

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/21/2024 2:26:28 AM

First name: Laurien

Last name: Zahn

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System #65356 to express my support for protecting old growth and mature forests, and my concern regarding serious issues with the plan as written.

All old growth and mature trees and forests must be protected, with younger forests protected as well so that they will become old forests in the future. All loopholes which would allow for the logging of old growth and mature trees and forests in the currently proposed plan must be closed.

Of the current options proposed, alternative #3 is best, but it needs to be altered to provide better protection for old growth and mature trees and forests. All old growth and mature forests and trees must be completely off-limits to logging. It should be illegal to send old growth trees to timber mills.

Old growth and mature trees and forests provide numerous benefits. They clean our air and water, they moderate extreme weather such as drought, heat, floods, and wind. They reduce fire danger and are resilient to fires. In addition, they add enormous scenic value to our public lands, and it is essential for the economy of rural towns such as mine that old trees be protected, and that more forests are allowed to grow to become old. Old trees and forests are also essential habitat to many species, and once cut old growth cannot be replaced.

I am the new generation. I will outlive the authors of this proposal, and therefore my values are more important than those of the soon-to-be dead.

Thank you for taking my comment into consideration.