

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/9/2024 4:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service,

I am excited that the current administration has announced that Old Growth Forests be protected on federal land, with its National Old-Growth Amendment. Most of the Forest Service alternatives, proposed in response, counteract the whole concept though. Please use forest Service Option #3. Do not include special management exceptions to cut and mill our Old Growth Forests. We need strong, clear, simply stated protections for American Old Growth Forests on federal land. Cutting huge or small ancient trees, simply put, should be against the law.

One cannot regrow the ecosystems created in hundred year and older forests. It takes long stretches of time for these rich environments to build up. It is time to recognize that these fertile, wildlife promoting parts of federal lands have become rare treasures that do not need managing. They are key to our own survival as global warming increases. They are exceptional, rare plant communities that are now dwindling due to current excessive managing and clear cutting for commercial contracts.

Our large trees absorb tons of carbon, cool our temperatures, absorb floods and rain runoff, provide moisture and oxygen to a drying world, nurture wildlife, especially fauna particular to their area, which can't live without the soil and insect combinations created over generations.

Creating protections to mature forests, 100 years old and over, will extend these Old Growth advantages for the future.

Sincerely,

Robin Hanes

Board Member, Old Growth Forest Network