Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/19/2024 6:43:35 AM First name: Peter Last name: Stoel Organization: Title:

Comments: (Second, additional comment. Kindly consider.) I have lived 77 years in western Oregon, a land of magnificent forests, even behind my childhood home in Portland OR. I've seen the liquidation of old-growth forest on both on our State's private lands and then the public lands down to where there is only single digit percent left.

I want the USFS to conserve mature and old-growth trees in federal forests to combat the climate crisis by making carbon sequestration it's highest priority in managing it's forests. Our public forests provide only 5% of of our lumber so less lumber from these forests is not significant. I ask that the Forest Service designate the remaining mature and old growth forests "strategic forest carbon reserves" to store ever-growing carbon as a way of stabilizing the climate. This is the best way the Forest Service can assist in meeting the Biden's administration climate goal of conserving at least 30% of US lands and waters by 2030.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/