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Comments: Hello, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forests.

The most recent science indicates that the healthiest forests support diverse ecosystems. The best way to create diversity, is to protect and allow mature forests to thrive, and to stop cutting old growth trees on public lands.

We have just a small fraction of the old growth forests that once dominated the landscape of North America. If we continue with current practices ... the threat of logging will continue to lend itself to monoculture, loss of species, degradation of soil, water, and air. There will be no going back once the old growth is gone.

We must use this opportunity to create strong, long lasting protections for these old and useful trees. They are useful in far more significant ways than board feet. Let's protect them; for future generations to enjoy, to mitigate climate change, to provide space for tourism, outdoor activities, sacred cultural practices and biodiversity.

Thank you, Marsha Barr