Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/1/2024 3:36:52 PM First name: Dave Last name: Lipstreu Organization:

Title:

Comments: The crux of my comments to USFS are essentially that Mature AND Old Growth Forests must be protected NOW. The proposed "Plan(s) Amendment does not include Mature Forests and trees, which are a precursor to having Old Growth Forests and trees! Consequently, all logging of these forests in our National Forests and Parks must immediately cease. The "amendment" permits far too many loopholes to allow continued logging of our National Forests-close them and resubmit for public review and comment. Thus far, the USFS has failed to totally comply with President Biden's Executive Order 14072-it continues to promote and bid commercial logging in our national forests, rather than immeciately ceasing such action and protecting mature forests and trees and old growth forests and trees.Do what 14072 says! Too many possibilities still exist for continued logging in the name of "old growth conservation." Stop all clear-cutting in old growth forests in southeast Alaska as well!

USFS must also stop cutting old growth trees and forests to reduce fire hazards! Fire is a natural occurrence in forests- it actually does more good than harm (read Hanson, Moonmaw and Law et al for substantiation of this fact).

USFS must discard the ability it provides itself in the plan(s) amendment to exempt itself from the amendment if it happens to determine that the amendment is not relevant or beneficial to a given

forest or ecosystem type. Yet another "loophole," get rid of it!

USFS must get rid of timber quotas NOW, and modernize the definition of Old Growth Forest.

USFS must establish all old growth and mature forests stands as "special interest areas" thereby conferring the strongest administrative protection and include Bureau of Land Management lands in the proposed nationwide forest plan amendment(s).

Please take these comments seriously.! The public perception is that USFS has no interest in truly protecting mature and old growth forests, and is more interested in continuing to log them, despite a dire climate emergency, and widespread public opposition to said logging. Listen to what the public and the President, are telling you! Save our precious mature and old growth forests, now! They are a public trust and should enjoy the highest degree of protection and stewardship.

Thank you for considering these heartfelt comments.