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Comments: Old-growth forests are not just majestic landscapes; they are essential habitats for a diverse range of plant and animal species, including our imperiled Yaak population of grizzly bears.

The rich biodiversity of old-growth forests is a cornerstone for ecological resilience in a changing climate. Moreover, old-growth forests excel at absorbing and storing carbon dioxide, playing a crucial role in addressing climate change.

Please protect these old growth forests. The Forest Service proposal must be dramatically strengthened to prevent logging of mature and old-growth forests, and that the ancient primary forest at Black Ram, on the Kootenai National Forest, should be protected as a Climate Refuge. Forest defense is climate defense.