

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 10:25:55 PM

First name: Marvin

Last name: Hanley

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am glad you are looking at the U.S. Forest Service policies to protect, conserve, and manage our National Forests and public lands for climate resilience and sustainability.

Mature and old-growth forests are home to many plants and animals-some of them are endangered. The forests also help water quality, stabilize soils, and are an important part of our national heritage. I have spent many hours and days hiking and backpacking in our national forests. I have also traveled extensive miles to visit some the old growth forests.

Scientific research has proven that these forests are a powerful, natural tool to slow climate change. Old-growth forests act as "carbon sinks," absorbing massive amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through photosynthesis and permanently locking it away deep in the soil.

The loss of more than 85% of our old growth forests in the U.S. to logging over the past 200-300 years indicates that we must work to save the small percentage left. If not, we are leaving a diminished world to our children and grandchildren.

These forests need to be left undisturbed from logging and development. When the forests are lost, recovery-if it's even possible-can take centuries.

Any new Forest Service rules need to give clear, meaningful, and permanent protection to mature and old-growth forests and trees from logging and other destructive practices so they can continue to help mitigate the climate and biodiversity crises.

Thank you again for your commitment to protecting, conserving, and restoring America's public forests.

Sincerely,

Glenn Hanley