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First name: Charles

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

I am adamantly opposed to any proposal that would open up old-growth forests to logging and other commercial exploitation. I believe these forests have much greater value for the environment than for use as sawmill fodder. As you noted in a 2022 statement, these old-growth forests "offer biological diversity, carbon sequestration, wildlife and fisheries habitat, recreation, soil productivity, water quality and aesthetic beauty." Most notably, I submit, is their role as carbon sinks, absorbing countless tons of carbon dioxide that otherwise would exacerbate the ongoing climate change. Rather than jeopardizing these old-growth forests by the proposed rule changes, I would encourage the Forest Service to become proactive in protecting existing forests and promoting their future expansion. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes.