Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/23/2024 12:49:34 AM First name: Kristina Last name: Cameron Organization:

Title:

Comments: There is no ecological justification for logging in old-growth (or mature) stands in moist forests across the US. The US Forest Service suggests that mature and old-growth forests need to be logged for their own benefit, but science says otherwise. Old and wild forests are more resilient to disturbances that are likely to increase in frequency and intensity with climate change; they store several times more carbon than younger forests; they are more effective at reducing the impacts of flooding; and they provide a full range of habitat niches, from early to late successional conditions, required by native species. Logging to preemptively remove trees that could become infected by insects (such as emerald ash borer or hemlock wooly adelgid) or disease (such as beech bark or beech leaf disease), as well as salvage harvesting of dead trees, is often far more destructive to forest health and carbon storage than the perceived "threat" or "ailment."