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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Chief Moore,

I urge you to take this opportunity to protect our oldest trees and forests. Failure to do so undermines the objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of EO 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the agency received on last summer's advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

The final record of decision should:

- ? End the cutting of old-growth trees in all national forests and all forest types.
- ? End any commercial exchange of old-growth trees. Even in the rare circumstances where an old-growth tree is cut (e.g. public safety), that tree should not be sent to the mill.
- ? Recognize the important role that old growth plays in fighting climate change, not just how they are threatened by climate change.

Cutting down old-growth trees to save them from potential threats is a false solution - they are worth more standing.

While I understand that some management may be necessary, it is important that commercial timber sales are truly an afterthought to carefully planned and executed vegetation management. The possibility of a commercial timber sale should never be the driving factor for decision making in old-growth forests, and commercial cutting of old-growth trees should not be allowed. Any active management should help mature forests develop into old-growth, protected forests, and passive management should also be used to meet these goals.

We need solutions that match the magnitude of the threats we face. Conserving mature and old-growth forests on federal lands is a critical natural climate solution that will have a meaningful impact on the climate crisis and biodiversity crisis. We have a moral imperative to act boldly for future generations.

Sincerely,

Genia Moncada