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Comments: The springs, rivers and headwaters that supply the water to our communities comes from the forests. Without the canopy to provide shade and retain the moisture, these water sources would dry up. It makes no sense to compromise these healthy ecosystems that are more precious by the day.

Our entire country has been critically impacted by loss of fresh water. The greatest danger is that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management fail to connect deforestation to the destruction of water sources. We must also consider the disappearing wildlife habitat that is so crucial for the numerous endangered species. We cannot afford to ruin the last of our mature forests.

Please install special protections over any forest that contains or contributes to any springs, rivers, headwaters, lakes, ponds, aquifers, wetlands or watersheds. Any forest with a canopy that supports wildlife, water and living soil beneath must be considered a mature forest.