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Comments: Chief Moore,

Thank you for guiding the US Forest Service plans to restrict logging of old-growth forests and begin guiding stewardship of future old-growth forests. These forests are an important legacy to pass on to future generations and USFS has a critical role in protecting the lands under its jurisdiction. We are blessed to have these wonderful sites across the country and I am grateful that the Forest Service is involved in assessing the need for protections for these sites.

However, I do have some concerns about the amendment. It seems to allow for many exceptions for commercial logging. This is not an acceptable use of old-growth trees. Commercial use of old growth trees must not be permitted under any circumstance. I urge the Forestry Service to stop the felling of old-growth trees under its jurisdiction and stop the cutting of stands of these trees where fires are rare. If there are financial motivations to log old-growth and mature growth trees, the goals of the amendment will be severely compromised.

Please also ensure that the amendment requires definitions related to old-growth forests that include the various types of conditions relevant to old-growth forests and that can be easily understood by those in the field. Careful development of these definitions is an important foundation to the success of the amendment.

Finally, I urge you to take into consideration alternatives for conserving mature forests and the values they represent. In many places, logging has destroyed previous old-growth forests. USFS maintains control over the allowance of ecologically inappropriate logging. It is in the nation's best interest to prohibit these practices.

Thank you for considering this input and for maintaining a transparent process for this amendment.

Phoebe