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Comments: It is my opinion that Alternative 3 offers the strongest protections for old-growth forests. Centuries of destruction have reduced a continent once abundant with forests to mere remnants. In order to retain our forests and the chance of a livable future, we must reduce the cutting of old-growth trees and in particular, the cutting of any trees in old-growth stands.

America's forests are not just another commodity crop to be exploited. Forests sequester enormous amounts of carbon and provide refugia for a multitude of species, including humans. We must act decisively to protect what little remains of the nation's natural heritage.