Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/12/2024 4:00:00 AM First name: Thomas Last name: Gonzalez Organization: Title: Comments: I write this for those who come after me for I am an elderly person,

Old-growth forests store large amounts of carbon, clean the air we breathe, maintain and increase biodiversity, filter water, and reduce wildfire risks. The old-growth forests of the Nantahala-Pisgah National Forests are home to several endangered and threatened species, including four species of endangered bats and the imperiled Blue Ridge lineage of green salamanders. Unfortunately, across the nation, old-growth forests are in decline, facing stressors from pests, extreme weather, and commercial logging.

Please take the steps necessary to preserve these old growth forests, don't allow any exceptions. Once they are gone those still here from infants to seniors will never have the chance to see or be in them.