

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/19/2024 4:00:00 AM

First name: Willard

Last name: Radell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support increasing the protection of old growth and mature forests from logging on public lands. Over the last 50 years I have witnessed a relentless reduction of the acreage of old growth and mature forests mostly due to logging on public and private land. I would like to think that my great grandchildren will grow up in an America with enough more mature forest land on its way to becoming old growth that there will be more untouched old growth forests in their future.

While I support efforts to protect mature and old growth forests and stands on public land from logging, I am concerned that there are too many loopholes in the proposed plan that will be exploited by private logging interests. Twentieth-Century style Silviculture (tree-farming) allows for micromanagement of forest stands by thinning, selective cutting and logging and removal of timber in natural blowdowns in a way that works against allowing for a more natural succession to old-growth. Selective tree cutting in an old growth or mature successional forest should be extremely rare (e.g., public safety). (Arid Western conifer forests may need some management.)

Twentieth Century silviculture is mainly concerned with getting the maximum economic harvest value out of a sustainable series of tree crops. Old growth and mature forests need to be preserved on public lands so that Americans can see what nature can do on its own. Use less silviculture and more forest ecology and let nature do more of the work.

Preserve and protect our existing old growth and mature forests in the public domain by eliminating commercial logging and selective cutting on public land.