Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/19/2024 11:55:25 PM First name: Yoko Last name: Silk Organization: Title: Comments: Please protect old growth and mature forests! The mature and old growth forests of the coast range store more carbon per square foot than anywhere else in the world.

To successfully achieve protection for old-growth forests, the final NOGA must:

Eliminate exceptions and end all logging of old-growth trees in National Forests.

Prohibit sending old-growth trees to the timber mills. The economic incentive for logging old-growth must be removed. If the logged tree cannot be sold or exchanged, it will likely prevent all but truly rare removals of old-growth trees.

Set the stage for durable protections for mature trees and stands. This is paramount to the future of old-growth. Mature forests and trees - future old growth - must be protected from the threat of commercial logging in order to recover old growth that has been lost to past mismanagement.

Be consistent with the need to address wildfire, by funding home hard wing projects, not thinning projects. Protecting older trees and forests can increase forest resilience to wildfires, and combat climate-change related impacts such as flooding and drought.