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Title:

Comments: [External Email]Protect old-growth forests

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Dear Chief Moore,

I'm a Clinical Infectious Diseases Pharmacist who is alarmed at the lack of action addressing the current public health threats of climate change and air pollution. Climate change and its main driver, the burning of fossil fuels, are issues the medical community recognizes that we need to address now.

I am writing to urge you to protect all old-growth forests in the United States. The Nantahala National Forest in the Southern Appalachians is the latest victim in this unnecessary destruction.

Every year, the U.S. Forest Service and Department of Agriculture establish "timber targets", mandating specific volumes of timber be harvested. This is causing harm to local communities, wildlife, and the environment.

Forests store vast amounts of carbon, and even more as they age. Logging these trees releases much of that carbon back into the atmosphere.

Taking advantage of these carbon sinks is one of the easiest and most cost-effective climate change solutions available to us. Mature forests also provide clean air, filter water for communities living downstream, and create habitats for endangered species.

It is time to stop this harmful practice. Please take steps to protect the Nantahala National Forest and all old-growth forests!

Sincerely,

Shauna Junco

Orlando, Florida

Sent from my iPhone