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Comments: Over the past few decades scientist have learned the value of maintaining existing old growth and secondary growth forest for healthy and environmentally important air, water, and land. Protections for maintaining riparian buffers and the expanding forest beyond them is critical. In the past 150 years much of our forest have been logged and scientist have studied the ramifications. We have also seen the ability for some species to bounce back after restoration. However for some species this ecological timeframe will take much longer. As humans living among these ecosystem it is vital that we protect them. Doing so we can study them and understand these benefits that have taken thousands of years to develop.

There are areas we as a society need to harvest like crops to provide wood. However we must also learn from our pasts and adapt using and incentivizing better forest practices. Additionally we must work to protect sensitive ecosystems and allow parts of the forest to remain as is and not harvested. Providing the ecosystem processes and benefits of some of these lands.

The use of prescribed fire especially by tribes should be used as a tool for forest management as well as sustainable timber thinning that still provides the mosaic of forest habitat needed by many species.