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Comments: 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.