

Feb 27, 2024 (updated from Jan 31, 2024)

President Joe Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Cc: Ali Zaidi, National Climate Advisor, The White House; Stephenne Harding, Council on Environmental Quality; Thomas J. Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture; Deb Haaland, Secretary of Interior

Re: Request for an Executive Order to Place a Moratorium on Logging Mature and Old-Growth Forests, and Large Trees Generally, on National Forests and BLM Lands While the Old Growth EIS Proceeds

Dear President Biden:

We are scientists with backgrounds in forest ecosystems, climate change, and natural resources writing in response to the December 20, 2023 Notice of Intent for a National Old Growth Amendment in the Federal Register (Federal Register, Vol. 88. No. 243). We applaud your Executive Order 14008 directing federal agencies to protect 30% of the nation's lands and waters by 2030, and Executive Order 14072 directing the national inventory of mature and old-growth forests for conservation purposes, most of which are on National Forests and BLM lands. Because of the [global loss](#) of [mature and old-growth](#) forests, and [large trees](#) generally, and their [importance](#) in [mitigating](#) the climate and [biodiversity crisis](#) on federal lands, we fully support calls by fellow scientists for a [moratorium](#) on logging in these critically important forests. Therefore, we request that you now direct the Forest Service and BLM to suspend all timber sales in mature and old-growth forests, and refrain from proposing new timber sales in these forests, while the federal agencies develop their Environmental Impact Statements that best comply with Executive Order 14072 in securing a national network of conservation areas.

We are concerned that the Administration's proposed old-growth Amendment "does not alter or prescribe any substantive standards for the management of old growth forests" that in the meantime remain vulnerable to [dozens of timber sales](#) nationally and efforts by the Forest Service to increase logging of these forests before any substantive conservation takes hold. We are also concerned that the proposed Amendment excludes mature forests and includes a loophole that would allow logging of old-growth forests under certain conditions. Additionally, based on an independent inventory of mature and old-growth forests in the conterminous United States, and the [Tongass rainforest](#) in Alaska, more than 50 million acres of mature and old-growth forests are [vulnerable](#) to logging. In particular, the Amendment [exempts](#) the Tongass, the nation's highest concentration of old-growth forests and [forest carbon](#), from further analysis, which is inconsistent with your efforts to transition this forest out of old-growth logging.

The [Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use](#) was signed by 141 countries, including the United States, at the COP26. The declaration pledges to end global deforestation and **forest degradation** by 2030 (emphasis added). Additionally, the United States is committed to the [Paris Climate Agreement](#) that "encourages Parties to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of GHGs that are referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1(d) of the Convention, **including forests**" (emphasis added). Following through on these commitments in practice is [crucial for climate change mitigation](#).

Logging and associated road building in mature and old-growth forests and the removal of large trees on federal lands is the main form of **forest degradation** and is therefore inconsistent with your global commitments and relevant executive orders. We ask that you lead by example in signaling to the world that the United States takes its commitment seriously in halting the global biodiversity and climate crises

by now directing federal agencies to enact the strongest protections for the nation's mature and old-growth forests and large trees as natural climate solutions and a flagship initiative of your [roadmap for nature-based solutions](#). Doing so will be a legacy gift of your Administration to the nation and the planet.

Sincerely,

Beverly Law, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus of  
Global Change Biology  
Oregon State University

William H. Schlesinger, Ph.D.  
Member, National Academy of Sciences  
President, Emeritus  
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

George M. Woodwell, Ph.D.  
Member, National Academy of Sciences  
Founding Director,  
Woodwell Climate Research Center

Janet Franklin, Ph.D.  
Member, National Academy of Sciences  
Endowed Campanile Foundation Professor of  
Geography, San Diego State Univ.

