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Comments: Mature and old-growth forests in the Black Ram project in the Yaak and other areas of the country are being targeted and logged despite scientific evidence demonstrating that old-growth forests are more resilient to wildfires when left untouched. The draft plan lacks adequate protection for old-growth forests, and it overlooks mature forests, which are forests poised to become old-growth in the coming decades.

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.