Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 7:04:29 PM First name: MATTHEW R Last name: CLARK Organization: Title:

Comments: I urge the USDA Forest Service to adopt the strongest possible protections for old growth mature forests on all publicly owned land in the US. Only a tiny percentage of old growth forest remains undisturbed across the country and it all should be protected. Ecological diversity, endangered and threatened species, and primeval watersheds occur in old growth and must be protected because once gone they can never be replaced. The FS has maps delineating old growth forests so the boundaries are known and should be marked in the field to ensure full protection. Save all remaining old growth forest and our descendants will thank the FS for at least once thinking long term to preserve natural areas undisturbed.