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Comments: Hi!

My name is Kae, I am a 4th year med student applying into pediatrics and avid trail runner. From what I've seen in the hospital and what we all have come to find out is that climate change is a public health emergency. The wildfire smoke has put kiddos all over the country and even here in Vermont in the hospital for asthma exacerbations. Long heat stretches can prevent kiddos from going outside and exercising which also can promote bad health outcomes in the long term increasing cardiovascular disease risk and cancer risk. Climate change also affects food access for kids as well. I'm not sure what can be done to completely reverse this, but I do know that cutting old growth forest is likely going to make things a lot worse. Old growth stores 30% more carbon than new growth forest, and also sequesters carbon at a faster rate. It takes decades for new growth forest in the Northeast to effectively become carbon sinks, while old growth can continue to sequester carbon before new growth can really catch up. This benefit can really only be seen in undisturbed forest. I implore you to reconsider any plans of intervening in our old growth forests -- the evidence is clearly against it, and we want to do what's best for our future generations.

Sources:

<https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/ecm.1423>

<https://ijw.org/wild-carbon-storage-in-old-forests/>