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First name: Jeremy

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To the United States Forest Service,

I am proud to see our nation's stewards of our forest taking steps to protect and enhance our remaining old growth forests. This action is long overdue and I feel that we need to act decisively.

Old growth forests provide resiliency and protection for all of our forest's flora and fauna. I believe that the plan that you are proposing is good, but, that it needs to go further to provide full protection for the remaining old growth forests and that it needs to do more to foster the development of the old growth forests of the future. We need to take actions to promote stewardship of our forests that enhances old-growth forest quality instead of reducing forest quality to the bare minimum for what qualifies as old-growth.

How we work together to manage our forest is extremely important as well. I want to see us creating a collaborative, equitable, and science-based process for identifying areas on each national forest that can be stewarded into becoming old-growth forests for future generations.

Of great importance to me is the inclusion of the voices, opinions and ancestral knowledge of our Indigenous First Peoples. Continuing to listen to Tribes and incorporate feedback throughout the design of the nationwide forest plan amendment and in its implementation is a key component of the process from scoping to design to implementation and finally follow up studies to determine efficacy.

Our Old Growth Forests are some of the most important ecological habitats on this planet. Please continue to take action to preserve and expand this natural legacy for our future generations.

Jeremy Newman