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Title:

Comments: Old Growth Proposal for All National Forests

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Forest Services amendment plan to protect old growth forests on 128 national forests. Old growth forests are a unique and vital part of our forests not only for environmental reasons but for intrinsic ones as well. That being said we cannot function as a society by looking at this amendment through a singular resolution on such a grand scale as our forests provide. There are regional differences and functionality to consider when discussions of our nations forest and its health are at stake. Please take into consideration the following thoughts and concerns as you move forward with this process that will affect so many Americans and our great national forests.

To date over 700,000 acres of old growth forest have been destroyed by insect, disease and wildfire. These forest health issues are the real threat to promoting forest health and resilience across our national forests. This legislation to amend national forest land management plans will make it much more complex and costly to carry out forest management on landscapes to promote the healthy forests we all desire. It is unclear to me how this amendment will promote the long-term health of forest when Bidens own 10-year Wildfire Strategy calls for a threefold increase in forest health treatments. This legislation will make it much more difficult to carry out these treatments that the president plan outlines. If we are to carry out changes to forest management plans, they should be to streamline processes to increase science-based forest management and produce healthier forest that are more resilient to insect, disease and wildfire.

In conclusion, I would like to discourage support of this amendment as it would only distance us from our goals of healthier more resilient forests. More paperwork and exclusionary practices in forest management only costs the American citizens intrinsic, economic and biological integrity of our nation's forests.

Thanks you,

Hunter Foss

ATTACHMENT: Draft Comment Letter - Old Growth - Comments copied to text box and coded/completed.