

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/8/2024 5:00:00 AM

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Comments: Attachment: FFRC Request for Extension January 2024.

Federal Register Notice: Vol. 88, No. 243 /Wednesday, December 20, 2023 Notice of Intent to Prepare An Environmental Impact Statement 88042 [ndash] 88048

January 2, 2024

Director, Ecosystem Management Coordination USDA Forest Service Washington, DC Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the above captioned Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS, dated Wednesday, December 20, 2023. Due to the unprecedented nature of the proposed nationwide Forest Plan Amendment, FFRC formally requests an extension of the comment period. The proposed amendment will modify all 128 Forest Plans with over 2,700 existing components that specifically address old growth forests. Due to the potentially sweeping nature of the change proposed, the proposed comment period is inadequate. Further, the Forest Service Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.16(2)) requires a 90- day comment period on any Forest Plan amendment for which an EIS will be prepared. Inexplicably, the Forest Service is proposing a very brief, 45-day comment period, which spans over the end of year holiday period. This is simply inadequate to analyze a proposal of this breadth. We request an additional 45 days to adequately analyze the proposal.