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Comments: Most if not all stakeholders, members of the public, and policymakers will prefer that forests be sustainable, lasting, persisting, permanent assets. This would be the future condition desired by most if not all stakeholders, members of the public, and policymakers.

The Forest's language of resilience, ecological integrity, and desired future conditions can be understood as assurance that the Forest will deliver that preferred condition.

However, as the Forest knows but has yet to make explicit in plain language accessible to all concerned, the desired condition has already been forced into reverse as a result of regeneration failure across many points in the western US including Montana (e.g., Stevens-Rumann et al 2018, Davis et al 2019, and, more recently, Coop et al 2020). The absence of explicit, plain language reporting on this trend leaves an appearance that the Forest knows more than it is telling about reversal of hope for sustainable, lasting, persisting, permanent forest.

The question of climate-forced loss of forest permanence is central to Anderegg et al (2020).

Their analysis is attached .