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Comments: The Forest Service should evaluate its role in combating the two major crises of our epoch:

1) Change in Climate due primarily to CO<sub>2</sub>/Methane, etc. in atmosphere.

Recent scientific work has shown convincingly that mature forests that are allowed to continue on to old-growth condition absorb substantially more net carbon dioxide, than younger forests that are regenerating from disturbances or new forests starting out do. Hence, we have a moral obligation to all future Americans and all humans to absorb as much CO<sub>2</sub> as we can, and by doing "nothing" to vast mature tracts of forest we can, with great pride, know we are doing everything we can to mitigate the escalating crisis. The Adirondack Park in NY is a model of this.

2) Biodiversity Crisis. We share this planet with thousands of other species and we are all part of ecological niches wherever we live. One of the leading causes of the crisis is habitat destruction and we must act to preserve what remains and build back our rich biological birthright for our children. The Forest Service can supercharge the effort to recharge our web of life by enacting the strictest possible limits on human intervention on mature old-growth forest and other lands so that ultimately 20 - 50% of our land is set aside forever wild. Ecology must prevail over economy. Why? Because in the long run, choosing ecology is the best economic choice as well. The U.S.A. should lead on re-wilding.  
thank you.