Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/13/2024 4:00:00 AM First name: Le Last name: Wang Organization: Title: Comments: Dear US Forest Service,

I am writing to express my strong support for the conservation of old-growth forests, a critical component of our natural heritage and an essential element in addressing our current environmental challenges. As a concerned citizen deeply invested in the preservation of our natural resources, I urge you to prioritize the protection of these irreplaceable ecosystems.

Old-growth forests are vital for several reasons. Firstly, they are incredibly rich in biodiversity, providing habitat for numerous plant and animal species, many of which are found nowhere else. The complexity of these ecosystems supports a wide array of life forms and contributes to ecological stability and resilience.

Additionally, old-growth forests play a crucial role in climate regulation. They act as significant carbon sinks, absorbing and storing large amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. By preserving these forests, we help mitigate the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Moreover, old-growth forests offer invaluable ecosystem services, such as water filtration, soil stabilization, and flood regulation. These services are essential for maintaining the health of our environment and the well-being of communities that rely on clean water and fertile land.

In light of these benefits, I respectfully request that your office take the following actions:

Strengthen Protections: Implement and enforce stronger protections for old-growth forests to prevent logging and other destructive activities.

Promote Sustainable Management: Support and fund sustainable forest management practices that prioritize conservation and restoration of old-growth areas.

Increase Public Awareness: Invest in educational campaigns to raise awareness about the importance of oldgrowth forests and the benefits they provide to both ecosystems and human societies. Collaborate with Indigenous Communities: Work closely with Indigenous communities who have traditionally managed and protected these forests, respecting their knowledge and ensuring their involvement in conservation efforts.

Preserving old-growth forests is not just an environmental imperative but also a moral obligation to future generations. By safeguarding these ancient ecosystems, we ensure that they continue to thrive and provide their myriad benefits for years to come.

Thank you for considering my request. I am hopeful that your leadership will contribute to the enduring protection of these invaluable natural resources.

Sincerely,

Le Wang