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Organization:

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Comments: Dear Secretaries,

Please consider these comments on mature and old growth forests. The only place old forests remain in the west is on federal land. Please protect all that remain, any forest over 80 years old. The northwest forest plan determined that 80 years is mature enough to support endangered species, such as the spotted owl. In the Douglas fir forests, 80 years should be used to define mature and old forests.

Old forests are important to protect because they store a lot of carbon to help reduce impacts of climate change. They are also less susceptible to stand-replacing fires. By protecting old forests, we can help protect communities from fires and climate change.

Near where I live, the Roseburg BLM wants to cut down and sell mature forests in the 42-Divide timber sale. They have even proposed to clearcut within just a few feet of family homes. Protecting old forests will help protect these rural residents also.

Thank you for considering these comments and fully protecting all of our remaining old forests.