Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/1/2024 12:00:54 AM First name: Linda Last name: Starr Organization: Rio Grande Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness Title: Former Co-leader

Comments: These comments regard the Land Management Plan for Old Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System #65356. This is an important step forward, however it omits mature forest. It should not eliminate these necessary forest areas. They are necessary to biodiversity. They are also prime considerations. for addressing climate change. In the East much mature forest was clearcut and that should be. totally avoided. We must conserve both mature and old-growth forests whenever possible. I have spent over 50 years in New Mexico hiking and backpacking throughout our national forest system and in other states all over the US. Mature forest must be protected and retained to continue to sequester carbon, provide wildlife and plant habitat, and also allow recreational opportunities. Please include mature forest in your management plans.