



1. **Burnt Corral Project (Kaibab National Forest, AZ):** The Forest Service proposes mechanical thinning on 17,765 acres of forest on the north rim of the Grand Canyon. The project would log old and large, fire-resistant trees across 15,000 acres. **Update: the FS has removed the 1000-acre old forest clearcutting portions of the proposal.** *Local contact: Brian Nowicki, Center for Biological Diversity (bnowicki@biologicaldiversity.org)*
2. **Bear Country Project (Klamath National Forest, CA):** Roughly 2,000 acres of commercial logging within Eddy Gulch Late Successional Reserve. The project would also permanently remove 923 acres of northern spotted owl (NSO) habitat in some of the only unburned forest stands in the region, home to one of the only reproductive pairs in the entire Klamath National Forest. **Update: The project has been approved by the Klamath National Forest and due to the efforts of numerous conservation partners is currently being reviewed by Deputy Chief Christopher French under the National Old-Growth Amendment. The outcome of that review and the potential for moving this project forward is currently unknown, but community involvement, public input and advocacy efforts are still needed. If the review fails to protect these forests, the threat of logging is imminent.** *Luke Ruediger, Klamath Forest Alliance (siskiyoucrest@gmail.com)*
3. **South Fork Project (Klamath National Forest, CA):** The project proposes logging 2,455 acres, including mature and old-growth trees. It's directly upstream from the Klamath National Forest's Bear Country Project, which also targets old forest with industrial logging. The cumulative harm to the ecosystem from these projects would be severe. The South Fork Project area is extremely remote, highly biodiverse and functions as an important wildlife connectivity corridor for old forest-dependent animals living between the Trinity Alps and Russian wilderness areas. *Luke Ruediger, Klamath Forest Alliance (siskiyoucrest@gmail.com)*
4. **Dead Laundry Project (Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest, ID):** The project proposes logging 3,838 acres of trees with commercial "regeneration harvest," meaning clearcuts and variations of clearcuts, many greater than 40 acres, or larger than 40 football fields. Logging will include cutting trees more than 20 inches in diameter and cutting mature trees in designated old-growth stands. Much of the mature forest logging will occur in unfragmented roadless areas. The Forest Service plans to build or "reconstruct" more than 200 miles of roads in this remote area, including bulldozing logging roads through old growth stands. **Update: The Forest Service rescinded and then reissued its draft decision where it made some changes, but still proposes to effectively clearcut 2,057 acres, including 14 openings that exceed 40 acres in size (44-432 acres). The Forest Service dropped commercial logging within old growth stands, but still proposes an unspecified amount of non-commercial removal within three old growth units.** *Local contact: Adam Rissien (arissien@wildearthguardians.org)*
5. **South Red Bird Wildlife Enhancement Project (Daniel Boone National Forest, KY):** This is the largest timber sale proposed in the national forest in nearly 20 years. It would clearcut more than 3,800 acres of public lands, removing 80% to 90% of the trees across 2,800 acres and nearly one-quarter of all forests more than 100 years old. **Update: This project is currently under litigation.** *Local contact: Whitney Hamblin, Kentucky Heartwood (whitney@kyheartwood.org)*

To learn more about our climate forests and take action, visit:

