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Comments: Dear Secretary Vilsack and Secretary Haaland,

Protecting the remaining mature and old-growth forests and trees is one of the simplest and most cost-effective climate policies the U.S. can deploy at scale.

By protecting our oldest, biggest trees that are most resistant to wildfire, we are also ensuring community safety and protection. It is critical that you fulfill the President's directive to provide lasting protections for these trees.

I would urge that there be sustainable forestry practices, sustainable in the life of the forest - EO 14072 needs to protect old growth forests with a broad definition of mature and old-growth . These forests collectively contain the bulk of the carbon already stored in federal forests and they continue to sequester carbon at high rates. If continued logging of these trees is allowed, the vital role they play in the fight against climate change will be eliminated.

In summary, we urge the USDA and DOI to work together to create durable policies based on a definition of mature forests and trees of at least 80 years, to permanently end the avoidable loss of their critically important carbon, water and wildlife values to logging.

Sincerely