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First name: Debra Last name: Fant Organization:

Title:

Comments: Given that you are charged with caring for national forest lands that belong to the collective public, I am encouraged to see this focus of protection and support for mature forests and Old Growth forest for all the stated reasons. I suspect you under-estimate the risk to these forests' existence, health and well-being due to human greed and economic drivers that lead to pushes to liquidate resilient elder forests. State and Federal budgeting must begin to cover operations in essential agencies to keep short-sighted people from clear cutting timber to "make ends meet." I hope that exceptions to this movement to increase mature stands and Old Growth Forest will be few, that you will find a way to pull those who still believe that the only value of standing forests comes from clear cutting them into the conditions of 21st Century and on board with these goals. I look forward to the benefits this will make to the Siuslaw National FOrest that is part of my neighborhood. May your work and values impact the BLM, O&C and other State lands' managers and perhaps one day even the pirates of industrial timbering.

One request I would make that I didn't see mentioned in your plan - consider a no harvest zone for watersheds that support private and municipal water systems effectiveness as research is clearly documenting that hydrology cycles are harmed by clear cutting in watersheds and frankly we living beings are going to need all the clean, clear, cold water possible if these weather changes persist. Thank you. Debra Fant, Waldport OR