www.climate-forests.org/



6. **Jellico Vegetation Management Project (Daniel Boone National Forest, KY):** This project is proposed to last for 40 years and clearcut almost 10,000 acres of forest, home to mature and old growth and designated critical habitat for endangered species. These mountains have steep slopes with coal seams. The biggest threat to this area is the risk of landslides and extreme flooding events that have already caused damage to the local community in the last few years. *Local contact: Whitney Hamblin, Kentucky Heartwood (whitney@kyheartwood.org)*
7. **Black Ram Project (Kootenai National Forest, MT):** This 95,412 acre project area, located in the remote NW corner of the Yaak River Valley, threatens old-growth forests, endangered species, and ecosystem function. Timber harvest is proposed in 4,000 acres of mature and old-growth. USFS silviculturists estimated the large western larch within the area to be 600 years old. The recognized old-growth spruce in the area exceeds 200 years old. **Update: In August of 2023, the Black Ram project was granted a reprieve by U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy for violating at least six laws. The USFS appealed the decision in March 2024.** *Local contact: Adam Rissien, WildEarth Guardians (arissien@wildearthguardians.org)*
8. **South Plateau Project (Custer Gallatin National Forest, MT):** The project will collectively clearcut more than 5,500 acres of mature lodgepole pine, most of the trees 90 years and older, across lands near the western boundary of Yellowstone National Park. The 15-year project proposes hundreds of clearcuts, each potentially as large as 30 football fields, and up to 57 miles of new logging roads. Up to 6,600 acres of mature lodgepole could also be thinned, which could include bulldozing roads through old-growth lodgepole pine stands. **Update: Conservation groups filed two separate lawsuits to stop the project that were consolidated in March 2024, in part for the agency's failure to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, and for violating the Endangered Species Act as it applies to grizzly bears and Canada lynx, among other claims.** *Local contact: Adam Rissien, WildEarth Guardians (arissien@wildearthguardians.org)*
9. **Bitterroot Front Project (Bitterroot Forest, MT):** The project will include commercial logging of 54,883 acres of potential commercial timber logging, including 13,245 acres identified as roadless. Most of the remaining acres include mature and old-growth forest, identified as roadless in the 1987 forest plan, have not been commercially logged for more than 80 years. To facilitate this and other logging projects, the Forest Service has proposed weakening the standards defining old growth. **Update: The Forest Service announced it received an Emergency Action Determination (EAD) under section 40807 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (PL 117-58), which means it can issue a final decision, skipping the normal objection period. In its August 2023 analysis, the Forest Service updated its proposed action where it now plans 27,477 acres of commercial harvest, including an unspecified amount in mature and old growth stands, and an unspecified amount within Inventoried Roadless Areas.** *Local contact: Adam Rissien, WildEarth Guardians (arissien@wildearthguardians.org)*
10. **Buck Project (Nantahala National Forest, NC):** At around 800 acres of regeneration harvest, this is one of the largest timber sales in recent memory in North Carolina. The project aims to create young forest for wildlife habitat through commercial logging, including 150 acres of forest over 100 years old. **Update: Local advocates recently filed suit over this and other projects for failure to adequately consider climate impacts. The case is *Chattooga Conservancy v. U.S. Dep't of Ag.*, No. 1:24-CV-00518 (D.D.C).** *Local contact: Patrick Hunter, Southern Environmental Law Center (phunter@selcnc.org)*

To learn more about our climate forests and take action, visit:

www.climate-forests.org/



On the Chopping Block

Logging Projects Threatening America's Mature and Old-Growth Forests

11. **Southside Project (Nantahala National Forest, NC):** The project's 317 acres includes rare old-growth forest beloved by locals and the headwaters of the Chattooga River, a national Wild and Scenic River. It's home to one of the most important remaining populations of the imperiled green salamander. Trees will be logged on erosive slopes near streams within three areas eligible for wilderness designation and within a state-designated natural heritage area. **Update: Portions of this project are being litigated in *Chattooga Conservancy v. U.S. Forest Service*, No. 1:24-CV-00031 (W.D.N.C.).** *Local contact: Patrick Hunter, Southern Environmental Law Center (phunter@selcnc.org)*
12. **Tarleton, Peabody West, Lost River, and Sandwich Projects (White Mountain National Forest, NH):** Together, these four projects target approximately 5,500-acres for logging, the vast majority of which is in the mature or old-age classes according to the WMNF 2005 Forest Plan. The WMNF has refused to release stand age data or to screen for old-growth as defined by Region 9 of the Forest Service. **Update: The WMNF maintains that its projects do not need elevated review by the Forest Service Deputy Chief, even if some stands meet the Region 9 definition of old-growth. The Tarleton and Peabody West projects were litigated in May 2024 by Standing Trees. The Sandwich and Lost River Projects await final decisions.** *Local contact: Zack Porter, Standing Trees (zporter@standingtrees.org)*
13. **Spruce Vegetation Project (Black Hills National Forest, SD):** The project will remove virtually all spruce trees — targeting the largest and oldest spruce — across 25,000 acres, or nearly 40 square miles. Such extensive logging, including clearcuts more than 40 football fields or larger in size, will likely require miles of new roads. With no size or age limit, the project will liquidate roughly half of the spruce habitat on the Black Hills National Forest, which many wildlife and plant species rely on. **Update: The Spruce Project came out with the draft Decision Notice that shrunk the scope of the work considerably. The scoping letter for the project said that would occur on up to 25,000 acres. The draft Decision Notice now identifies 3,556 acres for proposed treatment. This is a significant reduction and is viewed as a win by locals who want to protect mature forests.** *Local contact: Dave Mertz, former forester, Black Hills National Forest (mertzdave1@gmail.com)*
14. **Flat Country Project (Willamette National Forest, OR):** The Flat Country Project includes 1,000 acres of clearcut-style logging in Douglas-fir and hemlock stands 98-170 years old. Although the project review states that legacy trees will be protected in some of the proposed units, multiple areas contain legacy trees with complex old growth that are not listed to be protected in the Record of Decision. **Update: The FS withdrew the Flat Country project, citing that the project was incongruent with recent old-growth and climate directives.** *Local contact: Madeline Cowen, Cascadia Wildlands (madeline@cascwild.org)*
15. **Grasshopper Project (Mt. Hood National Forest, OR).** The Grasshopper project targets over 3,000 acres of mature and old-growth forest stands. Over 80% of stands are over 80 years old, with some up to 220 years old. Logging would eliminate over 1,200 acres of currently suitable habitat for northern spotted owls, remove another 600 acres of dispersal habitat, and degrade the quality of an additional 1,700 habitat acres for this imperiled species, which relies on mature and old-growth forests for nesting, roosting, and foraging. *Local contact: John Persell, Oregon Wild (jp@oregonwild.org)*
16. **Ragged Ruby Project (Malheur National Forest, OR):** The Ragged Ruby project targets 6,097 acres of upland forest for logging, including commercial logging of mixed-conifer forest stands that would remove trees greater than 21 inches in diameter. This requires amending the forest plan to allow logging in old-growth

