

Your Summer Report

To log or let grow: The fate of our oldest forests hangs in the balance

By Ellen Montgomery, director of our national public lands campaigns

Just because a forest is on federal land doesn't mean it is protected from logging. In fact, logging and selling of wood is built into the missions of two federal agencies, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). That means logging is a persistent threat to many forests and trees that should be protected.

Some old forests are being logged right now. The Forest Service and BLM have approved numerous logging projects across hundreds of thousands of acres that target mature and old-growth trees, which store vast amounts of carbon and provide havens for a diverse array of wild plants and animals.

But thanks to hundreds of thousands of people who are speaking up for the trees—including Environment California members like you—we've urged the Biden administration to establish protections for these mature and old-growth trees and forests.

Progress on safeguards

In December, the U.S. Forest Service proposed the first nationwide plan to improve safeguards for old-growth forests. The proposal came after more than 500,000 comments submitted last summer urged swift and durable action to protect mature and old-growth forests.

The draft proposal sets ambitious goals for managing and expanding old growth in national forests, but contains major gaps. Notably, it carves out the Tongass National Forest—our largest



Last summer, staff delivered more than 500,000 comments urging the U.S. Forest Service to protect old-growth forests.

old growth national forest—from protection. The proposal also leaves open the option to sell old-growth trees to timber mills that have been logged as part of ecological projects. And it does not offer protections for mature trees and forests, which if not logged, will eventually become old-growth. Our national forests, especially in the eastern United States, have little old-growth remaining.

During a public comment period that closed in early February, thousands of supporters like you asked for stronger provisions that eliminate commercial logging of old-growth trees.

Continued on page 3 ►

Thanks
for making it
all possible

FedEx should absolutely, positively 'go solar'

When you drop off an overnight package with FedEx, wouldn't you feel better if the energy used to deliver that package to its destination came from clean, renewable solar power?

On Jan. 11, our research partner Environment America Research & Policy Center delivered 11,500 petition signatures to FedEx

of Jan. 1, 2024, due to their energy waste and harmful health effects. This ban is a step towards energy efficiency and protecting Californians' health.

Fluorescent lamps contain mercury, which is a potent neurotoxin that harms our nervous, digestive and immune systems.

"Phasing out fluorescent lighting will reduce exposure to toxic mercury and slash energy waste," said Laura Deehan, state director of Environment California.

This wild desert near Joshua Tree deserves protection

The Chuckwalla Bench in California's desert, southeast of Joshua Tree, is home to a variety of sensitive wildlife species, such as the desert rosy boa snake and desert tortoise. These endangered species are under threat of extinction from habitat loss.

That's why we're uniting with tribes and a coalition of local groups calling on President Biden to designate the Chuckwalla National Monument, which would permanently protect about 660,000 acres of public lands and create a protected wildlife corridor that connects habitats from Joshua Tree National Park all the way to the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge across the Arizona border.

"We live in the country that created the world's first national parks," said Laura Deehan, state director of Environment California. "It's time to lean into our nation's long legacy of conservation and protect the special natural places that we love, both for our own enjoyment and for the sake of the amazing animals that inhabit them."

Join the movement by writing a message to President Biden asking him to designate the Chuckwalla Bench as a national monument in order to protect this sensitive environment from destructive development.

world headquarters, urging the shipping leader to put solar panels on its warehouses and parking lots by 2035.

FedEx owns and operates more than 5,000 facilities with at least 122 million square feet of rooftop space. Researchers at Environment America Research & Policy Center determined that if FedEx maximized the solar potential of its roofs, the company's rooftop solar arrays could provide 61% of the electricity it purchased in 2021.

According to the report "Solar on Warehouses," if all of America's warehouse roofs had solar panels, they could produce enough energy to power more than 19 million average homes.

"We absolutely, positively need to generate more of our energy from clean, renewable sources," said Johanna Neumann, senior director of the Campaign for 100% Renewable Energy at Environment America Research & Policy Center. "FedEx can help America deliver on the promise of a cleaner, greener future."

A bright idea: Cleaner lighting for California

California phased out the sale of screw or bayonet base compact fluorescent lamps as

Get more updates on our work online at <https://environmentcalifornia.org>.

