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Comments: There is no single action we can take to mitigate climate change that can have as much impact, with no negative externalities, than saving our old growth forests. The biodiversity in these forests that has been allowed the time to mature outweighs any other forest plantation significantly. The externalities from our logging process are numerous: habitat loss, carbon release into the atmosphere, and herbicide use on a large scale that affects the land as well as those that live nearby. This all leads to a mono-crop of less healthy trees, more prone to disease and pests, which in turn creates a wildfire hazard.

We need the clean air, rich biodiversity, and small water cycles that trees can create. Our logging practices need a serious update, with clear, detailed, outlines of what is and what is not a mature forest. The benefits they offer outweigh anything we can manage and we must protect our old growth forest in the interest of a healthy planet, if not just because they hold a slice of nature nearly lost on this continent.

We must save that which is not easily replaced. There are many replacements for wood. A mature, healthy forest offers more than we can possibly measure in benefits to climate, diverse life, plant medicine, air quality, water quality, and we can't afford to keep messing things up.