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Organization:

Title:

Comments: 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.

I believe that 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.

I feel that the current plan's exceptions allowing economic-based management (timber harvests) in old-growth and mature forests are too broad. Loopholes or areas open to interpretation may encourage harvesting, which cannot be undone. Any exceptions to the plan's limitations should be very limited in scope and scale.

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.

Habitat connectivity is critical for the existence and ability for forest based species to thrive. Efforts to recruit new old-growth should help connect patches of existing high quality habitat.

I support incorporating indigenous knowledge along with western science into the strategy to protect existing old-growth and the recruitment of new old-growth.

Thank you for your time. It is important to me that we care for the land.