

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/2/2024 1:02:44 AM

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Comments: I write in support of protecting old growth forests - specifically, taking a geographically adapted approach to restoring old growth forests in the NFS. I oppose the use of prescribed fire in the central hardwoods region.

Old growth forests should remain free from human disturbance. This is the only meaningful definition of 'old growth', and merely preserving old growth features misses the point.

More mature forest should be given the opportunity to become old growth forest. I oppose the logging of mature forests, regardless of what sanitized descriptor is applied. These are the old growth forests of tomorrow and need protection now.

This is the face of climate action: we have no time left and we need to protect our mature forests now. They are priceless in many ways, but right now their benefit to all of us as carbon sinks is crucial to maintaining a habitable planet. Thank you for your time.