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Comments: On public lands, old-growth trees should be cut down. Currently some 370,000 acres of mature and old-growth forest on federal lands are vulnerable to logging. All trees have value, but old growth trees are special because they filter water, sequester more carbon than younger trees. In addition, many animals have evolved to rely partly or entirely on old-growth trees.

Language in the proposed legislation regarding old growth trees has a problem. It reads, "Vegetation management within old-growth forests conditions may not be for the primary purpose of growing, tending, harvesting, or regeneration of trees for economic reasons." This language would allow over a dozen exceptions to actual protection of old growth trees, including "to reduce fuel hazards," "proactive stewardship," or "resiliency." However studies have shown that old-growth stands tend to reduce wildfire spread and intensity, while thinning them dries and heats up the area. History has shown time and again that if all that is needed to log old-growth is to omit or downplay "economic" reasons the timber industry will cut down these trees. This must stop. Please change this language to provide more protection to old trees. Our future depends on it.