

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/3/2024 12:08:00 AM

First name: Mary

Last name: Branch

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Though I appreciate and fully support your Land Management Plan Direction for Old Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System, I would like to encourage you to consider the following additional impacts more fully in your EIS as they are not outlined, nor mentioned in your NOI. Your emphasis seems to be directed at climate change, wildfires, insects, and disease. The latter three can be an effect of climate change, as well as human deprecation and encroachment and negligence. It is clear that everything fights to survive and adapt in what remains intact on the earth, and this includes Old Growth Forests. You do not mention researching and studying data on the impacts of deforestation for the timber industry and animal agriculture. This is most likely the two single most important causes of forest declines across America and most certainly even in North America. Your focus and studies, especially as this is part of your jurisdiction as the USDA, must include animal agriculture as a significant contributor to clear cutting, burning, of old forests for acres and acres of animal grazing and feed lots, acres and acres of crops to grow and harvest for animal feed, and acres and acres of secluded land for animal pens and gestation crates and poultry houses for factory farms. The pollution from these activities also impact our soil, air and water that then impact everything else, including other natural lands and forests. You absolutely MUST include impacts from animal agriculture. The logging and timber industries are also to blame and you must include data on the impact of logging and timber for urban, suburban and commercial development. Not to mention a multitude of other manufacturing (furniture, boats, packaging, merchandizing, shipping, all paper products, etc., etc.) that need trees. It is not fair to mention over and over about climate change. I know this is the latest trend and initiative for environmentalists, grant monies, politicians, and more, but please do not discount what has been around for longer....animal agriculture and logging. Thank you for considering my comments.