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Organization:

Title:

Comments: July 9, 2024

Dear USDA Secretary Vilsack:

Please direct the Forest Service to increase protection for old growth in eastern national forests as recommended in the coalition letter at the web link below and attached.

[https://biologicaldiversity.org/programs/public\\_lands/forests/pdfs/Eastern-National-Forests-Letter-7-9-24.pdf](https://biologicaldiversity.org/programs/public_lands/forests/pdfs/Eastern-National-Forests-Letter-7-9-24.pdf)

I reviewed this letter and I totally agree and concur with its recommendations.

As you know, the protection and restoration of old growth forests is critically important to help respond to the rapidly worsening climate and extinction crises. These forests sequester enormous amounts of harmful atmospheric carbon and sustain biodiversity.

Old growth forests are important everywhere, but they are especially rare and precious in eastern national forests. I have hiked in eastern national forests and I know that they need and deserve greater protection.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration of my comments and the coalition letter.

Sincerely,

Richard Spotts