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Comments: Thank you for taking public comment on this project.

The Dixon Entrance Chapter of the Society of American Foresters is opposed to the option you have chosen for the Thomas Bay Young Growth Timber Sale. In our estimation, it egregiously favors "wildlife management" to the detriment of timber production to no good end.

The target volume of 12.6 mmbf in itself is probably a non-starter for a timber operator. The relatively small volume makes the subsequent move-in costs for camp, men, and equipment a huge expense to try to recover on that small amount of production, not to mention just the huge cost of trying to move the logs to market somewhere. It is much more beneficial for an operator, and the local economy, to allow a much larger timber extraction target in order to make the sale economically viable. Also, The uneven age management of some of the designated acreage will only encourage extreme future windfall damage to the stand, as surely the Forest Service must remember from your disastrously conducted Heceta Island second growth timber sale a few years ago.

It seems only practical to allow the volume to be exported overseas, as there is only a limited market in Southeast for second growth logs, so our Chapter hopes this is a favored option for the timber sale. Regrettably, it still doesn't alleviate the high cost of production inherent to the project to get the volume to market there, or anywhere else locally for that matter.

We look forward to your response to our concerns over the Thomas Bay Young Growth Timber Sale as proposed.

Thank you.