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Comments: The climate emergency and sixth great extinction have not lessened the commitment of those driving forest management to "get out the cut" at the expense of the future. The US Forest Service uses euphemisms like "forest restoration," "habitat improvement," and "even-age management" to excuse outdated commercial logging practices like clearcutting that degrade forest health, jeopardize water quality, and endanger biodiversity. Maturing and centuries-old trees are still growing across the country, but on federal forest lands many of them are vulnerable to logging. Once these maturing trees are cut down the opportunity to develop old-growth forests will be irreversibly set back at a time when scientists

are making it clear that we have only a short period of time to stabilize the climate. Our older forests are still being logged at an alarming rate -- this directly undermines efforts to address climate change and protect 30% of lands and waters by 2030. Old-growth and mature trees form the backbone of their ecosystems, absorbing the greatest amount of carbon dioxide, maintaining genetic diversity and providing habitat for all sorts of life. It is critical that these trees be protected, as well as this land, to protect our world and stop the climate crisis.