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Comments: I write in appreciation of the process that has begun to protect old-growth and mature forests across the U.S.. As a concerned citizen I must add, that old-growth trees should not ever be sold on public lands. Old-growth forests house ecosystems that exist no where else on earth, not even in young forests of the same family. Right now the language in the proposed policy allows for exemptions such as "to reduce fuel hazards", "proactive stewardship" and "resiliency" as well as others that could be used as loop holes for logging of old-growth. And it has been shown that thinning old-growth only leads to drying and heating up these areas making them hazards. I urge the Forest Service to remove the Tongass National Forest old-growth logging exemption from any further analysis in the upcoming Environmental Impact Statement.

Finally, considering the value of mature trees and forest as future old-growth is important, especially in the national forests east of the 100th meridian, where there is virtually no old-growth left

Thank you so very much.