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Comments: I am lucky to have a 500,000-acre national forest in my back yard. And since I'm in the lush Pacific Northwest on the rainy side, the old, mature and old-growth forests here sequester some of the greatest amounts of carbon of forested ecosystems in the US and world. They also protect water quality and temperature for our struggling salmonids. And they are very popular for recreation in a region whose population is growing quickly.

I urge the USFS to protect not just old-growth as per President Biden's comments, but also mature legacy forests for the immediate benefit of their carbon sequestration as we need to address the climate emergency with all tools NOW. Keeping these old trees is so much more effective than planting new ones and waiting for their sequestration potential to ramp up, though we should be using all the tools in the tool box.

Most of the old-growth is gone (perhaps 5% remains) and with it a whole suite of OG-dependent species. We need to save what's left and the mature forests that will become OG for immediate climate and biodiversity benefits. There are many younger stands that can be harvested to meet demands for wood fiber. Don't be fooled by erroneous industry claims that harvesting is climate friendly and wood products store plenty of carbon vs. leaving the carbon in the forest. The industry is a large carbon emitter and the least we can do is be sure public mature and old growth forest are preserved for the most immediate "greatest good." Thank you for your consideration. Janis Burger