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Comments: Larger trees store more carbon than smaller trees, and play a vital role in protecting our planet from global warming. Larger trees typify the trees of mature and old growth forests. It is therefore extremely important to preserve mature and old-growth forests.

In this age of climate change and global warming, large trees are more valuable alive and growing than dead and sawn into lumber. The Forest Department must change its perspective from an industrial perspective ("This tree is big enough to log") to the planetary perspective ("This tree is big enough to be left growing in the ground to play a vital role in curbing global warming.").

Mature and old-growth forests also serve vital roles in species preservation, as forests provide varied habitats that nurture diverse plant and animal species. Leaving forests intact is vital in order to prevent more and more species from falling into extinction.

Your draft proposal has language that allow some old growth forests to be managed in ways that are ambiguous. Pro-logging forest managers can exploit vague language to - legally - allow logging. Don't let this happen. Make the ban against logging of old-growth forests ironclad, and extend it to mature forests, too. Restrict commercial logging to commercial forests.

Older forests with bigger trees do not present a bigger fire danger. Mature and old-growth forests have canopies that exclude light from the forest floor to the degree that undergrowth is sparse. On a shaded forest floor, dead fallen branches rot fast. Fire danger can be less in these forests than in younger growth forests where the canopy is not closed and undergrowth is considerable. When a forest is selectively logged, discarded branches create litter, and the canopy is broken, allowing in sunlight and promoting undergrowth, making it more vulnerable to fire. Please leave our older forests intact.

Please ensure your proposal protects and preserves not only old-growth forests, but mature forests, too. Mature forests are the old-growth forests of tomorrow. There are so few old-growth forests left, that we must nurture mature forests of today to create more old-growth forests for tomorrow.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.