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Comments: A few questions for the USDA Forest Service to consider in the DEIS, amendment process of the currently standing old-growth protections (NOGA):

What would be the advantage of keeping our last old-growth forests intact?

Who benefits from the selling of our old-growth trees? Locals? Venture capitalists and corporate giants? Foreign nations?

What can we glean from recognizing the symbiotic relationship between humans and the forests? Is clean water, healthy habitat, and a thriving ecosystem too big a price to pay for funding an over-padded bureaucratic state?

What's the cost of shipping our resources to China in shipping containers for processing, only to turn around and ship the finished products back to consumers in the United States? The cost in dollars? The cost in petroleum? The cost in lives?

How do old-growth forests affect the water table? How does clean water affect communities? What repercussions might our future generations experience without the benefit of clean water, filtered through healthy forest floors?

What is the cost of disturbing the mycelial layer of the forest's rich soil? Where is carbon stored?

What does an intensely drastic temperature change between a standing, intact forest and the adjacent clear-cut baking in the hot, south-facing sun say about our understanding of man-made climate change? If our current stewardship practices are manipulating micro-climates to such a degree, how are we affecting the climate on the macro?

How might hot, crispy, man-made clear-cuts, strewn with mountains of slash piles affect our fire season, as compared to a dense, dripping wet forest?

If "man-made climate change" is the most important issue of our time, why would we consider selling our forests, an important star in carbon capture, to the highest bidder, no matter who the "proceeds" benefit?

Have we learned nothing from history? European continent devoid of trees? Dust bowl? What other man-made deserts have humans created through our misunderstandings and mismanagement?

How are we including indigenous voices, knowledge, and culture in our future plans for stewarding our forests?

Again, if we're looking at history, there are better ways to manage the forests. I invite you all to go back to the drawing board. There are hundreds of projects around the world, currently doing things differently.

The Forest Service of the United States has an opportunity to lead the world in what it means to be stewards of the last-standing old-growth forests, directing every eye to the future of our forests by allowing our now recovering forests of mature trees to be promoted to the next old-growth to be protected.

Below I submit a PDF of points drawn out by the Coast Range Association to be considered.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and questions for the future of our old-growth forests.

Heather Graham

ATTACHMENT CRA Comments-Old-growth-DEIS-2.pdf is a copy of the letter submitted by Coast Range Association.