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Title:

Comments: Attached please find signatures from 581 outdoor enthusiasts on our petition in support of the NOGA, collected by Outdoor Alliance. Individuals signed on to the following letter:

Dear Director Linda Walker,

Thank you for your work to advance the National Old-Growth Amendment. As an avid outdoor recreationist, I greatly value our country's old growth forests. They are exceptional landscapes for outdoor recreation and exploration. The amendment is a strong first step to protecting mature and old growth forests, but considering the scope of the threat to old growth forests, it could be significantly stronger. I recommend that the Forest Service strengthen the amendment in the following ways:

Ensure that proactive stewardship actions do not degrade old growth forest characteristics;

Clarify that proactive stewardship is not necessary in all old growth forests, and that a passive stewardship approach is warranted in many cases;

Refine the list of exceptions in Standard 2.c. to include to ensure that old growth forest protections apply where they are needed;

Update Standard 2.b. to clarify that incidental management actions, including recreation infrastructure projects, should avoid cutting old growth trees or otherwise degrading old growth forests wherever possible. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you so much for your work on the Rule and I look forward to seeing it implemented.

Attachment - NOGA Outdoor Alliance.xls is spreadsheet of 581 petition signers referenced above.