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Comments: I'm submitting this comment in response to the Request For Information (RFI) seeking input toward a universal definition of old growth and mature forests.

The limited focus on "old growth trees" and the timeline of a year to arrive at a definition and do an inventory fail to address the overwhelming need for this Administration to take immediate, large-scale action to reduce carbon emissions.

The president and his advisers and appointees in the Administration are either unaware of or willfully ignoring well-established science and the ecological reality that old growth trees are best considered in the context of diverse, multi-aged trees and other species in the larger forest ecosystems of which they are a part—and also in the context of preserving millions of acres of existing carbon storage in America's national forests.

As we ask other countries to stop deforestation, logging for commercial profit continues to accelerate in our national forests. Because American taxpayers subsidize logging on public land, timber companies are incentivized to log on public rather than private land under the guise of euphemisms such as "thinning," "restoration," "fuel reduction," or "treatment" amid claims that removing trees from national forests is necessary to protect communities from wildfires. 1. Wildfires and other extreme weather events are increasingly climate-driven. 2. Communities can best achieve protection by hardening homes and creating defensible space around them. 3. Rather than continuing to subsidize the destruction and emission of carbon from logging in our national forests, we need to preserve our forests so they can continue to pull carbon from the atmosphere and store it in trees and the soil. 4. If you don't know what proforestation is, go to

<https://www.dogwoodalliance.org/2021/05/what-does-proforestation-look-like/>

Forests have been managing themselves quite well for thousands of years. That's why they're still here. Proforestation is a climate solution. Leave the forest alone. People are suffering from the effects of the destruction of carbon storage in our national forests in exchange for short term profit to timber industry executives. Our children and grandchildren are more worried about climate change than their elders—and some of their elders are quite worried. Independent scientists not paid by the Forest Service or the timber industry have found that logging in the United States emits an annual amount of carbon comparable to that of burning coal in the United States.

The president doesn't have the power to stop commercial logging on private land or designate wilderness to meet his 30 x 30 agenda. But he does have the power to stop commercial logging in our national forests with a simple executive order.

The effects and consequences of the climate crisis are being felt in every region of the United States and every part of the world. The dire nature of the crisis demands that President Biden issue an executive order to end commercial logging in America's national forests without delay.

By taking this decisive action, President Biden will be living up to his campaign promises around climate and will rightly be perceived in the United States and around the world as a leader who is doing everything in his power to slow climate change.

Even if the order I propose doesn't endure beyond the remainder of President Biden's time in office, it will endure in history as an action taken by the 46th president that resulted in significantly reduced carbon emissions. Does President Biden have the courage to take this action?

Does the government employee reading my comment have the courage to bring it directly to President Biden? Because that could make all the difference.

Our descendants are counting on that employee and this president.