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Comments: It is time to stop monetizing old growth forests and protect the approximately 370,000 acres of mature and old-growth forests on federal lands that the timber industry will claim for logging if allowed to do so. These federal lands belong to all of us and our future generations - we must not sell old growth trees on public land - period.

We must preserve mature forests and trees for their value as future old growth forests. We must protect the biodiversity that lives in these environments because it is impossible to remove trees and destroy the undergrowth in the logging process and not harm the biodiversity and health of these ecosystems.

There should be NO EXCEPTIONS to actual protection of old-growth because thinning does not improve resiliency - it actually dries and heats up the area, making forest more vulnerable to fire and in this period of global warming we must embrace their value - not destroy it! The timber industry has promoted the cause that old growth needs "proactive stewardship" as a way to gain access to our national treasure for their financial gain.

Please protect these old-growth systems that are unparalleled at storing and filtering water, providing healthy, quality recreation, and sequestering far more carbon than younger forests - all for free!