Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/20/2024 4:00:39 PM First name: Lee Last name: Cates Organization: Title:

Comments: I am concerned that the old growth definition change which could lower old growth age, can and will negatively effect my local community. Timber management and harvest in my community affect nearly every local business in some form or fashion. Reducing healthy forest management to establish more old growth acres would lead to several negative items. This would include a reduction in the overall health of the forest, limited diversity of plants and forage for wildlife, reduced timber production that provides funding for recreational benefits, and much more.