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Comments: In a recent report, the Climate Forests Campaign details ten mature and old growth forests that are at risk of being logged. We must do everything we can to protect these trees for our climate, wildlife, and communities.

While the White House has made protecting mature and old-growth forests a priority, federal agencies have been clear that they prefer to prioritize logging over our climate. Rather than protecting our forests that store massive amounts of carbon and provide critical habitat for endangered wildlife, the Forest Service is denying the magnitude of logging already happening while making excuses to cut them down at an even faster rate.

The Forest Service claims that a majority of our mature and old-growth forests on federal lands are already in a protected status, but this is demonstrably false. The Climate Forests Campaign report highlights 10 threatened forests on federal lands at risk of being devastated by logging, despite their extraordinary benefits of carbon sequestration and reducing the long-term impacts of climate change. The new report, "Worth More Standing," details logging proposals affecting nearly a quarter of a million acres of federal forests overseen by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. These forests are on the verge of becoming old-growth, and projects like these would mean that they are reduced to stumps. We cannot allow this to happen on our watch.

In June 2022, the Forest Service approved the Black Ram Project in Montana's Kootenai National Forest paving the way for clearcutting nearly 1800 acres and logging over 400 acres of mature and old-growth trees.

Please stop this project and the other projects described in the report. I implore the Forest Service to reconsider these and future plans to decimate old-growth forests.

Thank you.

Sara McKinnon