature and old growth trees for lumber production should be a practice of the past. We need the forests to store carbon, insure water quality, air quality and provide habitat for all levels of wildlife/life going into the future. Period.

Additionally the rhetoric regarding cutting forests down (thinning or high grading) to prevent wildfires is misguided and ill conceived. Our forests have other values we apparently don't even know about yet. We are destroying resources before we understand how important they are to the web of life.

I live adjacent to public lands and the lack of law enforcement and oversight is permitting timber theft to occur and degrade vegetation management objectives at an unprecedented rate. Off road use is rampant, creating damaging illegal pioneered roads which exacerbate erosion and soil loss. Illegal harvest of live, GREEN trees and liquidation of our forests is occurring with out any management objectives right under our noses. The wood trucks are so loaded with heavy green wood that even the main forest roads are rutted by the weight of the activity. The desperate green tree thieves never bother to clean up their messes, leaving fuels to ignite non fire resilient vegetation. I've watched this activity increase over the past 10 -15 years. I guess my point is, mature and old growth trees are disappearing without any management....they need protection, to serve all of us.

Thank you for your time.