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Comments: As a parent and an educator, I take to heart the urgency of the climate crisis.

Mature and old growth forests, with their heroic carbon-sequestering capabilities, are critical to our health as a society and as a planet. I am writing to ask that the National Old Growth Amendment truly protect mature and old growth forests.

The NOGA should explicitly end the logging and commercial exchange of all old growth trees. After more than a century of intensive timber-extraction, we have already consumed most of our old growth forest. We know that the remaining old growth represents critical habitat for endangered species, and plays a vital role in stabilizing our climate. Yet logging projects continue to endanger what remains, even as the planet warms. The final record of decision should adopt a modified Alternative 3, ending the logging and exchange of old growth trees.

Specifically, I ask that you:

1. Clarify slippery language that allows commercial logging for "proactive stewardship." The NOGA should prevent management that would take forests out of old growth status.

2. Remove the "de minimis" exception. The vague language in this exception leaves old-growth forests vulnerable to logging.

3. Define and protect mature forests. We need not only the much-diminished remaining stands of old growth, but also mature forests that, if left standing, can become old growth in the future.

Thank you for taking these important steps to protect our forests and our future.

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