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Comments: In your consideration for caring for the old growth forests please consider allowing logging where appropriate. Vast swaths of old growth getting too old and dying for whatever reason (bugs, blown down, rotting, fire, etc) create vast amounts of waste as well as tinder for fire. Yes, a tree falling down once so old and then rotting does put nutrients back in the ground but when logged this occurs too (branches, tree tops, stumps, bark, etc). Also, when a tree rots not only does it release CO₂ but also CH₄, which is a worse greenhouse gas than CO₂, so either way, if a tree dies it's putting greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere. If the trees are logged and turned into lumber then it acts as a carbon sink and traps that carbon from being released. Making use and making money off of trees that are approaching the end of their life would be a smart move.

Also, logging deep into the old growth forests requires the creation or maintaining of roads for access which could also be useful for other reasons (search and rescue, fighting forest fires, etc). Ripping out old logging roads to appease environmentalists achieves nothing that helps anything that matters. Also, logging practices nowadays are better than they used to be HOWEVER many of the pieces of equipment that can log and handle large old growth are starting to be sold off (and no more are being made and haven't been since the 1980's or 1990's). This is important to keep in mind because at some point it will be realized that there needs to be some logging of some old growth but that point all the people that had the equipment that can do this will have sold the equipment. Dahlgrens logging in WA state sold their two massive Berger Mark 6 yarders that were perfectly equipped to handle logging large old growth, it's what they were designed to do. They are now being used in mining operations in MT and AZ.

If it is known by loggers earlier rather than later that there will need to be some logging of old growth they may be more likely to keep the yarders, D8 or D9 Caterpillar bulldozers, etc in hopes of getting contracts to do the logging. If all the loggers sell off this rare equipment then it will make it difficult to do any logging when it is realized that such logging needs to be done.

Please come to the conclusion that it is necessary to include timber harvesting as part of the strategy in taking care of old growth forests. This can include a mix of clearcutting if/when necessary as well as thinning or selective logging.

-Ken Ackerman