To: The Honorable John Kerry, United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate  
The Honorable Gina McCarthy, White House National Climate Advisor  
Cc: The Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of Agriculture  
The Honorable Deb Haaland, United States Secretary of the Interior  
Re: Conserve Older Forests in the United States to Fight Climate Change  
Date: October 28th, 2021

The Honorable John Kerry and Gina McCarthy,

Conserving our last remaining older (mature and old-growth) forests and trees on federal public lands in the United States is one of our country’s most straightforward, impactful and most cost-effective climate solutions in addition to rapidly reducing greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy. Taking administrative action to halt the logging of older forests on the United States’ federal lands will represent a broad win for this Administration by mitigating and adapting to the current and future impacts of climate change, conserving habitat to counter the biodiversity crisis, and securing a wide range of co-benefits. Unfortunately, thus far the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have not produced credible proposals for combating climate change nationwide, or for conserving carbon-rich older forests and trees on the lands they manage. The administration should correct that error by stopping the logging of older forests and trees on public lands in the United States.

Conserving all remaining mature and old-growth forests and trees on public lands is directly in line with several stated objectives of the Biden administration, including the Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad and efforts to protect 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030. The Biden Administration also specifically highlighted forest protections in its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) strategy. It is critical that the US follows through on its climate commitments in the NDC and demonstrates meaningful action to other countries around the world through meaningful and concrete actions to conserve older forests and trees.

Older forests are important from a climate change mitigation perspective for at least two reasons. First, they store vast amounts of carbon accumulated over decades to centuries. Cutting those forests down emits the majority of that carbon back to the atmosphere. Second, older forests are sequestering vast amounts of carbon from the atmosphere—a critical tool as emissions reductions alone are an insufficient strategy for countering the worsening climate crisis.

The benefits of protecting older forests do not stop there. They are essential biodiversity reservoirs--the profound complexity of older forests sets the stage for the abundance of life found in these areas. And with a rapidly changing climate producing more droughts and greater storm events, older forests are well springs for clean water and flood control.
This summer, the Biden administration announced that it would halt large-scale old-growth logging in the Tongass National Forest. While a critical protective step, additional action is urgently needed to both expand older forest and tree protections across the United States and to ensure that the protections are enduring for the benefit of this and future generations. Instead of protecting older forests and trees, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management have advanced controversial and problematic recommendations to intensively log public forests in the hopes of storing carbon in short-lived wood products. But comprehensive carbon accounting and numerous recent scientific publications do not support this narrative — it is clear that storing and sequestering carbon on the landscape is a far more effective strategy.

Unlike many other developed nations, the United States still has significant amounts of carbon-rich older forests and trees that can be drafted into the fight to address the climate and biodiversity crises. As the United States enters the international climate conference in Glasgow this November, it is vital that the Administration demonstrate leadership and restore US credibility through significant, effective climate actions. It is not enough to simply pressure developing countries on older forest and rainforest protections — the US must take meaningful action to conserve and restore carbon-rich forests and trees across all our forest types here at home. We strongly urge President Biden to take administrative action to halt the logging of older forests and trees on public lands in the United States, and to ensure federal agencies work to recover these carbon rich landscapes for their climate, biodiversity, and watershed benefits to our nation.

Sincerely,

Patricia Hine
President
350 Eugene

David Perk
Leadership Team
350 Seattle

Susan Purser
Coordinator
350 Massachusetts Berkshire Node

Brenna Bell
Forest Climate Manager
350PDX
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dave Toler</td>
<td>Founder</td>
<td>Advocates for Forest Carbon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Becky Knight</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Alaska Rainforest Defenders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leah Donahey</td>
<td>Legislative Director</td>
<td>Alaska Wilderness League</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcia Stout</td>
<td>Co-leader</td>
<td>Aldo's Silver City Broadband of Great Old Broads for Wilderness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Moryc</td>
<td>Senior Director</td>
<td>American Rivers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke Ruediger</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Applegate Neighborhood Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Cantino</td>
<td>Steering Committee Chair</td>
<td>Athens County's Future Action Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Arkin</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Beyond Toxics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexey Zimenko</td>
<td>Director General</td>
<td>Biodiversity Conservation Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paula Hood</td>
<td>Co-Director</td>
<td>Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Conley</td>
<td>Leader</td>
<td>Boise Chapter of Great Old Broads for Wilderness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Morrill</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>California Wilderness Coalition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molly Whitney</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Cascade Forest Conservancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca White</td>
<td>Wildlands Director</td>
<td>Cascadia Wildlands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nicole Hayler  
Executive Director  
Chattooga Conservancy  

