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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the U.S. National Forest Service's Land Management Plan direction for old-growth forest conditions across the National Forest system. While it is imperative to protect those intrinsic structural and compositional features that define old-growth forests it is also important to protect the context of these sites. That is, it is necessary to manage forestlands surrounding or abutting identified old-growth sites. Managing abutting lands with the goal of buffering the old-growth sites from degrading disturbances (sharp-edge clear-cutting; development; improved roads etc.) to the degree possible also should be considered in this Land Management Plan. Recognizing land ownership constraints in managing activities on non-Forest Service peripheral lands, provisions should be included in this Land Management Plan to 1) authorize the Forest Service to provide incentives for adjoining landowners to manage their lands in a way compatible with the goals of this old-growth management plan; and 2) provide the authority and funding for the Forest Service to inventory, assess, rank and pursue acquisition of targeted private lands that are critical to the protection and expansion of identified Forest Service old-growth sites.