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Comments: Please conduct a comprehensive inventory of mature and old-growth piñon pine and juniper forests on the Colorado Plateau during the first stage of implementing the president's executive order. The BLM should ensure that its inventory and criteria for mature and old-growth forests include piñon pine and juniper forests, which are the largest forest type by acreage managed by the agency.

These historic forests and associated undisturbed biological soil crusts store a disproportionate amount of carbon in dryland ecosystems and are more resistant to disruptions caused by climate change.

These forests are often the sole woodland provider of wildlife habitat, vegetative cover, watershed protection, and traditional food and medicine gathering in dryland and arid BLM-managed lands across the West.

Since old-growth forests are so critical to ensure the capture and storage of carbon, please do everything in your power to protect these vital resources.

Thank you for your consideration.