To learn more about our climate forests and take action, visit:

www.climate-forests.org/



stands and removing large trees, which will sever connectivity between old-growth stands. The project also includes bulldozing 15 miles of logging roads. *Local contact: Chandra LeGue, Oregon Wild (cl@oregonwild.org)* **Update: Logging in this project has begun.**

17. **Poor Windy Project (Medford District, Bureau of Land Management, OR):** This project includes 15,000 acres of BLM administered land. Actions would "potentially remove 4,573 acres of nesting and foraging habitat" for the northern spotted owl, which by definition is mature and old-growth forest. **Update: In October of 2022, a federal district court judge ruled that the BLM and the US Fish and Wildlife Service had illegally authorized harm to spotted owls and the old-growth habitat upon which they rely in the Poor Windy Timber Sale. This litigation success saved over 200 acres of mature and old-growth forests. Unfortunately, recently the BLM has completed a new draft Biological Assessment that forms the basis for a yet another Biological Opinion by the USFWS. These documents put the forests in the Poor Windy Timber Sale back on the chopping block. The BLM has already auctioned off and logged timber sales in the project area. In spring 2024, tree sitters occupied some of the biggest and oldest trees found within the road prisms of the project. The BLM agreed to drop some of these trees from the project, but countless other mature trees are still slated to be logged.** *Local contact: George Sexton, KS Wild (gs@kswild.org)*
18. **Integrated Vegetation Management Project (IVM) (Medford District, Bureau of Land Management, OR):** BLM's effort to log 10,000 acres - including old-growth forests - in southwest Oregon over 10 years is being done under the guise of creating wildfire "resilience" and without adequate environmental analysis. **Update: BLM auctioned off the land within the Late Mungers portion of this sale on May 23, 2024, despite the project being under litigation. The very next day, a magistrate judge issued a preliminary ruling that found BLM violated its own management plan by delaying the development of spotted owl habitat (mature and old-growth forests) and by failing to conduct a thorough environmental impact statement for the IVM project.** *Local contact: John Persell, Oregon Wild (jp@oregonwild.org)*
19. **42 Divide (Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management, OR):** As part of the 42 Divide Project, the Roseburg BLM proposes logging 5,280 acres of conifer stands, including clearcutting and commercial thinning on 1,728 acres, and building logging roads. Trees up to 200 years old are targeted for logging. The project includes some of the most intensive tree removal that the BLM allows. **Update: This project is currently paused.** *Local contact: Madeline Cowen, Cascadia Wildlands (madeline@cascwild.org)*
20. **Evans Creek (Medford District, Bureau of Land Management, OR):** The BLM is proposing commercial logging on 1,131 acres, including 82 acres of clearcuts. The Evans Creek watershed is a significant salmon-spawning area; some trees in the project area are 150-200 years old. Trees up to 40 inches in diameter are proposed for logging. The BLM is declassifying 732 acres of northern spotted owl habitat so it can be logged. **Update: The Evans Creek timber on the Butte Falls Resource Area of the Medford BLM District has been logged and serves as a testament to the ongoing removal of old-growth ecosystems occurring throughout BLM managed public lands in southwest Oregon. The "regeneration harvest" logging involved conversion of ancient forests into timber plantations that are less resilient to wildfire and climate change.** *Local contact: George Sexton, KS Wild (gs@kswild.org)*
21. **Telephone Gap Project (Green Mountain National Forest, VT):** Approximately 12,000 stand acres are proposed for harvest in the Telephone Gap Project. In the Modified Proposed Action, 91% of acres that will be logged are in either the mature or old age class of the GMNF Forest Plan, and 8.5% are old-growth as

