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Comments: As a researcher on forestry for many years, and the owner of 112 acres of mature oak-hickory-white pine forest on the border of the George Washington National Forest, I have come to understand the value of old growth not just for C sequestration in trunks, limbs, but mostly in soil, but also for biodiversity and water and air quality. Alternative 3 is the only choice to begin protecting these values, but I know from experience that the "de minimis" and "protective stewardship" clauses are exactly how the logging industry will undermine any protection. Please drop both of these exceptions, prohibit all commercial tree cutting in existing old growth, and establish a procedure and directive to recruit future old growth in maturing forests. The national forests are America's best hope for a natural mitigation of climate change that will also protect critical water sources and air quality.