Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/17/2025 1:00:09 PM First name: Valentine Last name: Sargent Organization: Title:

Comments: I am in constant awe of the forests that thrive on our public lands. When I read Richard Powers' "The Overstory" my view of trees, their brilliance in adaptation, communication, and reciprocity touched me so deeply that I decided I would speak for the trees and all the living beings who depend upon them.

It is more important than ever for us to defend the defenseless. For our generation and for generations to come. Although I do not live in the Northwest, I have smelt the burnt forests miles away and I have had the privilege of being in awe with the forests when I have visited. As an American and a young person, I beg the federal government to protect the forests and steward the trees with compassion and love. We can not breathe money and our forests and their inhabitants deserve our utmost respect and protection.

Thank you for your time and consideration.