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Comments: I want to make sure that the concept of OVERSTOCKED forests as hazards to themselves are considered. I work in these forests. They are much too thickly stocked right now due to fires being excluded from the landscape. Old-growth is a term that I feel was arbitrarily reached in an emergency-feeling situation decades ago. 21" is not an old growth tree. It missed the scope and scale that climate change would have on overstocked forests. I am all for protecting the forests. My fish need them. But the trees are stressing themselves to death and need thinning. There is not enough moisture on the landscape to support them all. Weekend by drought they are more susceptible to bugs and disease. These dense Diseased and infested trees are very very vulnerable to catastrophic wildfires. Then everything is lost and reset. No old growth, no shade, no sediment stabilizing veg. Select removal of larger trees can be a complished to the benefit of the forest. Dont lose the forest for the trees. Keep the trees on the landscape as restoration logs. Our waterways are starved of wood, especially after efforts in the west generations ago to "clean out" the streams and rivers to make fish passage "better" What did fish do before we cleaned out the streams(sarcasm)? Conifers are also expanding into riparian zones, shading out hardwoods and riparian veg like willow, alder, and herbaceous species that provide dense shade to streams, keeping them cooler, providing vegetative inputs from leaves for macroinvertebrates to feed on, that in turn feed our fish. This story isnt just about trees or logging or owls. Look at historic photos of ponderosa forests. They were wide open with many fewer trees per acre than currently exist across their range now. They need the space between. Fires will keep ot open if we let it back on the landscape. Yes protect the biggest trees but within reason. Not every tree that is 21" is truly old growth. Allow select harvest, keep the trees on the landscape as restoration logs. We need big wood in our rivers and streams