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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support this proposal:

The United States Department of Agriculture (Department) is proposing to amend all land management plans for units of the National Forest System (128 plans in total) to include consistent direction to conserve and steward existing and recruit future old-growth forest conditions and to monitor their condition across planning areas of the National Forest System. The intent is to foster the long-term resilience of old-growth forest conditions and their contributions to ecological integrity across the National Forest System. This notice initiates a scoping period on a preliminary proposed action and advises the public that the Department is preparing an environmental impact statement to evaluate the effects of amending the 128 land management plans.

In addition, conservation of mature forest trees is important to mitigate the rate of Climate Change, conserve biodiversity and maintain ecosystem services. I live in the San Juan Islands in NW Washington State. There are very few old growth trees remaining because most of the forests were harvested to fuel the lime industry. But mature trees will become old growth trees if they are conserved and stewarded.

Thank-you for considering my comments.