Isaac Russell



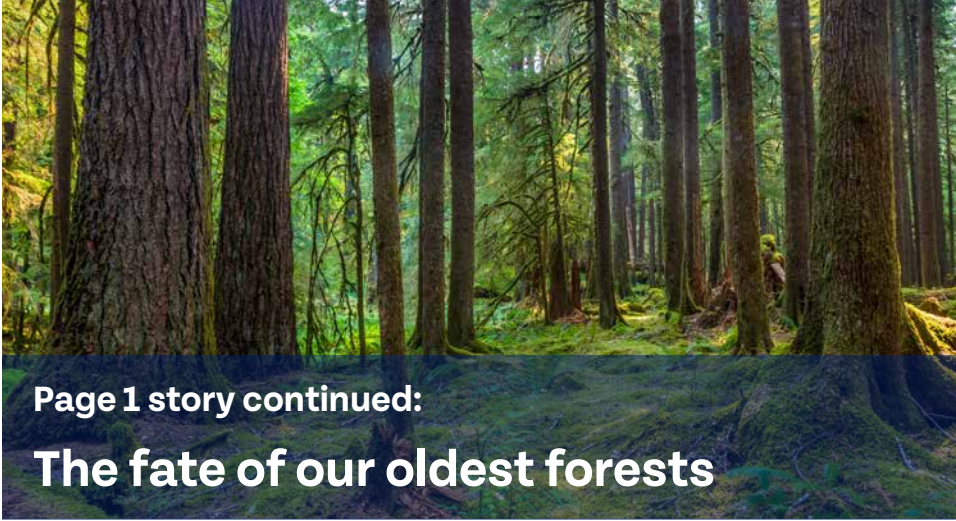
Johanna Neumann, senior director of our national Campaign for 100% Renewable Energy, collects petition signatures to urge FedEx to go solar.



Toward a greener future

Support our work to build a cleaner, greener, healthier future by including a gift to Environment California or Environment California Research & Policy Center in your will, trust or retirement accounts.

For more information call 1-800-841-7299 or send an email to: PlannedGiving@EnvironmentCalifornia.org



Jim Schwabel via Shutterstock

Page 1 story continued:

The fate of our oldest forests

Tens of thousands of people and more than 170 organizations called on the U.S. Forest Service to strengthen its proposal to conserve old growth trees and forests on federal land.

Standing together for the trees

We've urged Congress to oppose the Manchin-Barrasso bill, which calls for deliberately chopping down our mature forests as a way to "improve forest health"—an obviously terrible and short-sighted idea.

Once our mature forests are gone, they'll take decades to grow back. That's more than 80 years of an intricate ecosystem destroyed in the blink of an eye. That's decades we don't have to keep huge amounts of climate-warming carbon from being released into the atmosphere.

We need our forests to stay standing for generations to come, but the Manchin-Barrasso bill threatens to level towering giants and destroy many of our nation's mature

trees. Thankfully, supporters and members of Environment California and our national network took more than 32,000 actions opposing this bill.

All of our old-growth and mature forests deserve protection

Seventy-six percent of the forests managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management don't have strong protections from logging.

We can't afford to cut down our oldest forests. They shelter wildlife and they shelter us from the worst impacts of climate change by absorbing carbon from our atmosphere.

Thanks to your support, we're working to save our forests by raising the voices of forest defenders everywhere and urging the Biden administration to enact the strongest protections possible to keep them off the chopping block.

With your support, we'll keep advocating for the strongest protections possible for our old-growth and mature forests.



Staff

Featured staff



Kimball Nelson

Laura Deehan
State Director

Laura directs Environment California's work to tackle global warming, protect the ocean, and stand up for clean air, clean water and open spaces. Laura served on the Environment California board for two years before stepping into the state director role. Most recently, she directed the public health program for CALPIRG, another organization in The Public Interest Network, where she led campaigns to get lead out of school drinking water and toxic chemicals out of cosmetics. Prior to that, Laura ran Environment California citizen outreach offices across the state and, as the Environment California field director, she led campaigns to get California to go solar, ban single use plastic grocery bags, and go 100% renewable. Laura lives with her family in Richmond, California, where she enjoys hiking, yoga and baking.



Environment California and The Public Interest Network are celebrating 50 years of action for a change.

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Your 2024 Summer Report

Our mission:

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind Environment California. We focus exclusively on protecting California's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

Let's protect more of California's ocean

On Feb. 14, Environment California staff met with the Fish and Game Commission to talk about California's marine protected areas, and it was a make-or-break moment for our campaign.

Commissioners, state officials, environmental advocates and students convened to discuss 20 proposals to strengthen or weaken California's Marine Protected Area network. Petitioners and other stakeholders

had just one minute to make their case for acceptance or rejection.

After everyone had their say, a majority of the commission agreed that thorough vetting of proposals to protect the ocean is important and referred all of the proposals to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for an in-depth review. The commissioners will revisit the proposals at their July meeting.

Our mission this summer is to build enough public support and make a strong enough case to convince Gov. Gavin Newsom, as well as his administration and the Fish and Game Commission, that California's sea otters and other wildlife deserve more safe places in our ocean. The need for action is pressing, and delay is not an option.

Rachel Lucine (center), Environment California's ocean conservation campaign associate, and coalition partners at a press event about the expansion of Marine Protected Areas, held at Natural Bridges State Beach.



Chris Blossom Media