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Comments: Old growth forests must be protected. They are irreplaceable. And valuable. Old-growth forests store large amounts of carbon, clean the air we breathe, maintain and increase biodiversity, filter water, and reduce wildfire risks.

The amendments proposed by the Forest Service should create standards for the protection of all old-growth forests on National Forest Lands. It's important that the new rule is strong enough to protect the rich biodiversity of our region and to keep these massive carbon stores firmly rooted in the soil to mitigate climate change and flexible enough to allow for the restoration of old-growth stand structure and wildfire resilience.