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Comments: I strongly oppose adoption of the National Old Growth Amendment. Rather than protecting mature and old growth forests, it is a roadmap on how to continue exploiting them for timber cuts. More recent research has demonstrated that old and mature forests sequester far more carbon than younger forests, that allowing mature forests to mature without intervention creates the more diverse, complex forest that resists infestations and promotes water quality and has supported the wildlife native to this region for eons. The argument that I have heard in years that that any proposed timber cut is just a "drop in the bucket," ignores the size of the timber cuts each year in all the national forests. They are very substantial.

Climate change is the biggest threat to our way of life. Letting mature forests age into the pre-European forests of long ago is the least we can do to protect what we all find precious.