

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/15/2024 4:00:00 AM

First name: Lynne

Last name: Man

Organization:

Title:

Comments: It is a travesty that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement has been written in a way that continues to allow commercial logging in national forests. The United States Forest Service must permanently stop commercial logging, particularly in mature and old growth forests. Since less than 5% of forest products are produced on federal lands, this should not hurt the timber industry at all. But it is an opportunity to save the precious few mature and old growth forests we have left in this country. Federal forests belong to all citizens and should not be used for commercial purposes.

Given that the USFS are supposed to be stewards of our public lands, it is astounding that the plan allows commercial logging and carbon removal to INCREASE, while we are in a biodiversity and climate crisis. Claims that logging increases carbon storage and promotes biodiversity have been thoroughly debunked by current scientific studies. Old trees are our best hope for drawing down existing atmospheric carbon. The DEIS also promotes logging for energy production, which emits more pollution than coal. This too, must be corrected. Finally, managing forests for fire by "controlled burns" has been shown to either have no effect or negatively affect wildfires as large portions of land dry up post-harvest and become more susceptible to fire. Older forests retain moisture and trees that can withstand fire.

All of these things seriously undermine trust in and credibility of the USFS. I therefore urge you to fix the serious problems with the DEIS and permanently protect federal lands from logging. This would be a proud legacy to leave as opposed to one in which future generations have to work even harder to recover from a struggling planet, whose demise was aided by our public officials. Please do the right thing! Thank you!