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Comments: I support this land management directive aimed at protecting what remains of our Mature Old Growth (MOG) forests held in public trust for American citizens by the USFS.

If we are to mitigate the effects of our changing climate while protecting biodiversity, clean air, clean water, and local cultural and outdoor recreation and tourism interests, this plan is the way to do so. Logging is not the enemy, but it is not the answer in old growth forests unless fire or bug loss are an immediate threat. Even then, the logging in these areas should not touch MOG, rather only dead, dying, diseased, or deadfall trees that pose a risk to overall forest health should be logged.

For this reason, the 2012 planning rule which directed the planning process be science based with an emphasis on valuing local knowledge as to forest conditions and site-specific information should be followed. Conditions in forests are always variable, but these changing conditions should not be an excuse to log or clear-cut what little remains of our country's MOG.

Our elected officials and USFS management should look to the forestry management techniques currently being implemented at Trinchera Ranch in Colorado for an example of how these best management techniques are being used right now in a manner that could be scaled up nationwide with the taxpayer dollars currently being used to fight wildfire.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ross M. Wright

South Dakota