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Comments: September 20, 2024

Linda Walker

Director Ecosystem Management Coordination

U.S. Forest Service

201 14th Street SW, Mailstop 1108,

Washington, DC 20250[ndash]1124

RE: Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System

Dear Director Walker:

The American Farm Bureau Federation is the nation's largest general farm organization with member families in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, working together to build a sustainable future of safe and abundant food, fiber, fuel and timber for our nation and the world.

AFBF previously commented on the U.S. Forest Service's Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to amend all land management plans for units of the National Forest System to impose additional restrictions on the management of old-growth forests. The USFS has now released a Draft EIS for public comment.

Our members agree with USFS that insects, disease and wildfire are the major threats to our national forests, and Farm Bureau has long advocated for improved forest management, which includes timber harvest and utilizing livestock grazing as a management tool. We also advocate for management decisions made at the local level and with public participation, including that of our members who engage in public lands timber harvesting and grazing, as well as manage adjacent farm, range and forest lands.

Farm Bureau's February 2024 comments remain relevant to the discussion, and we refer the USFS back to them.

Sincerely,