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Comments: I am writing today to express my position on the Forest Service's Land Management Plan for Old Growth Forest trees. The plan should eliminate exceptions and end all logging of old-growth trees (except in rare cases for public safety and indigenous cultural uses), including in the Tongass National Forest.

I wish the plan to end logging in moist and infrequent fire old-growth stands. Younger trees in old-growth stands that burn on longer fire cycles do not need to be removed for ecosystem restoration or wildfire mitigation.

Old-growth trees should be protected in cases when logging may be necessary in frequent fire forests. Young trees in fire suppressed old-growth stands may need to be removed, but old-growth trees should be left standing.

Please prohibit sending old-growth trees to the timber mills. The economic incentive for logging old-growth must be removed. If the logged tree cannot be sold or exchanged, it will likely prevent all but truly rare removals of old-growth trees. If we do not protect mature trees, we will fail to recover old-growth forests across the country. Mature trees will grow into old trees over the next several decades and as many of them as possible must remain standing. Old growth forests are the planets best carbon sink.

Be consistent with the need to address wildfire. Protecting older trees and forests can increase forest resilience to wildfires, and combat climate-change related impacts such as flooding and drought. Protecting our oldest trees supports the Department of Agriculture's Wildfire Crisis Strategy.

Please do not greenwash the intention of President Bidens executive order to protect old growth forests!