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First name: Roswitha

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS:

I'm writing to encourage the Forest Service to provide stronger protections for mature and old growth trees. As a resident of District 9, I'm really concerned about the logging on Federal Land. It is very sad to think of these magnificent trees that are one to two-hundred years old being pulped to provide toilet tissue and Kleenex. For too long the attitude has been, "We need to log." But the fact is, we don't. There are other ways to create paper.

Old-growth forests are much more than mere sources of commodities that can be sold for profit. They provide habitat for many species of animals, they are a place for people to learn about and experience the benefits of nature and biodiversity, and, importantly, they are part of the fight against climate change. The older the tree, the more carbon it sequesters.

Only five percent of logs produced nationwide come from forests on federal land. Surely, the benefit provided by old growth and mature trees -- forests with the potential to become old growth -- is greater than the dollars provided by logging, particularly highly destructive clear-cutting. All clear-cutting should be banned on federal land. Here in Wisconsin, the Menomonee Nation has provided an excellent example of how to sustainably manage a forest. And they do some logging. But they don't clear-cut. Clear-cutting may be efficient, but it is destructive to the land and water, to animals and to the people who live around and near our federal lands.

The Forest Service is taking some steps in the right direction, though the destructive 4-Mile project in Wisconsin was not halted despite strong opposition. It's not too late to stop that now. Please ban all clear-cutting on Federal land and set a good example for the rest of the country and a better direction for our future.

Sincerely,

Roswitha T. Both