Lauren McCain  
Senior Federal Lands Policy Analyst  
Defenders of Wildlife  

Bonnie McKinlay  
Core Team Member  
CedarAction  

Theona Vyvial  
President  
Desert Rivers Audubon Society  

Randi Spivak  
Public Lands Program Director  
Center for Biological Diversity  

Vicki Weeks  
Georgia State Coordinator  
Dogwood Alliance  

Mary Fleischmann  
CO-leader  
Central Oregon Bitter Brush Broads  

Michael Browning  
Chair  
Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance  

Catherine Murray  
Director  
Cherokee Forest Voices  

Mary Gutierrez  
Director  
Earth Action, Inc.  

Tammy Domike  
Community Organizer  
Citizens for a Clean Harbor  

Blaine Miller-McFeeley  
Senior Legislative Representative  
Earthjustice  

Dave Werntz  
Science and Conservation Director  
Conservation Northwest  

Bruce Gordon  
President  
Ecoflight
Tara Thornton Deputy Director
Endangered Species Coalition

Ellen Montgomery
Public Lands Campaign Director
Environment America

Patrick Kelly-Fischer
Board Secretary
Environmental Action

Catherine Thomasson
Chair
Environmental Caucus of the DPO

Ann Mesnikoff
Federal Legislative Director
Environmental Law & Policy Center

Thomas Wheeler
Executive Director
Environmental Protection Information Center

Diane Meisenhelter
Member
Extinction Rebellion PDX

Timothy Ingalsbee, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology (FUSEE)

Will Harlan
Executive Director
Forest Keeper

Cristina Hubbard
Executive Director
Forest Web

Robert T. Leverett
President
Friends of Mohawk Trail State Forest

Michele Dieterich
Steering Committee
Friends of the Bitterroot

Jeff Juel
Montana Policy Director
Friends of the Clearwater

Alicia Hamann
Executive Director
Friends of the Eel River
Clinton Nagel  
President  
Gallatin Wildlife Association

Joseph Scalia III, Psy.D.  
President  
Gallatin Yellowstone Wilderness Alliance

J.D. McCrary  
Executive Director  
Georgia ForestWatch

Dr. Stephen C. Frantz  
Research Pathobiologist/Principal  
Global Environmental Options

Felice Pace  
Coordinator  
Grazing Reform Project

Shelley Silbert  
Executive Director  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Nancy Working  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Darlene Chirman  
Leadership team member  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness, Cascade Volcano Chapter

Amy Moas, Ph.D.  
Senior Climate Campaigner  
Greenpeace USA

Ellen Moyer, Ph.D.  
Principal  
Greenviore, LLC

Patrice Mutchnick  
Director  
Heart of the Gila

Matt Reed  
Public Lands Director  
High Country Conservation Advocates

Sue Craig  
Facilitator  
InterfaithEarthkeepers Eugene/Springfield
Douglas Harr
President
Iowa Audubon

MarieClaire Egbert
Campaign & Communications Director
John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute

Ashley Lipscomb
Director
Kentucky Heartwood

Kimberly Baker
Executive Director
Klamath Forest Alliance

Joseph Vaile
Climate Director
Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center

Michael Gaskill
Chair
Lincoln County Democratic Executive Committee

Bryant Baker
Conservation Director
Los Padres ForestWatch

Chris Sacca
Founder and Chairman
Lowercarbon Capital

Fred Snow
President
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions

Eliza Donoghue
Director of Advocacy
Maine Audubon

Heather Spalding
Deputy Director
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

Jill Linzee
Co-Chair, Climate Change Issue Group
Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network

Julianne Gale
Co-Founder
Mason County Climate Justice
Chris Matera  
Founder  
Massachusetts Forest Watch

