Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/1/2024 5:20:30 PM First name: Josph Last name: Leahy Organization: Title:

Comments: I write in support of this rule, which I undersand will create a consistent plan across all national lands to promote the health of old-growth forests, with one of its ultimate goals of eliminating or greatly reducing logging in such forests. See https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/dec/19/biden-forest-logging-ban-old-trees and https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2023/12/19/biden-harris-administration-proposes-first-its-kind-national-forest

Assuming I am correct about this, I wholeheartedly support this rule.

Old-growth forests are a gift to the future. We have sufficient new-growth forests to log; we should protect oldgrowth forests for future generations of people to explore in wonder. Our forests are one of our greatest assets, and we cannot spoil that asset with short-term thinking or for short-term gain. The best value that we will obtain from our old-growth forests is the value of preserving nature for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.