To learn more about our climate forests and take action, visit:

www.climate-forests.org/



defined by Region 9 of the Forest Service. **Update: Despite the presence of old-growth as defined by Region 9, the GMNF maintains that the Telephone Gap Project does not require elevated review by the Forest Service Deputy Chief. The Draft Record of Decision is due in the summer of 2024. Local contact: Zack Porter, Standing Trees (zporter@standingtrees.org)**

22. **Early Successional Project (Green Mountain National Forest, VT):** This active project will cut up to 14,270 acres over 15 years. Site maps show that more than 130 stands older than 100 years are targeted, some with trees 160 years and older. The project will also bulldoze 25 miles of logging roads, 17 miles of which could be permanent. *Local contact: Zack Porter, Standing Trees (zporter@standingtrees.org)*
23. **Fourmile Project (Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, WI):** This project would log 12,000 acres, including clearcutting 1,000 acres, which would threaten vulnerable species like wood turtle and American pine marten. It is one of the largest logging efforts ever proposed for the CNNF. Wisconsin scientists warn that it will disturb maturing forest habitats, degrade recreation, and disrupt struggling species with roads and logging over large areas of forest. **Update: Logging has commenced on Fourmile, including mature and old growth trees. The FS has declined to pause the project. Local contact: Andy Olsen, Environmental Law and Policy Center (Aolsen@elpc.org)**
24. **Upper Cheat River Project (Monongahela National Forest WV):** The project will clearcut 3,463 acres of mature hardwood forest and cost taxpayers \$1.4 million. Two-thirds of the targeted stands are more than 100 years old, with some trees older than 200 years. Widespread logging at the start of the 20th century stripped hillsides of much of the original old-growth forest but small pockets remain. **Update: The Forest Service has identified 53 stands more than 150 years old within the project boundary. Some of those stands are proposed to be clearcut. This past winter volunteers found the 3rd largest Eastern Hemlock and the 4th largest Sugar Maple on record in West Virginia in the project area. These ancient trees are an indicator of just how old parts of this forest are. While the champion maple and oak are outside proposed clearcuts, the hemlock is in the middle of a proposed clearcut of a 60% slope with many trees over 150 years old. This winter, volunteers surveyed 3 of the 120 stands proposed for clearcut and measured 293 trees that are greater than 8 feet circumference with the largest being 17 feet around. There has been a Record of Decision (ROD) on the project that was formally objected to in 2022 by local and environmental groups. Monongahela National Forest will not elevate this project for higher review. As of spring of 2024, a final signature by the forest supervisor is all that stands between these trees and the chainsaws. Local contact: John Coleman, Speak For The Trees Too (Speak4Trees2@gmail.com)**
25. **Black Hills Resilient Landscapes Project (Black Hills National Forest, WY & SD):** This project authorizes 180,000 acres of logging of mature forests. The Final Environmental Impact Statement says to "Remove most of the mature trees from stands with an adequate number of pine saplings or poles (overstory removal)" (pg 25). It began implementation in 2018. **Update: The Black Hills Resilient Landscapes project had originally authorized 180,000 acres of logging of mature forests. The Final Environmental Impact Statement read "Remove most of the mature trees from stands with an adequate number of pine saplings or poles (overstory removal)" (pg 25). Implementation began in 2018 but has recently slowed to a much reduced rate. Most of the current activities associated with the project are other than timber harvesting. The future status remains uncertain but the hope is that the timber harvest activities will fade away. Local contact: Dave Mertz, former forester, Black Hills National Forest (mertzdave1@gmail.com)**

To learn more about our climate forests and take action, visit:

www.climate-forests.org/