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Comments: Mature and old growth forests are an excellent example of what people can do for the environment and the world. The trees protect soil, clean the water, prevent flooding, stabilize the land and provide a place to live for animals such as wolves, bears, mountain lions and bald eagles. The beauty of these places cannot be replaced by young trees just getting a foothold. Many of these forests are upwards of 2,000 years old. When these trees are removed and replaced by shopping centers and residences, they are gone forever.