Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/21/2024 4:00:00 AM First name: Mary Last name: Lowe Organization:

Title:

Comments: Timber harvesting targets as part of performance reviews of Forest Service staff further exacerbates in appropriate extraction from public land, potentially incentivizing actions that place short-term gains over long-term sustainability. It's crucial for decision-makers to recognize the importance of our forests and ensure that management practices align with broader conservation goals outlined in President Biden's Executive Order aimed at preserving mature and old-growth forests. Also, the best available climate science unequivocally demonstrates the importance of mature and old-growth forests for climate change mitigation. These forests act as essential carbon sinks, helping to absorb and store significant amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The USFS should acknowledge this science and align its practices with broader conservation objectives and contribute meaningfully to climate action efforts.