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Comments: Mature and old-growth trees and forests protect our climate by absorbing and storing carbon, boost resilience to fire, help regulate temperatures, filter drinking water, shelter wildlife and provide respite to people seeking a connection with nature. Logging these trees deprives us of the benefits and beauty of our largest, oldest trees.

Your draft proposal fails to protect these trees and forests. The proposal includes many opportunities to send these trees to the mill and allows agency staff to manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals. It contains ambiguous language that could be used to justify continued commercial logging of old growth in the Tongass.

I support a policy for our national forests that will:

- 1.End the logging of old-growth trees and in old-growth stands.
- 2.End the commercial exchange of old-growth trees. No old-growth trees should be sent to mills.
- 3.Establish protections for mature forests and trees to increase the amount of old growth for the future.