

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2024 3:54:51 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Subject: Public Comment in Support of the Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions

I am writing to express my strong support for the Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions across the National Forest System (#65356). As a concerned citizen, I recognize the critical importance of preserving and managing old-growth forests for the myriad benefits they provide.

Old-growth forests are not merely trees; they are complex ecosystems that play a vital role in maintaining environmental stability. These forests are crucial for:

Biodiversity Conservation: Old-growth forests are rich in biodiversity, providing habitat for numerous species, some of which are rare or endangered. Their preservation is vital for maintaining ecological balance and protecting wildlife.

Climate Change Mitigation: These forests act as significant carbon sinks, helping to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Their ability to store large amounts of carbon is unparalleled, making them invaluable in our efforts to reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide levels.

Water Regulation and Quality: Old-growth forests play a crucial role in water cycle regulation. They help in maintaining the quality of water resources by filtering pollutants and stabilizing soil, which reduces erosion and sedimentation in water bodies.

Cultural and Recreational Value: These forests also hold immense cultural, historical, and recreational value. They are natural heritages that need to be preserved for future generations to experience and learn from.

Economic Benefits: Sustainable management of old-growth forests can lead to economic benefits through ecotourism, which promotes local economies while ensuring conservation.

I believe that the Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions is a step in the right direction towards sustainable forest management. It acknowledges the need to balance environmental conservation with human interests and sets a precedent for responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

I urge you to consider the long-term benefits of this plan and its potential to positively impact our environment, wildlife, and society. The preservation and appropriate management of old-growth forests are crucial in our fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. It is our responsibility to ensure that these ecosystems continue to thrive for the benefit of present and future generations.

Thank you for considering my views on this important matter. I look forward to seeing the positive outcomes that will arise from the implementation of this plan.

Sincerely,

Riley