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Comments: As Oregon is fighting 81 wildfires this week and Portland is experiencing the hottest July on record, it is imperative that we protect America's old-growth and mature forests and that the Land Management Plan be specific and directive in doing so.

The plan should include clear language directing the Forest Service to ban logging of old growth. The final plan should end the cutting and selling of old-growth trees on public lands.

Additionally, mature forests and trees that are not yet "old growth" need explicit protection. The country has lost most of its old growth to over a century of logging. Mature forests provide the bulk of the climate benefits on federal forests and are the nation's future old-growth.

We need solutions that match the magnitude of the threats we face. Conserving mature and old-growth forests on federal lands is a critical natural climate solution that will have a meaningful impact on the climate crisis and biodiversity crisis. We have a moral imperative to act boldly for future generations.

There are logging projects in the pipeline that threaten mature and old-growth trees. The Forest Service included an elevated review process for proposed projects that contain old-growth in their announcement, but there is still a pressing need for the agency to follow through and ensure current projects are re-evaluated to reverse the loss of old-growth.

Please ensure that the final record of decision adopts modified Alternative 3:

**\*\*End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types and end the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands in moist forest types.**

**\*\*End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill. (Alternative 3 includes a "no commercial exchange" provision.)**

**\*\*Remove the exception that allows for "de minimis" logging of old-growth trees.**

**\*\*Eliminate the agency discretion to manage old growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals.**

The need to save these forests is urgent. We cannot afford another era of overcutting.

Thank you.