

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/10/2024 4:00:00 AM

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Comments: I'm writing as a concerned West Virginian who wants to see the old growth forests protected. I am very concerned that the amendment as written would be insufficient to protect our wonderful forests such as Audra State Park and the Monongahela National Forest. There are numerous exceptions of commercial logging of old-growth, and this does nothing to protect mature forests - the old-growth of the future - from logging. This language must be strengthened, and mature forests must be re-inserted into the national conversation - either through this amendment or additional policy actions. Ending commercial logging of old-growth trees should be the floor, not the ceiling.

The President's executive order set up some pretty clear goal posts for mature and old-growth forest conservation, but the Draft Plan fails to meet these goals.

The amendments must end the felling of old-growth trees across our national forests and end cutting in old-growth stands where fire is infrequent (such as here in West Virginia).

They must also end the commercial exchange of old-growth trees.

While this is important for eco tourism, it is even more important for the health of our ecosystem. Please make the amendments to protect our magnificent forests from the fate that their ancestral trees suffered at the turn of the century. Let our modern decisions reflect the greater wealth of knowledge we now have with more ethical behavior and policies that are far reaching.