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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To: Chief Randy Moore, U.S. Forest Service

Re: USDA Old-Growth Initiative

Date: August 25, 2024

Dear Chief Moore,

My wife and I have managed our 79 acre family owned forest in Oregon for 40 years. We know the carbon sequestration value of forests in the Pacific Northwest. This is especially true of mature and old growth trees and forests, which provide several environmental benefits, including absorbing and storing carbon, boosting resilience to wildfires, filtering drinking water, moderating temperatures, and providing wildlife habitat. Here in the Pacific Northwest our old growth forests are among the most carbon dense in the world.

Your current Draft Environmental Impact Statement contains too many loopholes that could allow continued logging of mature and old growth forests, especially in the Tongass National Forest. Logging old growth to save stands from potential threats is a false solution. They are worth more standing.

Your finalized rule should end the cutting and commercial exchange of old growth trees in all national forests. It should also protect mature trees and forests, allowing them to be managed so they can mature into old growth and thus help mitigate the climate crisis and rampant biodiversity loss.