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Comments: Please work to protect our old growth forests when modifying regulations.

As your agency has identified, older forests and trees are crucial for addressing the climate crisis. These trees and stands store the vast majority of the above ground carbon in a forest. In addition, older forests and trees are far more adaptable to the impacts of climate change, especially compared to industrial tree plantations. Logging older forests and trees grossly undercuts these benefits.

Our older forests are also critical for addressing the biodiversity crisis.

My plea is that you include any future administrative rules an end to ecologically harmful logging of mature and old growth forests and trees on federal land. Please act quickly to protect mature forests and trees for both their current important values and so they can grow to become old growth and continue their work to help mitigate the climate crisis, contribute to healthy watersheds and provide ecosystem resilience. These forests are worth more standing.