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Comments: I am strongly in favor of tightening restrictions on the U.S. Forest Service's allowances to cut old-growth and mature trees. I support reducing exceptions contained in the amendment. Old-growth and mature trees are an invaluable resource. The land entrusted to the U.S. Forest Service for the benefit of the people needs to be cared for in a knowledgeable and responsible way. Some of the methods employed by the USFS destroy habitat, degrade soil quality, and reduce water and air quality. Selling old-growth and mature trees to timber mills violates the duty of the USFS to care for land in a science-based and expert manner that considers both current and future needs and benefits.

Older trees are an existing, highly effective way to sequester carbon. Young trees do not contribute as much, and there is already extensive land that has been cleared for young trees to grow in. Old-growth and mature trees make a forest more resilient to wildfires and mitigate flooding and drought. There should be no exceptions in the plan that allows for replacement of or degrading of a forest's old-growth condition. Identification of old-growth forest should be transparent and performed by experts.

Currently the USFS seems to be on a tear of extensive amounts of logging. I am especially concerned about the logging plans for the Daniel Boone National Forest in Kentucky and sad to see the destruction of forests near Eagle River, WI, that has already occurred. The amendment needs to be tightened to better protect old-growth forest and mature trees.