Michael Mann, Ph.D.  
Member, National Academy of Sciences  
Presidential Distinguished Professor  
University of Pennsylvania

Richard Birdsey, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist  
Woodwell Climate Research Center

John Sterman, Ph.D.  
Jay W. Forrester Professor of Management  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Gene Likens, Ph.D.  
Founding Director and President, Emeritus  
Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies

Stuart Pimm, Ph.D.  
Doris Duke Professor of Conservation  
Duke University

Cathy Whitlock, Ph.D.  
Regents Professor Emerita  
Montana State University

William R Moomaw, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus, Tufts University  
Distinguished Visiting Scientist  
Woodwell Climate Research Center

James N. Galloway, Ph.D.  
Member, National Academy of Sciences  
Sidman P. Poole Professor, Environmental  
Sciences, U. of Virginia

Peter H. Raven, Ph.D.  
Member, National Academy of Sciences  
Prof. Emeritus, Washington Univ. St. Louis  
Pres. Emeritus, Missouri Botanical Garden

Jim Hansen, Ph.D., Director  
Member, National Academy of Sciences  
Climate Science, Awareness & Solutions  
Columbia University, Earth Institute

David Foster, Ph.D.  
Director Emeritus Harvard Forest  
Harvard University

Barry Noon, Ph.D.  
Emeritus Professor  
Colorado State University

William Ripple, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Professor of Ecology  
Oregon State University

Richard A. Houghton, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist Emeritus  
Woodwell Climate Research Ctr.

R. Max Holmes, Ph.D.  
President & CEO  
Woodwell Climate Research Center

Dominick A. DellaSala, Ph.D.  
Chief Scientist, Wild Heritage Project,  
Earth Island Institute

Rose Abramoff, Ph.D.  
Research Scholar  
Ronin Institute

Daniel Anderson, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
University of California

William Armbruster, Ph.D.  
Principal Research Scientist  
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Erik Asphaug, Ph.D.  
Professor  
University of Arizona

Peter Auster, Ph.D.  
Research Professor Emeritus  
retired

David Bain, Ph.D.  
Chief Scientist  
Orca Conservancy

William L. Baker, Ph.D.  
Emeritus Professor, Ecology and Geography  
University of Wyoming

Norman T. Baker, Ph.D.  
Ecologist and Entomologist  
Northstar Nurseries Inc.

Jesse Barber, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Boise State University

Phoebe Barnard, Ph.D.  
Co-Founder  
Global Restoration Collaborative

Robert Beschta, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
Oregon State University

Jeff Beane, Ph.D.  
Curator of Herpetology  
NC State Museum of Natural Sciences

Craig Benkman, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
University of Wyoming

Logan Berner, Ph.D.  
Asst. Research Professor Forest Ecology  
Northern Arizona University

Danielle M. Berardi, Ph.D.  
Postdoc. Research Assoc. Forest Ecology  
University of Wyoming

Harvey Blankespoor, Ph.D.  
1991 National CASE professor of the year (Retired)  
Hope College

James Blauth, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biology  
University of Redlands

Brian Bodenbender, Ph.D.  
Professor of Geology & Environmental Science  
Hope College

Monica Bond, Ph.D.  
Principal Scientist  
Wild Natural Institute

Jim Boone, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist  
Desert Wildlife Consultants, LLC

Mary S. Booth, Ph.D.  
Director  
Partnership for Policy Integrity

William Bromer, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus of Biology  
University of St Francis

Barbara Brower, Ph.D.  
Emerita Professor of Geography  
Portland State University

Paul Butler, Ph.D.  
Emeritus Faculty Member  
Geoscience

Alan Cady, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biology  
Miami University

Philip Cantino, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
Ohio University

Bobb Carson, Ph.D.  
Professor- and Dean-Emeritus  
Lehigh University

Donna Cassidy-Hanley, Ph.D.  
Senior Research Associate  
Cornell University

Donald Charles, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist  
Drexel University

John Cigliano, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biology  
Cedar Crest College

Raymond Clarke, Ph.D.  
Professor emeritus  
Sarah Lawrence College

Malcolm Cleaveland, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
U. of Arkansas-Fayetteville

David P. Craig, Ph. D  
Professor of Biology  
Willamette University

Patrick Crist, Ph.D.  
Principal  
PlanIt Forward LLC

John M. DeCicco, Ph.D.  
Research Professor Emeritus  
University of Michigan

Alan Dickman, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
Retired, University of Oregon

Ken Driese, Ph.D.  
Emeritus Lecturer  
University of Wyoming

Steve Dudgeon, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biology  
California State University, Northridge

Jonathan Evans, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biology  
University of the South

Daniel Fisher, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
University of Michigan

Johannes Foufopoulos, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
University of Michigan

Jennifer A. Francis, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist  
Woodwell Climate Research Ctr.

