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Comments: I am writing in regards to the status of mature and old growth forests across all Federal Forest lands. My husband and I lost our home to the Holiday Farm Fire in Oregon in 2020. We have experienced first hand the devastating effects of an extreme fire due to climate change. We have also seen the regenerative abilities of a forest left untouched, versus those that have been logged. The differences are visually staggering.

We feel it is time that forest solutions match the dire risks our forests face. To that end, we would like to see the US Forest Service enact the strongest possible protections in regard to mature and old growth forests, such as:

1. Create actionable and easily enforceable protections for "mature" (80+ years) and "old growth" (120 + years) forests that will protect ecosystems and biodiversity of these forests. This should include an END to all commercial logging of all remaining old growth forests, and increased protections for mature forests.
2. Set aside more reserve forests that can, over time, grow into mature and old growth forests to start to reclaim the forests lost from decades of destructive logging.
3. Make the Forest Services process transparent to the public.
4. Acknowledge the link between climate change and our Federal Forests; namely that forest trees standing store carbon working as a buffer against climate change, and cutting them releases carbon adding to climate change.

We love our forests, all forests, not just those near our home. It is time for transformational change if we are to save our remaining forests. Please act now to reverse the catastrophic path that we as a country are racing towards, one that we, as well as many others, have lived through. The time to act is now.

Thank you