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First name: Mike

Last name: Petersen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear United States Forest Service,

I wish to support a comprehensive inventory and full protection for mature and old growth forests on every National Forest. I have personally observed the logging of old growth trees on the Colville National Forest during the past few years. Excuses to no longer use the 21 inch rule to protect those trees have lost in court, yet the Colville National Forest continues to believe they must log these old trees for what I consider false reasons. Recently a silviculturalist said there are no old growth forest stands on the Colville National Forest, which is not accurate. Therefore we need an unbiased inventory of old growth on the Colville and other National Forests. There should also be an unbiased accounting of the carbon loss when old and mature trees are logged, as well as an assessment of how logging these fire resistant trees will impact wildlife and future carbon sequestration. I am also very concerned that the recent forest plan revision on the Colville National Forest, as well as the Nez Perce/Clearwater National Forest is based on outdated inventory and uses old science. I will conclude by saying that I helped start three forest collaborative groups in Washington, Idaho and Montana, and that those efforts are starting to fail as the Forest Service reverts back to the old logging forestry efforts of clearcuts and cutting down mature and old trees.

Sincerely, Mike Petersen