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Comments: I am writing to urge that the Forest Service take all necessary steps to protect all remaining tracts of Old Growth forest.

No old-growth trees, nor the ecosystems that support and shelter them, should be removed, damaged, threatened, harvested, or otherwise disturbed for any reason.

Very little of the historic forest coverage of the United States remains in an undisturbed condition, although those forests and woodlands are the defining characteristics of their ecosystems. Old growth in particular has many additive ecosystem benefits and supports biodiversity not seen in young or plantation forests. It also sequesters far, far more carbon in soil and woody material than disturbed areas.

By protecting old-growth, we also immediately protect the species that depend on those ecosystems.

At this point in history, at this point in the fight against climate change, at this point in the biodiversity crisis, nothing is more helpful, more significant than preserving the old growth we have left. And it's one of the cheapest, easiest, simplest things we can do. That you can do.

I hope the US Forest Service will take the simplest necessary steps, and completely protect all remaining old growth under its jurisdiction.