Jerry Freilich, Ph.D.  
Research Coordinator  
National Park Service (retired)

Jennifer Frey, Ph.D.  
Professor  
New Mexico State University

Jed Fuhrman, Ph.D.  
Professor  
University of Southern California

Peter Frumhoff  
Senior Science Policy Advisor  
Woodwell Climate Research Center

Daniel Gavin, Ph.D.  
Professor  
University of Oregon

Nick Gayeski, Ph.D.  
Fisheries Scientist  
Wild Fish Conservancy

John Gerwin, Ph.D.  
Research Curator, Ornithology  
NC Museum of Natural Sciences

Deborah A. Giles, Ph.D.  
Science & Research Director  
Wild Orca

Scott Goetz, Ph.D.  
Regents Professor  
Northern Arizona University

Steven Green, Ph.D.  
Senior Professor Emeritus  
University of Miami

Gregory Grether, Ph.D.  
Professor  
UCLA

Jon Grinnell, Ph.D.  
Uhler Chair in Biology  
Gustavus Adolphus College

Robert E. Gresswell, Ph.D.  
Research Scientist, Emeritus  
US Geological Survey

Gary Grossman, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
University of Georgia

Tara W. Hudiburg, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Professor, Coll. Natural Resources, U-Idaho  
Dir. Institute for Innovative Climate Solutions

Chad Hanson, Ph.D.  
John Muir Project  
Director and Principal Ecologist

Cheryl Harding, Ph.D.  
Professor Emerita  
Hunter College, City University of New York

John Harte, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
University of California, Berkeley

Robert M. Hughes, Ph.D.  
Senior Research Scientist  
Amnis Opes Institute, Oregon

Robert Heath, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
Kent State University

Kenneth Helms, Ph.D.  
Research Affiliate  
University of Vermont

Karen Holl, Ph.D.  
Professor of Environmental Studies  
University of California, Santa Cruz

Glenn K. Bush, Ph.D.  
Environmental Economist  
Woodwell Climate Research Center

Richard Holmes, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences  
Dartmouth College

Elizabeth Horvath, Ph. D  
Associate Professor, Biology  
Westmont College

Edward Huang, Ph.D.  
Principal Researcher  
Inst. for a Sustainable Earth

Malcolm Hunter, Ph.D.  
Professor of Wildlife Ecology  
University of Maine

David Inouye, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
University of Maryland

Charles Janson, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
The University of Montana

Daniel Janzen, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus of Biodiversity Ecology  
University of Pennsylvania

Mitchell Johns, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus of Soil and Plant Science  
California State University Chico

Harrison Jones, Ph.D.  
Southwest Avian Ecologist  
The Institute for Bird Populations

Jay Jones, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus Biology, Biochemistry  
University of La Verne

Jacob Kann, Ph.D.  
Research Aquatic Ecologist  
Aquatic Ecosystem Sciences LLC

David Karowe, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biological Sciences  
Western Michigan University

Sterling Keeley, Ph.D.  
Professor of Botany Emerita  
University of Hawaii

Pushker A. Kharecha, PhD  
Climate Scientist & Deputy Director  
Climate Science, Awareness, & Solutions  
Columbia University Earth Institute

Bruce Kirchoff, Ph.D.  
Emeritus Professor  
UNC Greensboro

John Kirkley, Ph. D  
Emeritus Professor of Biology  
University of Montana – Westen

John Kloetzel, Ph. D.  
Retired biologist  
UMBC

Jason Koontz, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies  
Augustana College

