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First name: Patricia

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the plan amendment.

I urge you to protect and not sell mature and old growth trees on public lands. They are irreplaceable in our lifetimes and science shows us they have a increasing importance as a carbon sink in these times of climate change challenge. Please place a moratorium on projects already in the pipeline that include old growth and make sure they are re-evaluated in light of the pressing need to preserve old growth. Specific old growth standards do not address mature forest of 80 plus years. Please add these mature forests to the standard as they are future old growth in process.

Please do not address the needs of all forests in the same way. Our country contains many different types of forests. Each type has different age variables, fire resistance and recovery characteristics, water needs, wildlife inhabitants and other variables. Please do not treat them all the same.

In the implementation of your final plan, I urge you to use standards heavily and minimize the use of guidelines as they allow for dilution of purpose by individual discretion. This plan is so important to the near future we can not allow for it to be changed without public scrutiny.

Thank you for considering my comments.