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Comments: Hello,

The EARTH IS NOT A STORE.

America's mature and OLD GROWTH FORESTS belong to everyone since time immemorial.

You can't ever replicate the ANCIENT, original bastions of biodiversity, sequestering and STORING VAST AMOUNTS OF CARBON. They need to be protected for all future generations, and not used to build more houses or whatever. Thats pretty disgusting.

If logging the old growth forests is just about the MONEY to the US Forest Service, well then the US Forest Service needs an OVERHAUL. They are not taking the responsibility they pretend to seriously.

They don't seem to care, its as simple as that.

MONEY is only temporary.

The Old Growth Forests 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 US FOREST SERVICE HAS NOT provided any meaningful protections for mature forests. The US Forest Service leave approximately 47 percent of all National Forest System lands vulnerable to logging and continued mismanagement. NOTHING NEW.

Further, the PROPOSED ""PROTECTIONS"" for old-growth forests permit- even encourage-the use of commercial logging as a management action to "reduce the risk of loss of old-growth forests."

THAT MAKES NO SENSE.

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.

1. Large trees and mature forests, as well as old-growth forests, deserve strong and enforceable protections.
2. Logging large trees, mature forests, and old-growth is contrary to the best available climate science.
3. Heavy handed "management" including commercial logging is unnecessary and antithetical to the recruitment and maintenance of old-growth.
4. Large trees and mature and old-growth forests belong on the forests, not in the mills!

AGAIN: 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.

WE THE PEOPLE PAY THE TAXES TO PAY THE US FOREST SERVICE. THE US FS NEEDS A MAJOR OVERHAUL WITH NEW MANAGEMENT WHICH IS FOCUSED ON PRESERVING OLD GROWTH FORESTS FOR ALL OF THE GENERATIONS AHEAD.

My grandchildren, your great, great, great grandchildren.

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