Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/1/2024 6:24:34 AM

First name: Ana Last name: MacArthur

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am vitally an advocate of protecting and expanding old-growth forests. They are our treasures and our ancestors, and with so much to yet teach us, as cutting edge science continues to reveal. These magical specimens, from a rich photosynthetic evolution, should be protected for their inherent value, for the habitat they provide for countless other species, for the vital carbon sequestration performed, for protection of watersheds, and for the oxygen they significantly supply to all who breath. I have been educated about the Forest Service's first-ever forest plan amendment. I am deeply concerned that this plan will actually not end the commercial exploitation of old-growth forests and continue the damaging practices of logging. The Forest Service's new plan absent of significant changes from their previous damaging practices, will weaken the existing protections of old-growth eco-systems. There should be an unbiased third party to oversee the practices the Forest Service carries out, as our communities have not trusted their performance to be ecologically best practices for the forest.