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Comments: President Biden's April 2022 Executive Order 14072, "Executive Order on Strengthening the Nation's Forests, Communities, and Local Economies," directed the Forest Service to "analyze the threats to mature and old-growth forests on Federal lands, including from wildfires and climate change" and "develop policies, with robust opportunity for public comment, to institutionalize climate-smart management and conservation strategies that address threats to mature and old-growth forests on Federal lands." Unfortunately, the Forest Service's proposed National Old Growth Amendment has NOT lived up to this directive.

America's mature and old-growth forests are bastions of biodiversity, sequester and store vast amounts of carbon, and are key to maintaining the quality of municipal water sources originating on National Forests that serve over 60 million people. Despite being directed to do so, the Forest Service failed to provide any meaningful protections for mature forests, thereby leaving approximately 47 percent of all National Forest System lands vulnerable to logging and continued mismanagement. Further, the proposed "protections" for old-growth forests permit-and even encourage-the use of commercial logging as a management action to "reduce the risk of loss of old-growth forests." PLEASE for the sake of all life on earth, we need to PROTECT what's left of old growth and virgin forests! KEEP IT WILD!!