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Comments: Old growth forests are essential ecosystems that need to be protected, especially as fire danger grows in the Western US. Old growth forests are more fire resistant and have sequestered more CO2 compared to younger trees. Mature forests protect soil, water and animal habitat. These forests need to be prioritized and protected, not cut down. Replacing old growth with new trees is not the better option because new trees take more resources to grow. I am urging the USDA to protect old growth.