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Comments: It is vital that we maintain, protect and restore the full biodiversity of our forests. That means maintaining, protecting and restoring mature and old growth forests.

I live in Oregon where we haven't done a good job of preserving biodiversity. And we are paying the price for short timber rotations, and a monoculture of cloned Douglas fir trees. We lost and are continuing to lose the strength of a well-diversified forest and all the flora and fauna that depend upon it.

Especially with the assault of climate change, we need to protect every bit of diversity to see us through the crisis. Monoculture is a death sentence and we have been and are seeing its effects. One new insect invasion or disease could wipe out all our timberlands.

Mature and old growth forests and all they represent need to be protected and encouraged to help maintain plant and animal diversity, including protecting our critical watersheds.

Please, you must make protecting our old forests a priority -- they have much wisdom and resilience to offer. And we lose the old growth forest at our peril.