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Comments: To whom it may concern,

I wanted to weigh in and ask the Forest Service to use careful unbiased consideration when it looks at how Old Growth is managed. I've been a forester for the U.S. Forest Service for over 20 years and also a private forester. I remember when NO management was allowed in designated old growth forests which was not beneficial because forests are constantly changing whether we have a hand in it or not. Also, based on my experience, a lot of forest land was designated as Old Growth years ago and did not have proper on the ground plot information and only when we get ready to do a project do we realize that some of the designated old growth that was designated years ago, is certainly NOT old growth, nor will it ever be due to the poor conditions of the stand ( usually poor ground, high competition from surrounding trees, excessive disease and dying with a lot of deadfall that doesn't encourage old growth conditions or fire ran through it.) Also, I wanted to address a project better known as the Black Ram project in Yaak Montana in Region 1. This Project received a lot of negative attention due to completely FALSE accusations and claims by environmental groups known as the Yaak Valley Forest Council and the Alliance for the Wild Rockies saying the the F.S. was cutting over 400 acres of Old Growth. Billboards touting false information about the F.S. clearcutting the Yaak and old growth were put up across the state, articles were written by the Washington Post with false claims and this project ended up in the Washington Office and just sat....for months. It was very disturbing that the Forest Service did not trust their own people, didn't visit the forest proposing the project and never attended 1 field trip to find out more about the project. The Forest Service bent over to the false claims of these environmental groups and that needs to stop. I'm asking the F.S. to come visit these forests and look at projects and listen to the rational before they jump ship and join in with an advocacy group that has very little science/facts/experience/integrity and a lot of emotion and loud mouth. Forest products are renewable, bio-degradable, recyclable and re-usable , why isn't the Federal Gov't focusing more on using forest products in their "Go Green" initiative. Lets be leaders and lets talk about the good work your people are doing with forests. We don't want to be in a mode where we are in "reactive" management.