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Comments: I am writing to remind our National Forest stewards that the value of our protected and mutually owned wild-lands should not only be measured by the resources that can be extracted, but by the value that is incurred by leaving these lands intact and often untouched. Hunters, anglers, hikers, bikers, etc, of all ages appreciate and regularly use the land and waters of our National Forests. Many of our rural communities rely on the revenue generated by recreational tourism within these forest lands. There are so few mature and old growth areas left that they should be protected for their ability to inspire, the habitat they provide, and simply because if they are gone they are gone forever. Gone also are the dwindling species that rely in this habitat.

I live in a rural area of Oregon and much of my relatives income comes from the timber industry and wild-land firefighting. We all know that mature forests reduce the intensity of wildfires and aid in the forest's recovery post burn. I disagree with the concept of cutting down the forests before they burn to fill the pockets of the timber companies in the guise of protection.