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First name: Mark

Last name: Stannard

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my strong support for amendments that define, inventory, and protect mature and old-growth forests within the National Parks systems. Our forests are a critical element to address and counter climate change. Not only are mature and old-growth forests more resilient to disturbances like wildfire, they also help offset climate change by being carbon-absorbing powerhouses. Forests store carbon, and older trees absorb more carbon each year than their younger counterparts. By preserving the climate benefits of mature and old-growth forests we are also retaining all of the other benefits they provide, like habitat for wildlife, reliable drinking watersheds for millions of Americans, and recreation opportunities.

I encourage you to establish rules that protect the old-growth trees and forests from logging, and secures resources for their long-term preservation.

Thank you.