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Comments: Because of intensive logging and development, old-growth forests today occur on less than 17 percent of America's national forests.

The Forest Service's proposal is a great start, but it must also provide direction for restoring old-growth forest distribution and abundance, including recruitment from mature forests. Mature forests provide many of the ecological roles as fully functional old-growth. Over time, mature forests will recover depleted areas. The proposal must also set clear benchmarks for the occurrence, arrangement, and connectivity of old-growth forest conditions across the landscape.