

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/12/2024 8:42:06 PM

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Comments: As a resident of Sandpoint, Idaho, I enjoy proximity to the beautiful and unique Yaak River Valley forest. I've witnessed proposal after proposal being considered by the Forest Service to log the Black Ram (and other areas), and I understand that a proposal is now up for your consideration.

We are at a crossroads. The decisions we make today -- and particularly those concerning mature and old growth forest -- will affect our future. As you know, in addition to the other characteristics of mature forests, they are effective carbon sinks as long as the trees are left standing.

That reason alone compels me to urge you to consider strengthening the proposal to prevent the removal of mature and old-growth trees. I could go on and on explaining the other reasons to leave those trees standing. But I'd like you to consider the climate effects first, in deference to President Biden's call to preserve mature forests.

Thank you.