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Comments: As a plant ecologist and botanist with a conservation background, I am submitting this comment strongly opposed to increased logging in our National Forests and other public lands. The current administration does not reflect the needs and desires of the majority of Americans. We must uphold and adapt to conditions of climate change, increased fires, and the need for flood management under changing storm intensity and development on adjacent lands. Wild lands and forests, when managed well and protected from excessive use, are our best defense! Too much forest has already been lost and we must steward what remains and encourage the growth of more forests.

My personal connection to our federally protected lands includes working in natural resources programs for vegetation management and conservation at two different National Parks (Hawaii Volcanoes and Acadia) and at a National Wildlife refuge (Rachel Carson NWR)--so I am intimately acquainted with the conservation, cultural, and economic value of our publicly owned forests and other protected lands.

We owe it to ourselves and to future generations to protect these lands from greed and foolhardy destruction and chaos that seems to be the hallmark of the current administration. Nothing good will come of breaking with a science-based and balanced plan for managing our forests--we need to take into account the ecological, the economical, and the cultural value of these lands and the forests and plant communities.

Please record my opposition to increased logging and other practices aimed at rapid extraction from our vital public lands.