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Comments: To whom it may concern,
Having moved to this beautiful state of Vermont from the wildfire state of CA I know there is a reason for responsible forest management. Given climate change, lightning strikes, utility wires, human encroachment into wild land areas, a wildfire could pose devastating consequences for our forests, wildlife, people, climate, water ways, etc.
Having said that, both states, CA and WA have learned a lot over the past five years about how to responsibly maintain healthy forests and mitigate wildfire risk of large swaths of land.
The old growth forests should be protected and revered. The native Americans had it figured out over thousands of years of their uninterrupted existence before Europeans disrupted that.
Ladder fuels and young trees struggling for space and light are what needs to be managed. That has to be done in a very delicate but important way to responsibly curate our forests for posterity. The health of our forests has a direct link to the health of our physical bodies. We have already learned painful lessons for irresponsible and greedy maneuvers of our land and environment. You can't replace 160 year old trees! Think about that, it would take three generations or more. Don't harm our old growth forests!
Instead, learn how to be proactive in ways that will benefit our resources and protect our climate. Greedy short-term monetary gain for lumber in place of long term planning and responsible action will be more devastating than a wildfire.