Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/8/2024 4:00:00 AM First name: Lionel Last name: Mares Organization: Title:

Comments: I call on the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis and biodiversity loss. Stop old-growth trees from going to the mill. There is broad agreement that what we have left is too precious to cut.

Most Americans don't know this, but National Forests are managed very differently than our National Parks

National Forests are within the Department of Agriculture - and treated just like a crop.

That's just wrong. Especially for mature and old-growth.

Protecting our forests keeps more than trees standing - it preserves vital habitat for the wildlife we love

More than 3,000 species of wildlife live within our National Forests!

Right now, the U.S. loses a football field worth of natural space to development every 30 seconds, putting countless vulnerable species at risk of extinction.

I care about the health and well-being of our forests. President Teddy Roosevelt created the United States Forest Service to manage the nation's forests and to ensure that it is taken care of. I urge that you honor Roosevelt's legacy by maintaining and protecting national forests.

Thank you,

Lionel Mares