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Comments: I have been practicing forestry for 40 years and working tirelessly to implement ecological forest management techniques. I am so excited that the U.S. Forest Service has developed Alternatives C and D to their initial IRP that incorporates diverse age class representation, climate-smart forestry, and the enhancement of late successional/old-growth forest attributes. I am especially grateful that this is happening here in Vermont. WE all need to consider carbon sequestration and storage, diverse species and structure, and old forest characteristics in our management practices. the USFS can be a leader in the nation here in Vermont. In Vermont we have very little old forest as our forest were mostly converted to ag in the mid 19th century and the rest cut without ecological consideration. The forest has been recovering since that time. One criteria for determining an old forest is of course age, and for Norther Hardwood the threshold is 150 years for some cohort of the forest. Because we have so little I would like to encourage the USFS to not harvest stands with that 150 year old cohort. Thank you for your good work.

Nancy Patch