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Comments: I believe the collective US Forest Service genuinely seeks a way to ethically manage our country's National Forests. They are invaluable treasures and resources to all of us, particularly the old-growth and mature forests. Unfortunately, some actions from the FS in my backyard, the Daniel Boone National Forest, don't always seem to align with claims of serving the people, at least not in a way that honors notions of integrity. I want to trust that the Forest Service cares for the longevity of local communities, and that they are prepared to demonstrate their commitment to such responsibility in actionable ways.

I don't know all the inner workings or politics of the US Forest Service. Regardless, I know all human organizations are subject to the same pitfalls that belie our species. Therefore, I feel a greater push toward transparency would greatly aid in public trust and hopefully counter any happenings of unsavory management practices. In particular, I've read too many reports by good-hearted, passionate people uncovering gross mishandling of quality control and timber designations.

My public comment, for whatever it's worth, is that the Forest Service invite independent and/or non-profit organizations in a given area to critically review the results of applied directives regarding FSH 2409.12, The Timber Cruising Handbook. Specifically, I'd like to see other organizations from a given, affected community in question (such as from the broader county where logging operations are to be conducted) working alongside the Forest Service to conduct their own sampling of trees considered for substantial logging projects.

If they are so inclined, communities affected by large scale, long-term logging projects should have the right to host their own investigations with their own preferred, scientifically-grounded methods and standards, even if they differ from the FS methods of timber tree designation practices, provided the quality of their methods are equal to or better than the updated directives in the Timber Cruising Handbook.