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Comments: Thank you for allowing me to respond to the "Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System #65356".

I feel strongly that the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) needs to take a more serious look at the Land Management of Old-Growth Forests in accordance with President Biden's 2021 executive order on forests that is proposed in the management plan.

The three alternatives proposed are woefully inadequate to protect old-growth forests. The document is clearly biased towards timber production in mature and old-growth forests. The goal should be to protect old-growth, not harvest them in the guise of managing them.

Of the three alternatives, Alternative #3 offers the strongest protection, however this option includes logging, thinning and prescribed burning under the guise of habitat restoration. Please define logging, thinning or prescribed burning is restoration and what standards will be used in this alternative. Old-growth cannot be created or restored. It can take hundreds of years for old growth to be established.

Consider a moratorium on any logging of forest areas over 80 years old and set science based old-growth targets for each forest district. This would ensure old growth protection.

At a local level here in Idaho, the agency's preferred alternative, #2, would reduce the protections that currently exist in the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests (NPCNF). The NPCNF is currently governed by plans created in 1987. These plans have protections in place to have a minimum of 10% old-growth habitat forest wide. This amendment would replace the existing rules and erase the standards that are in place. This amendment would weaken the existing plan and go against President Biden's goal in the Executive Order.

In summary, all options presented are very biased towards logging in old-growth. This should not be the case.

ATTACHMENT: IMG\_2074.jpeg - Photograph of a large cedar tree with decking around it and a person in a pink shirt