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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the healthy forests initiative. As an Ecologist by training (UMT 2004) and a Mountain Guide, I have a unique perspective on how Forest Service practices impact public health, biodiversity, and recreation (both as an enthusiast and outdoor industry professional). I've worked and recreated in the Pacific Northwest for over 20 years, cutting my teeth as a Mountain Guide working in The North Cascades (National Park), Mount Rainier (NP), Mount Stewart (National Forest), Mount ADAMS, Baker, Grand Teton NP, Denali, Mt. Whitney (Eastern Sierra) for noteworthy guide services (RMI, NMS, SMI - all concessionaires to these National Forests and Parks.

In the role of Mountain Guide, I facilitate programs that are integral to peoples health and well-being, while providing a safe experience of Wilderness. Wilderness is a concept that has long been pointed to as integral to human being's ability to find a place that remains intact and free from our extractive economy.

Logging old growth timber is the antithesis of creating a healthy global community that prioritizes healthy ecosystems from a non-human centric hierarchy. We are part of nature. We are not above it. The biodiversity, carbon sink, air cleaning properties of old growth timber makes them priceless. That small percentage of crucial old growth timber left on the planet amplifies its importance. We are still learning clues as to how these ecosystems provide us with a roadmap to solving our current environmental crisis and we are not smart enough to study them instead of cut them down???!!!

Read Susan Simards books about the complexities of logging in Canada and the futility of replanting saplings and anyone who cares about the health of human beings and our only precious home would never run a saw in an old growth forest.

I can't emphasize enough the need for alternatives to logging old growth forests specifically, but also using ladder fuel reduction as an excuse to log for Profit. Trees are living beings that take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen. We humans breathe oxygen and give off carbon dioxide. The symbiotic relationship is obvious to children. When we are gasping for air and dying of diseases due to air pollution, we'll wish we had planted trees instead of cut them down.