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Comments: Just a mile from my residence, a 20 acre clearcut destroyed the headwaters of one of the last salmon bearing streams in Olympia. In Thurston County's Capitol forest, the Department of Natural Resources continues to auction off mature stands of trees despite the objections of local officials and residents.

We recognize that our forests are more valuable standing than cut. How can we fault Brazil for cutting down its rainforests as we continue to do the same here?

Old growth forests are increasingly threatened by logging as well as the effects of human caused climate change- wildfires, drought, insects, and disease.

We need to protect not only our existing stocks of old growth forests, but also our nation's mature forests. These slightly younger forests are still developing the characteristics that will create the complex ecosystem found in an old growth forest.

The Biden proposal as written would not ban logging in old growth forests; it would merely limit cutting of old growth trees within those forests. It would also allow thinning under the guise of wildfire mitigation, counter to research that suggests that old growth forests are more resilient to fire if left alone.

We believe these loopholes should be closed-that enough old growth has been lost to logging, and that the new policies must protect from commercial logging all old growth trees and forests, as well as the mature component of our National Forest system.