Holly Jewkes, Forest Supervisor
Deschutes National Forest
Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District
63095 Deschutes Market Road
Bend, OR 97701

Dear Forest Supervisor Jewkes,

As the immediate neighbor of the City of Bend, the Deschutes National Forest
is intricately linked to so many aspects of our residents’ lives, providing a wide
range of public values including clean air and water, wildlife habitat, carbon
storage, recreation opportunities and enhanced quality of life.

Large, older trees in the Deschutes National Forest provide a disproportionate
share of these public benefits, especially in their ability to capture and store
carbon. While big trees larger than 21” in diameter make up only 3% of our
forests, they hold 42% of the forest’s carbon. Ponderosa pine trees are capable
of storing vast amounts of carbon for up to 800 years. And, as a tree grows, it
stores exponentially more carbon.

For this reason, we respectfully urge the Deschutes National Forest to adopt a
formal policy against cutting ponderosa pine trees over 21 inches in diameter at
chest height and fir or other large trees over 24 inches in diameter. Leaving big
trees standing will benefit Bend, and the entire planet, for years to come as these
rare older trees continue to mature, increasing their capacity to capture and store
carbon emissions, cleaning our air and reducing global climate change.

The City of Bend is committed to mitigating the impacts of climate change and
has prioritized preserving Bend’s natural environment as part of the current City
Council goals. The Council workplan includes a strategy to preserve Bend’s
natural environment, including clean air and water, wildlife and trees, through
partnerships and policy. As part of this, the City will be updating the Bend
Development Code and other relevant standards to protect large trees within the
City. The City is also implementing the Bend Community Climate Action Plan
to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions within City limits, and large trees in the region play a
critical role in sequestering local carbon emissions.

Council acknowledges and appreciates the work of the Deschutes Forest Collaborative Project,
which has spent years making thoughtful recommendations to the Forest Service and working
collaboratively to mitigate wildfire risks for the City of Bend and other communities in Central
Oregon. We understand that this work requires trade-offs; given the urgency of taking action to
prevent catastrophic global climate change, we ask that the carbon sequestration potential of big
trees take precedence over other factors that would lead to them being removed.

The large diameter pine trees in the Deschutes National Forest that were recently cut down are
simply irreplaceable and their loss will be most deeply felt by future generations, who will not
enjoy they many benefits these trees could have provided for centuries to come. Please join us in
committing to protecting our biggest, oldest trees for their carbon storage potential, as well as the
many other intrinsic and immeasurable benefits they provide to our community.

In partnership,

Gena Goodman-Campbell, Mayor Pro Tem
and The Bend City Council