

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/19/2024 12:08:04 AM

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Organization:

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Comments: \* Protection for mature & old-growth forests. I am supportive of the agency's intent to protect all existing old-growth and to create more old-growth by protecting and improving mature forests.

\* Severely limit timber harvest in old-growth. Old-growth should generally be left alone, especially in west-side forests in the Pacific Northwest. I support the agency disallowing timber production in old-growth on all national forest lands.

\* Severely narrow the exceptions permitting timber harvest in old-growth. I feel that the current plan's exceptions allowing economic-based management (timber harvests) in old-growth and mature forests are too broad. Any exceptions to the plan's limitations should be very limited in scope and scale.

\* The current plan does not provide enough specific direction on the recruitment of new old-growth. I feel the current plan's directive to recruit new old-growth does not provide enough direction to individual forest managers. The plan's proposed language should be updated to require a minimum amount of acreage, or a percentage of mature forests within each national forest to ensure they do not under-apply the new plan components.

\* Recruitment of new old-growth should consider habitat connectivity. As the climate changes and stress is placed on all species, habitat connectivity will be critical for the survival of several species. Efforts to recruit new old-growth should help connect patches of existing high quality habitat.

\* Support for tribal inclusion. I support incorporating indigenous knowledge along with western science into the strategy to protect existing old-growth and the recruitment of new old-growth.