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Comments: As an environmentally motivated voter and the daughter of a science teacher, I know that our old-growth trees are far more valuable to us standing and continuing to soak up enormous amounts of carbon than cut and creating a few pieces of wood and lots of released carbon to contribute to the climate crisis that is behind increasingly ferocious and destructive forest fires. The U.S. Geological Survey, for example, has found that logging releases twice as much carbon into the atmosphere as do wildfires.

And yet, for some perverse reason, Kootenai National Forest plans to go ahead with the logging at Black Ram, the vast majority of what is proposed being far beyond the wildland urban interface, and targeting the largest trees even as the agency and its supporters claim that cutting down these giants will make the forest more resilient and protect the giants.

Black Ram is a scientific marvel, undisturbed since the last period of global warming, 600-800 years ago. How did it survive? How will it survive this one? Only if Lincoln County takes this important opportunity to lead, rather than to be complicit in pouring vast and unnecessary amounts of carbon into the sky, through logging as well as soil damage in the rich humus of old and mature primary forests such as those at Black Ram, where mysterious and powerful relationships between mycorrhizae remain undiscovered.

Please, stop this unscientific plan to destroy this amazing forest that is protecting us from the worsening climate crisis and serving as a cradle of life for forest species.