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Comments: I respectfully urge the Forest Service to choose Alternative A, "No Action." The "No Action" option allows the greatest possible action on the part of our forests to forestall the worst impacts of climate change and biodiversity collapse. It allows our forests, our heritage, to continue to grow old, protecting us from floods and droughts, protecting our watersheds and providing clean air. Option A is the only option that is supported by the latest climate science and the most up to date understanding of forest ecology, including incredible developments in our understanding of soil carbon and the importance of protecting intact, functioning soils including mycorrhizal networks. Additionally, with 96% of all timber harvests coming from private lands, there is no credible argument for logging on our public forests.

NASA scientist James Hansen's historic testimony before Congress in 1988 should have ushered in an era of unparalleled cooperation led by the highest levels of government to reverse climate change- on par with the astounding collective effort to mobilize for World War II. Instead, those in power have, unconscionably, either ignored or actively stymied efforts to preserve a habitable planet for future generations. Now, over three decades later, we finally have a president recognizing the critical importance of protecting our forests to support climate and biodiversity goals. Option A is the only option that supports the clear intent of President Biden's executive order.

Our forests are our greatest weapon in protecting a habitable planet for all of life on earth- human and non-human and our window of opportunity to act is slamming shut. Decisions like this are occurring all over the world and future generations depend upon people like you making the right decision. Please choose Alternative A and allow our forests to continue doing the critical work we desperately need them to do.

There is an abundance of peer reviewed science undergirding my argument for Option A as the only viable option. I would be happy to provide links or pdfs upon request.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to comment and for hearing my concerns.