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Comments: Washington, the Evergreen state, is world renown for our lovely extensive tracts of mature and old-growth forests which are globally unique in carbon capture and storage. Our older forests are home to a rich array of biological diversity, including fisher, marbled murrelet, and northern spotted owl, providing critical habitat for many rare and iconic species.

Establishing federal protections for mature and old-growth forests will ensure these forests continue to capture and store carbon, sustain plants and animals, and provide clean air and water for life! It would reflect decades of Forest Field Program work to promote ecological resilience in the Cascade, Kettle and Selkirk mountain ranges.

We need lasting protections for public forests for wildlife conservation and climate resilience.