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Comments: Hello, I am writing to submit my support for strengthening protections for old-growth forests under the National Old-Growth Amendment and its Draft Environmental Impact Statement. These forests have crucial biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and cultural heritage.

Old-growth forests are crucial for not only biodiversity, but climate regulation and ecosystem health. The trees there are often hundreds of years old and provide habitats for a plethora of species like mosses, amphibians, large mammals, and birds. They help to store high amounts of carbon which would help to mitigate climate change. Additionally, old-growth forests support complex ecological relationships, such as the nutrient cycling between salmon and trees in the Pacific Northwest.

Through improved preservation we will see better water quality, prevent soil erosion, and maintain the ecological balance necessary for numerous plant and animal species. These forests also have irreplaceable cultural, scientific, and environmental value; this means their conservation is essential for both nature and human well-being. Old growth forests are also very important for fire prevention.

The future is on the line. Our environment has a direct impact on us all and climate change is one bold step away. We are tired of watching corporations take control for their own gain. We must prioritize health over profit.

Thank you.