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Comments: Since 1984, I have lived in Oregon and spent a lot of time in the few remaining old growth forests here, most of which are on US Forest Service land. In 1983, I did the research for my Masters Degree in Ecology in an Old Growth Forest, which gives me an understanding of the ecological importance of these forests. I have traveled around the US for several months giving presentations on Old Growth Forests. I found that most of the people in my audiences wanted Old Growth Forests protected and were surprised to learn that National Forests allow logging of Old Growth Forests. How many of those people, the general public who actually owns these lands, will even know about this opportunity to comment on saving the Old Growth Forests? So I speak for them and for all the creatures who make their homes in Old Growth Forests when I say Stop Logging the Old Growth Forests! They are already over 95% gone. Small remaining stands are more vulnerable to windthrow and strong winds are becoming more common from climate change. Old Growth Forests provide a huge carbon sink; all this carbon will be released into the atmosphere if they are logged. The carbon capture potential of Old Growth Forests means they are worth more standing than logged. Old Growth Forests are the forests that are least susceptible to wildfire and could help stop a fire from spreading. Old Growth Forests create a watershed like a giant sponge that decreases floods and droughts, prevents erosion, and keeps stream water cold and clean for the salmon. The deep shade and moisture in an Old Growth Forest reduces the air temperature which is increasingly important as our planet warms. Old Growth Forests have high biodiversity and many species will go extinct or lose local populations if they are logged. We are in the midst of the fastest extinction crisis ever, so we need to protect biodiversity where ever we can. You should also be saving much of the remaining Mature Forests so that they can grow into Old Growth Forests to replace those lost to windthrow or fire, and especially saving Mature Forests which are adjacent to Old Growth Forests so as to reduce the edge effect and create large enough habitats for the larger wildlife species.