

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

First name: Maxine

Last name: Centala

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

The current proposal falls way short: It contains loopholes that will allow old-growth trees to be sent to the mill - and it doesn't safeguard the mature trees we'll need as our climate champions in the future.

Please include meaningful, enforceable protections that will stop the commercial exploitation of climate-saving old-growth trees across our national forests.

The moist forest I'm familiar with, the Siuslaw National Forest, is the number one carbon storing forest in the country. Please include special guidance in the final document for super-carbon-storehouse-forests like the Siuslaw.

Our local national forests are very moist due to high rainfall. Intact old growth on the Siuslaw is naturally fire resistant. I am very concerned that a stakeholder process that includes the timber industry will abuse the proposed management theory of "proactive stewardship."

Please protect and increase carbon rich old growth forests because they remove and store climate warming carbon from the air. The Forest Service must find a way to protect all old growth forests. The country deserves no less.