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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USDA Forest Service,

I am writing in response to the notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement regarding proposed amendments to National Forest System land management plans for maintaining and improving old-growth forest conditions. I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this important proposal.

I support the overall intent of establishing consistent national direction to conserve, maintain, and expand resilient old-growth forests across the National Forest System. Old-growth forests provide invaluable ecological, cultural, and economic benefits, and this proposal is a significant step toward ensuring their longevity in the face of escalating threats.

In implementing this proposal, I recommend relying heavily on evidence-based science to inform planning and on-the-ground management decisions. Research on old-growth forest structure, composition, disturbances, climate impacts, and other factors should guide the development of adaptive regional strategies. Monitoring data should also be used to regularly evaluate effectiveness and adapt strategies over time.

I encourage extensive consultation with Tribal nations in incorporating Indigenous knowledge into planning and enabling meaningful co-stewardship of these culturally significant resources. Indigenous knowledge systems can provide invaluable place-based wisdom to pair with scientific information.

I also suggest considering making details of the proposal and adaptive strategies openly available to other nations as a diplomatic gesture. Sharing knowledge and collaborating across borders could mutually benefit global old-growth forest conservation efforts.

In summary, this proposal represents an important opportunity to elevate protection of irreplaceable old-growth forests across the National Forest System. I support the overall goals but emphasize relying on science, collaborating with Tribal nations, and considering global outreach in implementation. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional perspective.

Sincerely,

Robert Jacobson