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Comments: Old-growth trees provide significant benefits to the American people by storing carbon, providing important habitat for wildlife, and contributing to clean air, soil, and water. Beyond the clear climate, ecological, and public health benefits, the conservation of mature and old-growth forests helps address the threat of wildfires as older and larger trees tend to be the most fire-resistant.

Other benefits include cultural significance to Tribes and outdoor recreation opportunities critical to communities' health, prosperity and resilience.

Please consider improving the DEIS by:

\*\*Providing explicit directions to protect and steward sufficient quality mature forests to restore old-growth forest distribution and abundance.

\*\*Adding an anti-degradation standard (maintain and improve) to prevent treatments that degrade old-growth conditions.

\*\*Providing quantitative, science-based targets for recovery, such as ecologically based Historic Range of Variability, rather than just enough old-growth to provide "resilience".