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Comments: Our forests offer vital protection against climate change, as they serve as carbon sinks, removing carbon from the atmosphere, which is the major contributor to global warming. In addition, they provide recreational opportunities for humans as well as necessary habitat for hundreds of species of animals. These lands need to be protected, not resourced. They may not be able to be recovered once destroyed - natural habitats of the Eastern US as well as heavily forested areas in the West have been replaced by non-native species, leading to habitat loss for many species. As a scientist AND a person of faith, I urge you to consider the rights of nature as equally if not more important than the rights of individuals, government, and business. Please do not diminish this beloved natural resource.