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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USDA Forest Service,

I write to urge the Forest Service to take rigorous steps to protect the last remaining stands of old growth forest, including providing an ample buffer zone of at least 1 mile around old growth trees to avoid disturbances that may be detrimental.

Old growth trees are an ecological investment of over 1000 years, and should not be cut or harmed for short-sighted monetary gains. They store much more carbon than younger trees and host a vast array of biodiverse life across their towering lengths. They are a shared inheritance for the American people and top priority should be made towards protecting the few that remain, since over 90% have been cut.

I urge the Forest Service to bring together biologists and indigenous land experts to determine the wisest path towards sustaining the remaining old growth forests, and to share these plans with the public for civic engagement and review.

In addition, it is critical to preserve the next-generation old growth forests - the forests that were cut once but have been regrown in the last 100-230 years. Let's not foolishly forget this "younger" generation of trees which will grow into the old growth forest of the future. They are key to sustaining America's forest future as well.

Sincerely,

Valerie Mih