Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/27/2024 5:07:44 PM First name: Debbie Last name: Dutton Organization: Title:

Comments: I am not a scientist, just a citizen. I do not understand why we, as a society, are not doing everything possible to protect and preserve every acre of mature and complex forest that has the potential to become old growth forest. We know that old trees and forests are some of the best sources of carbon storage and provide habitat for a variety of creatures. Also old forests are more resilient to fire. Why not allow every mature forest to become old? I know that timber is a valuable resource but there are other ways to obtain timber and we need to change our old ways of thinking or we will just continue down the same destructive path we have been on. We have to value a forest for the incredible ecosystem it is rather than just an extraction resource. Please preserve any mature and complex forest within this plan.