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First name: Charles

Last name: Branch

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please add the attachment to the record.

As an educated and trained fishery/aquatic biologist and ecologist with additional training in hydrogeology, snow hydrology and other related subjects, I worked on and documented field surveys on the Tongass and Clearwater National Forests. My first USFS employment was with the road preconstruction crew on the Targhee NF in 1976, which equipped me to evaluate and advise on the potential risks and ancillary damage to other resources, as unintended or unconsidered consequences of development activities.

For five decades, I and others have lamented the loss of old growth timber that formerly sustained the production of clear lumber for musical instruments, wing spars, furniture, and other construction. I urge your strong consideration and contemplation of the suggestions of Friends of the Clearwater in regard to revisions with the adoption of Alternative 3.

The works of Bob Taylor (Taylor Guitars, see website for details) establishing the Ebony Project in Cameroon, and Koa reforestation in Hawaii, provide inspiration for protection and restoration of sustainable natural systems that promote good health for all life. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

ATTACHMENT: Juel_2021-Old-Growth.pdf - Report by Friends of the Clearwater "Management of old-growth in the U.S. Northern Rocky Mountains - Debasing the concept and subverting science to plunder national forests"