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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Our family is urging the "Forest Service" to, better, protect rare, old-growth, forests, and, leave our largest, trees standing for, future, generations!

Our forests are, still, recovering from historic, logging, practices that cut down most of the, old-growth, forests from, public, lands in the, previous, century! In addition to supporting, old-growth, preservation, the "Forest Service" MUST adopt, stronger, protections that will allow trees defined as "mature" to age into, old-growth, status!

Old-growth, forests play a critical, and, often, overlooked, role in maintaining the health of our National Parks! They support wildlife, improve, water, quality, mitigate climate change by holding, vast, amounts of carbon, and, help protect, larger, ecosystems! As the climate crisis is threatening our National Parks, which warm at twice the rate of the rest of the country, old-growth, forests are, increasingly, important to the health of our National Parks!

Seventy-six, National Park, units border National Forests! Additionally, 27 million acres of mature and, old-growth, forests are within 30 miles of a National Park - and, that is, just, in the, lower, 48! We can make a, big, difference in protecting, Park, landscapes, wildlife, and, water, by protecting old-growth, forests!

The "Forest Service" is proposing, historic, protections for old-growth, forests by keeping the, oldest, trees standing rather than cutting them down! Our family implores you to protect the, remaining, large, trees, as they provide a home for wildlife, are resilient to wildfire, and, protect, drinking, water for millions of people!

Forests help maintain, and, protect, sources of, drinking, water -- and, old-growth, trees play a, crucial, role in maintaining, water, quality! Their, root, systems filter water, and, stabilize, river channels, preventing erosion, and, keeping water clean! Old-growth forests, also, slow runoff, and, hold water in the soil, helping to reduce the rate of flooding!