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Comments: Re: The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that addresses President Biden's Executive Order to "develop policies, with robust opportunity for public comment, to institutionalize climate-smart management and conservation strategies that address threats to mature and old-growth forest on federal lands."

I implore you to protect our country's mature and old-growth forests to the highest degree. These old forests, just as they are right now, are doing a huge amount of work to combat climate change. We need to simply let them continue to do that work. It's easy, it costs nothing and it's one of the most effective solutions we have. Please seize this opportunity to end commercial logging of old growth forests and protect this incredible resource for climate change mitigation.

The goals stated within the DEIS are much-needed and have been long awaited, but the current policy as written must be strengthened in order to meet those goals. Please be sure that the following issues are addressed:

1. Old-growth trees should never be logged or allowed to be sold.
2. The "Proactive Stewardship" that the policy currently promotes for old-growth forest management should never be permitted to degrade the very conditions that define an area as old-growth. Managing old-growth away goes against the spirit of the executive order.
3. The management of old-growth should not allow any logging within old-growth of moist forest types, even of younger trees.
4. Do not cut forests that are our best candidates to age into old-growth. Establish requirements for measurable goals and planning for recruiting future old-growth from forests that are currently classified as mature to make up for historic losses of old-growth due to logging.

I am thrilled that steps are being taken to address threats to mature and old-growth forest on federal land, but these policies must be carefully reworked so that they do not undermine our ability to keep these forests intact. Our mature and old-growth forests take centuries to develop and provide immense climate and biodiversity benefits. Please do all that you can to ensure that the strongest and most effective policies are put into place to protect them.

Thank you for your work on this important matter.