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First name: Elizabeth

Last name: Graves

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service,

I am deeply concerned that Old Growth is not getting the respect it deserves. These trees have been around a long time and should not be discarded as if they've reached the end of their "useful" life. In America, we need to do better by our elders and ancestors and old trees that have survived so much and provide so much to the forest community. Please do the following:

- 1) Stop cutting old-growth forest in the southern U.S. and elsewhere.
- 2) Care for old-growth by minimizing harm to stands of trees from prescribed burns, etc.
- 3) Do not allow forest managers to create exceptions to plans that preserve old growth. They should not be able to use their discretion to log old-growth and create new, young forests.
- 4) Make sure that the inventory and identification of old growth is scientifically sound. Make the process transparent, consistent, and open to public input. Involve researchers, ecologists and outside experts.
- 5) Require that mature forests be managed so that they become old-growth. The current Forest Plan is insufficient. Pay attention to the Daniel Boone National Forest in this regard.
- 6) Develop a plan for a network of old-growth forests throughout the southeastern U.S. using a sound scientific process. Think long-term and save the old trees, let nature take its course and stop all the cutting!