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Comments: I urge you to significantly strengthen the national old-growth amendment to (1) ensure ABSOLUTE PROTECTION FROM LOGGING for the United States' remaining old-growth forests and (2) lay a foundation that will increase the abundance and distribution of old-growth trees for future generations.

Currently, numerous loopholes allow for continued - or even increased - logging of old-growth trees. THIS MAKES NO SENSE as trees provide ecological value as LIVING ORGANISMS, not as timber!!!

Please make the following 3 changes:

- Eliminate exceptions and end \*all\* logging of old-growth trees in national forests.
- Remove the economic incentive for logging old growth by prohibiting the sale, exchange, and milling of old-growth trees. This should prevent all but truly rare removals of such trees.
- Create a real plan for durable protections for mature trees and stands. To recover the 95% of old growth that has been lost to past abuse, mature forests and trees must be protected from commercial logging.

Given the outstanding role mature and old-growth trees and forests play in curbing the climate and extinction crises, the Forest Service must establish REAL safeguards for their conservation.

Failure to do so undermines the objectives of this amendment, contravenes the direction of President Biden's Executive Order 14072, and ignores more than half a million public comments the U.S. Forest Service received following the advance notice of proposed rulemaking it published in April 2023.

SO PLEASE LISTEN TO US AS THE PEOPLE WHO INHABIT THIS GREAT COUNTRY. THANK YOU.