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Comments: Well-meaning but misguided efforts to define old growth and mature trees will only result in more arbitrary policies that substantially limit the ability of these federal agencies to treat overstocked, fire-prone forests and will ultimately result in less old-growth on the landscape in the future due to the increasing rate of intense wildfires in these landscapes. What anti-forest management groups don't seem to understand is that by harvesting a stand of trees, we are giving opportunity for abundant new life to bloom and thrive - both flora and fauna. Take our carbon footprint for example: don't they want us all to be driving all-electric vehicles in the near future to reduce carbon emissions? Old, mature trees reduce their rate of growth to almost nothing, which means they are not collecting hardly any carbon; therefore, that is more opportunity for carbon to be dispersed into the atmosphere, which is the opposite of what we want, right? By allowing new trees and other vegetation to grow after a harvest, the carbon that is soaked up by the new generation of trees is substantial, and ultimately much healthier for the environment.

There's 3 things that will happen to the vegetation that grows in the national forests: it will burn, decay, or be logged. By not logging it and opening the stands up, this creates a tinder box of fuel loads. When a tree is growing, it is absorbing carbon and giving off oxygen. When the tree becomes mature and quits developing, the amount of carbon it absorbs drops substantially, as well as the amount of oxygen it gives off. If we want to reduce the carbon footprint then logging mature trees is a great way to get there. By shutting down more logging, we are increasing our carbon footprint by limiting our national forests to sequester and store carbon.

No I do not wish that we log all forests in every corner of the country. I don't know of anyone that wants to see that. We all love recreating in areas that give us a glimpse into what the landscape may have looked like before much, if any, human impact. The federal agencies would just be much better off focusing their attention on promoting and exhibiting active forest management on federal lands to reduce the risks of severe wildfires and to improve our forests' resiliency to fire, insects and disease, and to adapt these landscapes to the impacts of climate change.