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Comments: I obtained a BS in Forestry from the University of Montana in 1976 and began a career in forestry and soil science that continues to this day. Throughout my career I watched old growth forests disappear under the chainsaws of private, state and federal foresters. I included consideration for old growth in each of the projects and environmental documents I prepared for federal projects. I watched as private companies cut and ran leaving Montana without a viable forest industry due to over cutting and greed. Some of the most egregious sins were committed against the oldest forests. These areas remain as a last example of habitats that cannot be recreated overnight but take centuries to grow. They provide the last examples of intact habitats for a plethora of plant and animal species that simply can't thrive in the thinned and cutover leftovers of industrial forestry. They offer much more resistance against climate change than those sites opened up by the recent fads of treatments that purport to make the forest fire-safe but only dry it out by reducing shade and woody debris and increasing solar radiation on the forest floor. Please act decisively to protect all remaining old growth forests from and further disturbance.