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Organization:

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Comments: To Whom it May Concern:

Old growth forests, as designated in Executive Order 14072, represent multiple simultaneous values for our country:

- 1) first is Heritage Value - because of their old age, they are our nation's natural heritage. To destroy them is to destroy our natural heritage;
- 2) Recreational Value: these forests provide multiple opportunities for recreation such as fishing, hiking, camping, and birding;
- 3) Carbon Capture Value: these old forests capture carbon at a much higher rate than younger forests and so have immense value at combating climate change;
- 4) Biodiversity Value: because of their age, these forests house a great diversity of species than younger forests, thus preserving and protecting natural diversity such as owls, delicate wildflowers, and untold other species;
- 5) Spiritual-Aesthetic Value: old forests provide a spiritual refuge of quiet and solitude for world-weary citizens to escape to and find a place to reset and rest.

For these reasons and more, we must protect and preserve what's left of our nation's old growth forests. Once long ago, these forests covered the landscape but in many places they are either completely gone or less than 2% of their original size.

Please implement the protections outlined in Executive Order 14072. Our nation will be richer for it.

Thank you,

Blaine Snow

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