

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

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Comments: Old-growth forests make up only 10% of our public lands in the lower 48. We cannot lose what little remains. That remaining 10% needs strong protections NOW.

Old-growth forests are miracles of nature. They are the result of centuries of natural development and ecological processes and cannot be created by human intervention or "restoration."

In a time of biodiversity loss and climate warming, old-growth and mature forests are essential. They are havens of biodiversity, critical habitat for wildlife, and necessary for water supplies. They are important carbon sinks. They are where my friends and I chose to hike. They are precious.

Please reinstate Standard 1 in the NOGA.

Your draft EIS goes against the intent of NOGA and will offer only minimal protection for our old growth forests. It should preserve old-growth and mature forests into the future.

- Old growth areas must not be removed from old growth status.

- There should be no commercial logging allowed.

- They must not be used for timber output requirements on our public lands, because unsustainable timber mandates have been destroying them.

- Mature forests need strong protections, not "proactive stewardship". Large trees are the most fire resistant and sequester the most carbon. Their forests are essential habitat for wildlife, yet they are not even mentioned in your draft EIS.

It is past time to place strong protections on these crucial forests.

Thank you