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Title:

Comments: I am a scientist living in Colorado. Every week I drive through neighborhoods where over 1000 houses were destroyed by the Marshall fire, caused by climate-change-worsened drought and hurricane force winds. Addressing climate change is one of the main purposes of this executive order. Hence carbon sequestration impact should be one of the primary components of the definition of old growth and mature forests in order to foster protection and restoration of forests in locations that maximize the beneficial impact of forests in reducing the growth of atmospheric CO2. The research paper "Nature-based Climate Solutions" published by the National Academy of Sciences provides recommendations for forest management, stating that management of forests alone can provide 24 percent of the cost-effective climate mitigation needed through 2030. The framework should also take into account the potential for forest restoration. This includes formerly forested areas that can be restored to their natural state, young forests that can be allowed to mature for 80 years or more and mature forests that can be protected so that they sequester CO2 for hundreds of years. Restoring a larger area of mature and old growth forests over the coming decades is one of the most cost effective and proven ways of sequestering CO2. Finally, the framework should incorporate measures of the biodiversity value, the ecosystem value, the recreational value and the cultural heritage value of our mature and old-growth forests.