Rand Schenck  
Member  
Metro Climate Action Team

Josh Kelly  
Public Lands Biologist  
MountainTrue

Tracy Farwell  
Chair, Climate Action Team  
Multnomah County Dems Community Action

Garett Rose  
Staff Attorney  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Thomas Jervis  
President  
New Mexico Audubon Council

Oscar Simpson  
State Chair  
New Mexico Sportsmen

Mark Allison  
Executive Director  
New Mexico Wild

Sue Sullivan  
teacher/parent  
NHS Environmental Club

Kay Hawklee  
President  
Northern Arizona Audubon Society

Joan Maloof  
Executive Director  
Old-Growth Forest Network

John Bridge  
Board of Trustees President  
Olympic Park Advocates

Julia DeGraw  
Coalition Director  
Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Steve Pedery  
Conservation Director  
Oregon Wild
Lindsey Berk  
Co-founder  
Origins of Food

Alison Gallensky  
Principal Conservation Geographer  
Rocky Mountain Wild

Mary Booth  
Director  
Partnership for Policy Integrity

Jimbo Buickerood  
Lands and Forest Protection Program Manager  
San Juan Citizens Alliance

Kathy Johnson  
Forest Practices Chair  
Pilchuck Audubon Society

Christine Canaly  
Director  
San Luis Valley Ecosystem Council

Sharon Arnold  
Conservation Chair  
Prescott Audubon Society

Kirin Kennedy  
Deputy Legislative Director  
Sierra Club

David Alba  
State Chapter Leader  
Progressive Democrats of America, Oregon Chapter

Andrea Feniger  
Chapter Director  
Sierra Club Alaska

Robert K. Musil, Ph.D., M.P.H.  
President & CEO  
Rachel Carson Council

Susan Britting  
Executive Director  
Sierra Forest Legacy

Oscar Simpson  
Public Lands Chair  
Rio Grande Indivisible, NM

Dave Willis  
Chair  
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title and Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stanley Petrowski</td>
<td>President/Director, South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiara D'Angelo</td>
<td>Tongass Forest Program Manager, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Evans</td>
<td>Leader of National Forests and Parks Program, Southern Environmental Law Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alan Journet</td>
<td>Co-facilitator, Southern Oregon Climate Action Now</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zack Porter</td>
<td>Director, Standing Trees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark Nelson</td>
<td>Founding member, Standing Trees Vermont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Stevenson</td>
<td>Forest Team Lead, Sunrise PDX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Ogden</td>
<td>Producer/Co-host, The Enviro Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Kahn</td>
<td>Vice President, The Rewilding Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Hitt</td>
<td>President, The Santa Fe Forest Coalition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liza Crosse</td>
<td>Representative/Facilitator, The Siskiyou Crest Coalition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Josh Hicks</td>
<td>Senior Campaign Manager, The Wilderness Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Haws</td>
<td>President, Umpqua Natural Leadership Science Hub</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Angela Jensen  
Conservation/ Legal Director  
Umpqua Watersheds  

Dr Susan Leopold  
Executive director  
United Plant Savers  

Donna Stevens  
Executive Director  
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance  

Mark Miller  
Executive Director  
Virginia Wilderness Committee  

Laurel Facey  
Secretary  
Wendell State Forest Alliance  

Susan Jane Brown  
Wildlands Program Director & Staff Attorney  
Western Environmental Law Center  

Mary Williams  
President  
White Mountain Audubon Society  

Thomas Hollender  
President  
White Mountain Conservation League  

Maggie Johnston  
Executive Director  
Wild Alabama  

Marla Fox  
Staff Attorney  
WildEarth Guardians  

Dominick DellaSala, Ph. D  
Chief Scientist  
Wild Heritage, a project of Earth Island Institute  

Sam Hitt  
Founder  
Wild Watershed  

Chandra LeGue  
Leadership Team member  
Willamette Valley Broadband, Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Cheryl Bruner
Secretary
Williams Community Forest Project

Osprey Orielle Lake
Executive Director
Women's Earth and Climate Action Network (WECAN)

Rick Bass
Board Chair
Yaak Valley Forest Council

Nancy Meister
President
Yuma Audubon Society