Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/14/2024 4:00:00 AM

First name: Steve Last name: Rankin Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service personnel,

I would like to urge strong action on the National Old Growth Amendment, to preserve not just existing old growth forests, but also mature forests, which if given time, will become old growth in the future. These forests are essential to maintaining and growing the nation's stock of old growth habitat, which is so crucial in maintaining endangered species of plants and animals. Preserving large areas of mature second growth also significantly increases carbon uptake, vital to countering the effects of climate change.

Thank you,

Steve Rankin