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Comments: Dear Decision-Makers,

Please consider the case of irreparable harm which will befall our forests if they are allowed to be cut down. Yes, individual trees may regrow, yet delicate & complex relationships between thousands of other organisms are permanently disrupted by the process. Clear-cutting practices destroy vital biotic networks which maintain forest health. Without these ecosystems in place, not only will those plants & animals suffer, but so too shall our entire way of life be damaged by the loss of biodiversity and loss of access to pristine natural beauty.

You simply must prevent the harvesting of mature and old growth trees over 80 years old and established forests because they provide substantial benefits. For example, most of our medicine comes from intact and healthy forests. They provide mental and physical health benefits for visitors. We have a moral duty and Christian obligation to protect the remaining trees and forests so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy them too. They filter our air and water, keeping it clean. One square mile of forest creates enough oxygen for 10,000 people. Mature and old growth trees and forests also provide the highest fire resistance when compared to younger, logged, or plantation style forests.

We need healthy trees and forests for the recreation tourism that the Pacific Northwest heavily relies upon. According to the Forest Service's own report, recreation tourism is the largest contributor to the regional economy. In Oakridge, Oregon, one mountain biking event alone brought in \$1million! We must protect these areas because they provide more value intact than cut. Intact and healthy forests are vital for our economy. They also provide the best hope for a good economy in the future because they keep on giving, year after year.

PLEASE do the right thing and vote to keep our forests intact!