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Comments: I am writing to urge you to adopt the strongest form possible of protection for mature and Old Growth trees, when revising the Old Growth Amendment. We need to completely prohibit logging on old growth and mature forests on all public lands.

The current form needs serious revision.

With too many loopholes, and vague language that can be twisted around, it does not protect mature and old growth trees. We know that aggressive logging has long been done under the guise of fire protection, when we could be learning and teaching our kids the benefits of fire.

I have a particularly strong connection to old growth and mature forests and since the 1980's I cherish my time there. I took my family there. We were mesmerized as we stood with tall giants and slept under their ancient breath.

All other camping trips are measured against the old growth trips.

With only 5% coming from federal lands, we know that these protections would barely be noticed in our wood supply.

These forests are the only "library" we have for studying how forest processes work in a natural forest.

Benefits are many: cooling, absorbing carbon dioxide, filtering water, creating their own rain, protecting soil and wildlife. Future generations deserve to experience all of this magic and beauty.

When a new fire breaks out in a forest, do you not secretly hope that the mature trees in that stand will withstand the inferno and continue to grow?

Karen Josephson