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Comments: Mature and old-growth forests are not just essential; they are irreplaceable pillars of climate stability, clean water, and biodiversity. These ancient woodlands store billions of metric tons of carbon, safeguard countless wildlife habitats, and serve as natural buffers against soil erosion and flooding. As our planet grapples with the escalating impacts of climate change, preserving these forests has become more than critical-it's imperative for our collective future.

The Forest Service should finalize a strong, effective policy that truly safeguards our mature and old-growth forests.