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Comments: Please strengthen the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to protect our nation's diminishing old growth and mature forests from commercial logging or damage from adjacent road building and forest thinning operations.

Please weigh the numerous benefits from preserving the forests vs. allowing mature and old growth trees to be cut down for short term personal monetary profits.

Benefits of preservation:

These trees are the most fire resistant, therefore most likely to survive a wildfire and help propagate new trees and habitat recovery after wildfire damage.

These trees provide active atmospheric carbon dioxide removal and storage.

These trees provide survival habitat for diverse species of plants and animals.

These trees provide for human recreation, serenity and climate cooling.

These trees protect watersheds, hold water, prevent erosion and purify water.

These trees protect adjacent riparian areas.

The U.S. Forest Service should be much more protective against logging and thinning mature and old growth forests. Research over the last decade has increased our awareness of the crucial role mature and old forests have in climate stabilization.

It is cheaper to let mature trees grow than to try to invent machines to possibly take carbon dioxide out of the air. Forests do it for free and already exist.

Every tree logged is removing an active site of carbon dioxide sequestration. Please keep their active and increasingly valuable carbon sequestration capacity intact and develop a reward system for private property owners to keep their trees alive.

It is extremely important to monitor observance to the restrictions against logging old trees. Heavy fines need to be levied against any company logging or any mill accepting old growth boles.

Thank you for your consideration.

Gail Sabbadini

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