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Comments: Mature and old growth forests are already mitigating our climate catastrophe by serving to absorb carbon. New science has also discovered that mature trees play an essential part in the health of the forest as an organism. They communicate with other trees through fungi on their roots. They can warn other trees about diseases and pests, so that they can protect themselves. These mature trees also continue supporting the forest even as they are dying.

This new information suggests that our former approach to forest "management" needs to be changed. With new information we must update our approach to keeping our forests healthy. We need to protect and maintain our mature and old growth forests with the strongest regulations possible, and for good. Logging these forests is a terrible waste of a treasured resource. We cannot replace an old growth tree quickly or easily. And we don't know what damage we are doing to the forest as a whole.

All of our forests are facing unimaginable stressors because of the climate change that we have caused. We need to protect them and value them as they are, especially our rare mature and old growth forests.