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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I urge you to favor maturing and old growth forests at least in my part of the country. It appears to me that in Indiana the effect of climate change will be to reduce the need to take mature or old growth trees. The supply of oaks and hickories, those species that are high demand, will continue to grow precisely due to the drying effect. We will look more like Arkansas than Indiana. The supply for mills will be higher. I think IU and Purdue have done studies on the impact of climate change in Indiana.

Please note that in this executive order we are only talking about public lands. In Indiana, there are about 700k of public forested acres +/- and only about 200k acres are in the national forest. I urge you to let those forests mature and become old to the greatest extent possible.

Eastern forests are different than western forests. I cannot comment on the best approach there, but ecologically we have been wetter than the west and the result is that the fire risk, while increasing, will not be as large as the west. With the climate changing I urge you to not second guess the ecosystems with the national forest. In my opinion, we do not have a good enough understanding of these ecosystems to conclude that maturing and old growth forests ecosystems will fare better if humans manage them. I trust that the many many thousands of years of evolution will provide a significant genetic capability to deal with these situations. It could in fact be that the older they are, the more capable they are genetically to deal with change. I don't have a precise answer myself, but I would urge caution in making assumptions about our ability to manage these ecosystems as humans through this change.

So, please preserve maturing and old growth forests as a preserve of ecosystems and a reserve of carbon sequestering, adaptable forests.