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Comments: I am greatly concerned about the forest wildfires that seem to be getting worse every year. Without old growth trees that can survive these hotter fires, the forests will be small trees that burn quickly and easily. It is essential that we stop logging old growth trees now.

Mature and old-growth trees and forests protect our climate by absorbing and storing carbon, boost resilience to fire, help regulate temperatures, filter drinking water and shelter wildlife. Logging these trees deprives us of the benefits and beauty of our largest, oldest trees.

Your draft proposal fails to protect these trees and forests. The proposal includes many opportunities to send these trees to the mill and allows agency staff to manage old-growth out of existence in pursuit of "proactive stewardship" goals. It contains ambiguous language that could be used to justify continued commercial logging of old growth in the Tongass.