

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/8/2024 12:00:00 AM

First name: Lucinda

Last name: Varnum

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The U.S. Forest Service must tackle the climate and biodiversity crises head-on by increasing the abundance and distribution of old forests across the National Forest System. As you know, some members of Congress are pushing laws that would expand logging in some of our nation's largest old-growth forests, allowing ancient groves to be decimated. The Forest Service's commitment to creating an amendment that protects old-growth from commercial is a meaningful step in the right direction. Many people have demanded this kind of measure for decades, and forest protection continues to have broad support. In order to be effective, the National Old-Growth Amendment must: Fully include the Tongass National Forest in Alaska, Stop precious, old-growth trees from being cut and sent off to the mill, and Immediately enact durable protections for maturing forests, to ensure that they develop into our next generation of old-growth. Please act today to fulfill President Biden's Executive Order and help ensure real protections for mature groves in our national forests. Thank you!