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First name: Catherine Last name: Mekus Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support amending the management plans for all US National forests to protect Old Growth and Mature Growth forests. These forests are essential for biodiversity and they capture and hold carbon dioxide, helping to slow climate change. On a personal note, our family has visited numerous National Parks and National Forests, and we find the mature and old growth areas to be amazing. The "managed" areas with their monoculture replacement trees are much less wonderous, and we know from experience that they are always at risk of a single disease or pest since they are monocultures. Thank you for taking this step to promote Old Growth and Mature forests.