

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/26/2024 10:45:17 PM

First name: Joel and Laine

Last name: Schipper

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service -- as you consider the regulations for old growth trees, please remember:

- Mature and old-growth trees and forests protect our climate and provide critical environmental benefits by:
  - ...absorbing and storing carbon,
  - ...boosting resilience to fire,
  - ...helping regulate temperatures, and
  - ...filtering drinking water and sheltering wildlife.

Logging these trees deprives us of the benefits and beauty of our largest, oldest trees.

The current Draft Environmental Impact Statement fails to adequately protect old-growth trees and forests. The draft also contains ambiguous language that could be used to justify continued commercial logging of old growth in the Tongass National Forest.

The DEIS has too many loopholes which could lead to continued logging of old growth. Logging old growth to save stands from potential threats is a false solution. They are worth more standing.

Thank you for updating the regulations to reflect these important points.