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Organization:

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Comments: Dear USFS: I have spent 60 plus years walking the woods hunting, observing, fishing, trapping, etc. I believe that the best way to ensure old growth forests to thrive in good condition in Pennsylvania is to allow logging to continue as it presently does as todays logging companies on private and public lands. They leave enough areas to mature into old growth. Also, old growth in Pennsylvania (as well as much of the Appalachians and even western USA) face a bigger problem from lack of diversity of native plants due to disease and invasives and other factors that todays logging industry does not contribute to and in fact works to decrease. Old growth forests of the future can benefit from some logging that is done to allow certain native species to recover both in the old growth areas and adjacent to old growth areas. Also, controlling white tail deer and some other herbivories is vitally important to all forests, including old growth forests. It is more important than curtailing timber harvesting. I believe we can continue to harvest timber as we already do especially on public lands and do more good for old growth areas. I believe over limiting logging can and will have a detrimental effect on much of our forest lands including old growth areas. I worked for 38 years full time in the woods of Pennsylvania as a conservation officer, and continue to work part time and also as a volunteer with many conservation groups to improve and restore our present day forests to better conditions which include some areas of old growth as well as better conditions for actively harvested areas and also for wildlife habitat. Thank You for an opportunity to comment.