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Comments: USDA Old-Growth Initiative public comments

To the Secretary of Agriculture:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment .

When looking at the future of our National Forests, it is very important to allow Old Growth Forests a chance to be left standing. As our world is changing and wild areas are being diminished, it is important to remember that Old Growth Forest hold a multiple range of both plants and animals providing a unique ecosystem in the stages of forest. With continuous management of our Nation's forest, our national forests have a decent amount of mid range and early successional forest supplying the type of habitat for many wildlife species, but with the surge to harvest the large trees, our "near Mature" and Old Growth Tree areas are getting fewer and far between. It is important to remember that leaving Old Growth Forest is as crucial, if not more important with our current climate crisis, for protecting and providing habitat for endangered species, and to the natural balance that large forests and natural decay offer our planet.

Young forest, mid range forests, and old growth forest all provide the natural world with crucial, and beneficial symbiotic relationships that keep our forests flourishing. But you cannot have a flourishing forest that will regenerate itself without mature and old growth areas. Each stage of forest provide forage at different stages for birds and animals. Leaving areas "wild" or in a near wilderness state helps keep the balance of the natural world.

And the most important thing to remember is that it IS PUBLIC LAND. Our large trees should be saved so that future generations can see the beautiful forests that our ancestors once layed witness to when first discovering the wilderness of this great nation. Without Grandparent oaks, you cannot have regeneration. Forests cannot thrive without this stage of tree. It is crucial for the health of the forest, the health of wildlife, and the health of every person across this great nation.

During a time where we should be moving to preserve and save these special places, we should not be destroying the last remaining wild areas our nation has to offer. The US Forest Service has the chance to be a trend setter and a model for the rest of the world to follow.

It is similar to the old Will Rogers saying "Buy up that land, boys, they ain't makin' it anymore." Except with forest it should be, " Save those big trees, boys!"

We can do better for our future generations, for endangered species, for our water quality, our history and for our future. Leave the big trees standing.