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Comments: To whom it may concern,

I wholeheartedly support the withdrawal of public lands as specified for this project. Protection of biodiversity, habitat and ecosystems - as well as natural carbon sequestration via mature forests - is critical to the drawdown of greenhouse gases. We have a moral, ethical and fiscal responsibility to reduce atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> from the current 420ppm down to a sustainable 350ppm. Projects such as these are imperative if we are to urgently address the climate crisis. Just considering the fiscal implications leads to the conclusion that continuing with the status quo re: resource extraction will bankrupt economic systems. This is evidenced by the uptick in hurricane severity w/ warmer oceans, massive floods due to warmer air holding more cloud water, as well as epic droughts and wildfires. Economies cannot sustain the expense of recurring, increasing numbers of such events.

Please continue to propose such conservation and restoration projects.

Sincerely

Nicholas J Ratto, Pharm.D.