Dana Krempels, Ph.D.  
Senior Lecturer  
University of Miami

Flora Krivak-Tetley, Ph.D.  
Lecturer and Researcher  
Dartmouth College

Janet Kubler, Ph.D.  
Biologist  
California State University, Northridge

Andréa L. Kuchy, Ph.D.  
Conservation Scientist  
Wild Heritage, Project of Earth Island Institute

Sam L. Davis, Ph.D.  
Partnership for Policy Integrity  
PFPI

Stephen La Dochy, Ph.D  
Professor Emeritus  
CSULA

Rick Landenberger, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
West Virginia University

Derek Lee, Ph.D.  
Principal Scientist  
Wild Natural Institute, Pennsylvania State Univ.

Laurel Lynch, Ph.D.  
Asst. Professor, Dept Soil & Water Systems  
University of Idaho

Jason A. Lillegraven, Ph.D.  
Retired  
Depts, Geology and Zoology

Brian Linkhart, Ph. D  
Biology Professor  
Colorado College

Margaret Lowman, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, TREE Foundation  
National Geographic Explorer

James Marden, Ph. D  
Professor of Biology  
Penn State University

Janet Marsden, Ph. D.  
Research Fellow  
Syracuse University

Travis Marsico, Ph. D  
Vice Provost  
Arkansas State University

Susan A. Masino, Ph.D.  
Professor of Applied Science  
Trinity College

Dave McWethy, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Professor, Dept. Earth Sciences  
Montana State University

Robert Meese, Ph. D.  
Staff Research Associate IV  
U.C. Davis - retired

Douglas Meikle, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biology  
Miami University

Anthony Metcalf, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biology  
CSUSB

David Mildrexler, Ph.D.  
Systems Ecologist  
Eastern Oregon Legacy Lands

Justin M. Mathias, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor, Dept. Biology  
West Virginia University

Molly Morris, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Ohio University

John C. Morse, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
Clemson University

Greg Murray, Ph.D.  
T. Elliot Weier Prof. Emeritus of Plant Science  
Hope College

Chris Myers, Ph.D.  
Professor  
Miami University

Philip Myers, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
University of Michigan

Dhruba Naug, Ph. D  
Professor  
Colorado State University

Gretchen North, Ph. D  
Professor of Biology  
Occidental College

Gustav Paulay, Ph. D  
Professor  
University of Florida

Steve Paulsen, Ph.D.  
Aquatic Ecologist, retired  
US EPA

Timothy Pearce, Ph. D.  
Head of Mollusks  
Carnegie Museum of Natural History

Roger Powell, Ph. D  
Professor Emeritus  
North Carolina State University

Thomas Power, Ph. D  
Professor Emeritus, Economics  
University of Montana

Jessica Pratt, Ph. D  
Professor of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology  
University of California, Irvine

Nancy Pullen, Ph. D  
Professor  
Kennesaw State University

Robert Pyle, Ph. D.  
Founder  
The Xerces Society

James Quinn, Ph. D  
Professor Emeritus  
Rutgers University

Gurcharan Rahi, Ph. D  
Physical Sciences Professor (retired)  
Fayetteville State University

John Ratti, Ph. D  
Professor and Research Scientist, Ret.  
University of Idaho

Paul Rogers, Ph. D  
Director, Adjunct Professor  
Western Aspen Alliance, Utah State Univ.

Brendan Rogers, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist  
Woodward Climate Research Ctr.

Steven Rogstad, Ph. D  
Professor (Botany, Emeritus)  
University of Cincinnati

Juliette Rooney-Varga, Ph. D  
Professor  
University of Massachusetts Lowell

Amy Rossmam, Ph. D.  
Research Leader (retired)  
USDA Agriculture Research Service

William H Russell, Ph.D.  
Professor of Environmental Studies  
San Jose State University

Robin Salter, Ph. D  
Professor Emeritus  
Oberlin College

James Saracco, Ph. D  
Research Ecologist  
The Institute for Bird Populations

Sassan Saatchi, Ph.D.  
Adjunct Professor  
Institute of Environment & Sustainability  
University of California, Los Angeles  
CEO CTrees.org

