

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/18/2024 4:00:00 AM

First name: Joel

Last name: Vanderbush

Organization:

Title:

Comments: 1. Eastern old growth forests need to be managed separately from those in the West. They have a different relationship to human disturbance and fire, among other things.

2. Mature forests must be allowed to become old growth forests. President Biden's executive order 14072 directs that. Mature and old growth stands need to be managed differently from younger stands because of, and to invest in their greater ecological value and effectiveness as infrastructure to combat climate change.

3. All current projects with mature and old growth stands should be paused until their plans can be adjusted accordingly.

4. The economic and human cost of the increasing effects of climate change far outweigh the profits of mature forest hardwood harvests. Forest should be managed to prioritize becoming mature and old growth forests, to maximize their effectiveness as low-cost high-performance countermeasures.