Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/30/2024 11:42:41 PM

First name: Laura Last name: Neale Organization:

Title:

Comments: To USFS Planners,

I support identifying all stands of OG in our national forests, and not cutting down any of them. I have been hiking and spending time in the national forests, mainly the George Washington Jefferson Forest, for almost 40 years. And the forests are suffering significant landscape levels stresses. Many old trees are succumbing to disease, drought, weather events and etc. It seems to me that there is a general decline in good health. Enough old trees are dying that light gaps are forming forest wide. It is critical that we value the OG we have. And, it would be smart to designate candidates for OG designation who will be reaching that official status in the upcoming decades.

thank you for considering my comments, Laura Neale