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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USDA Forest Service,

Old growth and mature forests are irreplaceable. They sequester carbon and help mitigate some of the impact of climate change. I have lived in VT for the past 40 years and seen many changes. One of the changes is in the number of people living here or trying to live here! As the climate continues to change, this influx of people will become even greater.

It is imperative that these trees NOT be harvested. They are in need of protection. The trees are not replaceable. It takes years and years (decades! centuries!) to have trees that are mature or considered "old growth". When timber is a commodity, there is little care shown for the health of the remaining trees. In the woods behind where we live, we were unwitting witnesses to the felling of hundreds of trees by Johnson Lumber. Everything was legal but it truly was a devastation with the earth gouged and torn up, trees felled, other trees badly injured.

These trees are old and important. The land they are on is home to many different species and there are multiple biomes. Sometimes we just don't know the damage we are doing until it is irreparable.

Sincerely,

Leigh Harder