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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I am writing to ask you to protect the Black Ram primary forest (on the Kootenai National Forest) as a Climate Refuge to prevent logging in the area and to strengthen the draft plan that the Biden Administration recently released to protect old growth forests.

I was surprised to hear that the U.S. Forest Service does not currently consider the Black Ram to be "old growth." The Black Ram is a very old and mature forest, and it would be a shame to subject it to the damage of logging due to an arbitrary line in the sand over what constitutes old growth. The Black Ram is a habitat for all kinds of native plants and animals, including grizzlies. Old forests like the Black Ram are also more wildfire-resistant (especially when they are not disturbed by logging).

Forests like the Black Ram are part of our national heritage, and we need to preserve them. I hope you will do everything you can to strengthen the Biden Administration's draft plan to protect old growth forests, to include mature forests like the Black Ram, and to robustly protect mature and old growth forests from logging.

Thank you so much for your consideration!

Sarah Zollweg