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First name: Ritesh

Last name: Patel

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear U.S. Forest Service Chief Randy Moore:

I'm writing to urge you to select an alternative in the final version of the National Old-Growth Amendment (NOGA) process that, with only very limited exceptions, prohibits the cutting of remaining old-growth trees in all National Forests. The few remaining ancient trees in California's twenty National Forests are our most fire-resistant and resilient remaining trees, are essential to sustaining water quality, provide critical habitat for wildlife and plant species as they deal with the stresses of a warming planet and habitat loss, and help us fight climate change. Unfortunately, none of the alternatives offered in the NOGA Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are sufficiently protective of our remaining ancient trees. Please act decisively to develop and select an alternative in the Final NOGA EIS that prohibits the cutting of all remaining old-growth trees except for addressing safety concerns and for other such very limited purposes. Thank you.

Sincerely, -Ritesh Patel