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Comments: [External Email]Define and Protect Mature and Old-Growth Forests

[External Email]

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Dear Roy Barbour,

I support the efforts to define mature and old-growth trees and forests (MOG) and to map their locations. This action is necessary to implement President Biden's Executive Order to protect our life-giving forests, which serve as the most effective natural climate solution. We urge you to work with scientists who have already developed nation-wide inventories so that the timing and costs saved can go towards safeguarding rather than removing forests on public lands.

For the definition of mature, I suggest using trees 80 years old as a starting reference. This is when old-growth characteristics begin to develop, like thick fire-resistant bark. Because logging has and still is creating a devastating deficiency of older forests, younger forests must be allowed to grow to attain more carbon storage and sequestration. The inventory should recognize logging as a primary threat to our older forests.

Importantly, the inventory should recognize the role of mature and old-growth trees that have succumbed to ecological disturbances, such as fire, insects or disease. Post-disturbance logging is a principal threat to the entire seral development of MOG. When trees die, they become the building blocks - biological legacies - for forests to replenish and soils to further develop.

Our forests are worth more standing. The Temperate Rainforests of the Pacific Northwest, primarily consisting of national forests, are our nation's heritage. While all regions with MOG are critical to effective climate-forest policy, some regions stand out as globally significant, like the Klamath-Siskiyou. Despite the recent Executive Order, the Forest Service and BLM continue to target older forests for removal, including the Bear Country and River Complex timber sales on the Klamath National Forest.

For the love of God and the children of future generations leave the fossil fuels in the ground, we do not need for to continue to accelerate the defrosting of the permafrost methane swamps inform the public to end carbon intensive practices, methane is 40xs worse than tailpipe emission, more companies need to reduce carbon emissions and take up carbon capture, reduce and then eliminate new plastic use (90% of plastic has not been recycled, clean up the Pacific garbage patch and recycle it.) forget EVs until a carbon neutral cradle to grave recycle process is complete for all EV materials, people need to reduce, recycle & reuse, bike, walk, plant trees, conserve, get OPEC, G20, U.S., & China to quintuple down on green hydrogen, COVID came from Wuhan, environmental protection laws exist for such things via strict liability like offshore oil drilling, nuclear power, CHINA OWES. RAIL,RAIL, RAIL. Trains can do so much more with less, to distribution hubs and vehicles can do final destination, build out major corridors for Rail, Water & Power all at once,as for combustion, Green Hydrogen is the way forward, when it comes to combustion.The bankers have manipulated so much over the years, these days many people are not savvy enough to know that they have SO more access to money than brains...too many things are uncorked before they are ready from Clinton and the deregulation of banks that led to irresponsible leveraging, to consumer spending on trends and disposable garbage from cell phones, globalization, dot.com, to EVs,these trends have been more activity than accomplishment (Wooden) and people are leveraging their future to jump on bandwagons and the fees you roost form them is just more insult to

injury...pimping the poor, like check cashing places, from post 9/11, 0% financing for SUVs when we should have been getting off fossil fuels to the 2008 bubble and bail out and so much more for the last decade and more remarkably of late. I hope the bankers are ready for their comeuppance, too big to fail, that was stupid, more money than brains...and are not chiseling people for more fees, work on educating the public so that consumers make prudent long term decision instead of trillions in student debt and thousand dollar cell phones and gimmicks and trends that do not help them in the long term...we have a crisis of immaturity and impulsivity and the free dealing of cheap money is fueling stupid spending. Essentially the Death penalty and abortion are effectively the same thing...the taking of a life...Be the leader who brings this to the public to get their head around...so many are perplexed in their reasoning and divided on both issues while contradicting themselves. In fact the reasoning in both should be the preservation of life, leave the animals alone, we are supposed to protect those who cannot protect themselves, stop hunting tourism. Save the foxes and the water and air, people cannot seem to help themselves with overspending, pop culture, social media, many of the influencers are terrible, even Harris Ranch sold its cattle, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-08-25/infrared-cameras-detect-methane-leaks-across-romania>

Protecting mature and old-growth trees, live and dead, is the most effective natural climate solution we have. Please err on the side of caution in the definition of older forests and recognize logging as a main threat. To survive the climate and biodiversity emergency we must act quickly. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Joseph Alvarado
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