Melissa Savage, Ph. D  
Associate Professor Emerita  
UCLA

Paul Schaeffer, Ph.D.  
Professor, Dept. Biology  
Miami University

Paula Schiffman, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biology  
California State University, Northridge

Joshua Schimel, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Professor  
Univ. California Santa Barbara

Christopher R Schwalm, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist  
Woodwell Climate Research Center

James A. Schmid, Ph.D.  
President  
Schmid & Co., Inc., Consulting Ecologists

Christopher Still, Ph.D.  
Professor of Forest Ecosystem Science  
Oregon State University

Tania Schoennagel, Ph.D  
Research Scientist  
University of Colorado-Boulder

Walter Shriner, Ph.D  
Professor of Natural Resources Technology  
Mt. Hood Community College

Herman Shugart, Ph.D  
W.W. Corcoran Professor of Natural History  
University of Virginia

Thomas D. Sisk, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
Northern Arizona University

Wayne Spencer, Ph.D.  
Chief Scientist Emeritus  
Conservation Biology Institute

Timothy Spira, Ph.D.  
Emeritus Professor Botany  
Clemson University

Trygve Steen, Ph.D.  
Professor, ESM Dept.  
Portland State University

Mark Steer, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
University of the West of England

Julia Steinberger, Ph.D.  
Professor, Inst. of Geography & Sustainability  
University of Lausanne

Sandra Steingraber, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist  
Science and Environmental Health Network

Alan Stemler, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
UC-Davis

James Strittholt, Ph.D.  
Chief Scientist  
Conservation Biology Institute

Alexandra Syphard, Ph. D  
Senior Research Ecologist  
Conservation Biology Institute

Melanie Szulczewski, Ph. D  
Associate Professor of Environmental Science  
University of Mary Washington

John Talberth, Ph.D.  
President and Senior Economist  
Center for Sustainable Economy

John Terborgh, Ph. D  
James B. Duke Professor Emeritus  
Duke University (retired)

Richard B. Thomas, Ph.D.  
Professor of Biology  
West Virginia University

Tamara Ticktin, Ph.D.  
Professor of Botany  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

Walter Tschinkel, Ph.D  
Professor Emeritus  
Florida State University



Mary Tyler, Ph.D.  
Professor Emerita of Zoology  
University of Maine

Greg Walker, Ph.D.  
Emeritus Professor  
University of California Riverside

Wayne Walker, Ph.D.  
Chief Scientific Officer/Senior Scientist  
Woodwell Climate Research Center

Donald Waller, Ph.D.  
Professor (retired)  
Univ. of Wisconsin - Madison

Glenn Walsberg, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus  
Arizona State University

Susan M. Natali  
Senior Scientist  
Woodwell Climate Research Ctr.

Judith Weis, Ph.D.  
Professor Emerita  
Rutgers University

Sue Wick, Ph.D.  
Professor Emerita  
University of Minnesota

Susan Willson, Ph.D.  
Assoc. Professor of Biology  
St. Lawrence University

Shaye Wolf, Ph.D.  
Climate Science Director  
Center for Biological Diversity

Peter Wood, Ph.D.  
Lecturer, Faculty of Forestry, UBC

Kimberly A. Novik, Ph.D.  
Professor, O'Neill School of Public &  
Environmental Affairs  
Indiana University – Bloomington

Cris Neill, Ph.D.  
Senior Scientist  
Woodwell Climate Research Ctr.

Matthew G. Betts, Ph.D.  
Professor, Dept. Forest Ecosystems & Society  
Oregon State University

Richard H. Waring, Ph.D.  
Emeritus Distinguished Professor  
Oregon State University

Mark E. Harmon, Ph.D.  
Professor Emeritus, Forest Ecosystems & Society  
Oregon State University

J. Boone Kauffman, Ph.D.  
Professor, Sr. Research  
Dept. Fisheries, Wildlife, Conservation Sciences  
Oregon State University

\*Affiliations are for identification only and do not reflect the views of the organization.