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First name: Zack

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Organization: Bulk - Standing Trees

Title:

Comments: Dear Chief Moore:

Thank you for your attention to managing America's National Forest System in this era of crisis for our climate, watersheds, and wildlife.

The organizations that are signed onto the attached letter, based in USFS Regions 8 and 9, write to you with serious concerns about the Forest Service's failure to fully and fairly assess the unique conditions, threats, and opportunities in Eastern US National Forests in the ongoing mature and old-growth analysis and policy-making process. Most recently this is reflected in the National Old-Growth Amendment (NOGA) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), released on June 21, 2024.

The NOGA DEIS fails to meet EO 14072's intent to protect and restore old-growth forests in Regions 8 and 9, and even facilitates logging within what few old-growth stands remain. Unless there is a major course correction, the result of the NOGA under any alternative contemplated in the DEIS will result in little change or weaker protections for mature and old-growth forests in the Eastern US.

We ask that you and your staff meet as soon as possible with parties interested in recovering and expanding old-growth ecosystems in Eastern National Forests, and incorporate science and policy recommendations that reflect the threats and opportunities highlighted in the attached letter.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks and best regards,

Zack

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Zack Porter

Executive Director, Standing Trees

ATTACHMENT: Letter to Chief Moore re NOGA and Eastern National Forests - FINAL SIGNED - 7-9-24.pdf -
this is the same content that is coded in text box; it was also included as an attachment