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Comments: To the United States Forest Service

Re: Old Growth Amendment

There is potential in the Draft EIS (June 20, 2024) to significantly move the climate fight forward IF important changes are made.

I advocate for the additional protections for Old Growth listed below, since the Draft does not go far enough to actually achieve what is needed to preserve the health and resilience of the Old Growth forests we currently have. Please finalize stronger standards by acting to make these changes:

*End commercial logging of Old Growth

*Include strong protections for mature trees and forests from the threat of logging

We need to ensure that both mature and old-growth trees, including those in our our national forests, remain in place to mitigate climate change and to maintain the natural benefits of these forests for generations to come. But these necessary mature and old growth forests are threatened by many proposed and ongoing logging projects, and this proposal doesn't do enough to protect them.

Safeguarding these carbon-rich forests in a timely fashion is one of the best remedies for addressing our climate crisis. Mature and old-growth trees store, and continue to absorb, large amounts of carbon - providing the public with clean drinking water, habitat for imperiled wildlife, and many other benefits. They help provide oxygen for our planet. These larger, older trees are also more fire resistant, so stronger protections would add to other necessary efforts to address risks we face regarding wildfire.

Please strengthen the DEIS by preventing old-growth trees from being logged or sold and by closing loopholes that would undermine old growth protections.