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Comments: Dear secretary Vilsack and Secretary Haaland,

As agencies charged with protecting our public lands and forests you now have the added responsibility to proactively serve the entire planet by helping to mitigate climate change NOW by protecting our existing old growth forests - the last vestiges of our ancient forests, of which we were once so proud. Recent science has demonstrated old growth forests are more valuable at storing CO<sub>2</sub> than younger, "faster" growing (but not by measurement of mass storage capacity). Unfortunately, many special interests desiring to subvert the opportunity created by Biden's proclamation claim that variations on standard, historical logging practices are best at both mitigating fire risk and storing carbon.

I urge you to look honestly at the science, resist special interest pressure and pursue the right and true course of action by mandating that trees (e. g. conifers) larger than 20 inch dbh must remain standing in any logging operation.

thank you