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Comments: Dear Secretary Vilsack and Secretary Haaland,

Thank you for taking comment on President Biden's Executive Order on Strengthening the Nation's Forests, Communities, and Local Economies. As you know, protecting our mature and old-growth forests and trees on federal lands represents one of the simplest and most cost-effective climate policies the US can deploy. But time is running short: the climate and biodiversity crises are growing exponentially worse and there is an urgent need to provide lasting protections for these inordinately valuable forests.

America's mature and old-growth forests are a priceless resource. They are ecosystems that supports life on earth in ways we are only just beginning to understand.

I urge the US Department of Agriculture and US Department of Interior to work together to quickly initiate rule-making based on a definition of mature forests and trees as 80 years or older and to permanently end the avoidable loss of their critically important carbon, water and wildlife values to irresponsible logging and other threats.

Sincerely,

Richard Tamler

Freeland, WA