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Comments: Mature forests are an essential part of the ecosystem. Besides their economic importance, forest provide crucial habitat, watersheds, climate benefits, and recreational opportunities. However, our past mismanagement of these vital resources have decimated the original forests which once covered vast swaths of the continent. Now, only a tiny fraction remain intact.

Old growth is irreplaceable in our lifetimes. We must protect what little is left, while enabling mature forests to continue to age so that they can become old-growth forest in time. Only by doing so can we hope to avert the worst of climate chaos and biodiversity loss.

For the first time in decades, we have the opportunity to protect these forests for future generations. President Biden's Executive Order holds the potential to achieve these results, but only if there are meaningful protects of these mature and old growth forest from logging and questionable forest management strategies that prioritize the profits of timber companies over the well-being of the land. Simply stated, these forests are irreplaceable. We can procure timber from tree farms and degraded forest lands. We have no need to fell a single old growth tree. We cannot, however, re-create whole watersheds and habitats.

Please act to put the strongest possible protections for old growth and mature forests in this plan.

Sincerely,

Carol Moore