Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/12/2024 9:45:44 AM First name: marina Last name: jirotka Organization: Title: Comments: Dear Forest Service

Old-growth forests are not just majestic landscapes; they are essential habitats for a diverse range of plant and animal species, including our imperiled Yaak population of grizzly bears.

The rich biodiversity of old-growth forests is a cornerstone for ecological resilience in a changing climate. Moreover, old-growth forests excel at absorbing and storing carbon dioxide, playing a crucial role in addressing climate change.

Please protect these resources strengthen your proposal dramatically to prevent logging of mature and oldgrowth forests. The ancient primary forest at Black Ram, on the Kootenai National Forest, should be protected as a Climate Refuge. Forest defense is climate defense!