Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/15/2024 4:09:06 PM First name: Bodie Last name: Dowding Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Old Growth Policy adds another layer of bureaucracy that will hinder management of National Forests by making it more difficult for management decisions to be made at the local level. The Forest Service should have a desired condition specific to each National Forest and let the staff of that National Forest manage to meet the desired condition through the management techniques they deem most effective and these management techniques should include logging. In some cases old growth trees are in such terrible condition they will soon die and they stand of the future is cut from beneath them to help them survive a few more years. Once this overstory old growth dies, there will be no stand beneath it to replace it. I have seen this in many dry forest types and have had discussions with Forest Service silviculturists who readily state this is the wrong stand treatment but they are limited by policy and are unable to do the right thing for forest health.