

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/12/2024 1:02:18 AM

First name: Benjamin

Last name: Sawyer-Long

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing in support of strengthening protections for old-growth and mature forests in the National Old Growth Amendment. While the Biden administration has outlined an ambitious and historic approach to protecting our oldest forests, unfortunately, the National Old Growth Amendment does not go far enough to reach those goals.

As written, the amendment would still allow for numerous exceptions of commercial logging of old-growth forests and does nothing to protect mature foreststhe old-growth of the futurefrom logging. This language must be strengthened in the amendment, and mature forests must be re-inserted into the national conversation, either through this amendment or additional policy actions.

Old-growth trees in our 158 national forests are essential to outdoor recreation and remain a critical climate solution for keeping carbon in the groundyet most old-growth forests have already been logged. Ending commercial logging of old-growth trees on federal lands should be the floor for our national policy, not the ceiling.

As you finalize the proposed national old growth amendment, please take the strongest possible measures to protect our oldest forests from logging and advance US climate leadership. If we act with urgency on this issue, we can safeguard older and mature forests for generations to come.