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Comments: I agree with each of the statements below.

Mature and old-growth trees and forests protect our climate and provide critical environmental benefits by:

absorbing and storing carbon,

boosting resilience to fire,

helping regulate temperatures, and

filtering drinking water and sheltering wildlife.

Logging these trees deprives us of the benefits and beauty of our largest, oldest trees.

The current Draft Environmental Impact Statement fails to adequately protect old-growth trees and forests. The draft also contains ambiguous language that could be used to justify continued commercial logging of old growth in the Tongass National Forest.

The DEIS has too many loopholes which could lead to continued logging of old growth. Logging old growth to save stands from potential threats is a false solution. They are worth more standing.

The final record of decision should:

End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all 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.

Support ecologically appropriate restoration in dry forests that are adapted to frequent fire while protecting all old growth trees.

Protect mature trees and forests -our future old growth. The vast majority of old growth in the Pacific Northwest was logged after WWII. Those forest now need to be managed so they can develop into old growth and thus help mitigate the climate crisis and rampant biodiversity loss.

Respectfully,

Sara Grigsby