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Comments: I am thrilled to be commenting on a proposed rule change within the USDA which will actively pursue protections for the nation's mature and old growth forests, and grasslands. Protections from development, whether housing, manufacturing, agricultural, industrial extraction, roadbuilding, mining, rock quarrying, and all other intrusive actions, are necessary for the health and wellbeing of our nation. Climate chaos is bringing ice storms that break and topple trees; hurricanes and strong wind storms that uproot trees; heavy rains that tend to wash out and cause slides; drought conditions which stress forests; heat domes which add stress upon stress. Forests that have not been distressed through logging, tree removal, or any other soil disturbing activity, will ensure a higher level of successful adjustment to these extreme and severe weather events. These older mature and old growth forests sequester moisture and equally importantly, carbon. They are carbon sinks. They are weather moderators. The temperature inside an old growth forest will be 20 degrees lower than the area outside its canopy. Cool, moist conditions are present in our Pacific NW forests and even logged areas next to an old growth tract will affect the cooling function of the old forest. If any management tools are implemented in promoting of old growth and mature forests, none of it should allowed to be commodified - that is, no selling of trees within the purview of this rule. I congratulate the Biden Administration for pursuing this and pray that this rule will become a fact before the 2024 election. Thank you for the opportunity for my public comment.