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First name: Curtis Last name: Raye Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for these planned amendment to all land management plans for units of the National Forest System.

My comments are focused one specific type of tree. I would like to see more attention paid to beech trees. Here in the Delaware Water Gap and Stokes State Forest, they are suffering immensely. The damage to their leaves can be seen by the layperson, even from a distance.

This beautiful region has many conifer plantations, vernal pools, shrub swamps, and wet meadows. Yet it's the beech trees that stand out to me. If they are lost, we'll spend the next 100 years lamenting what more could have been done.

In general, I would also like the NFS to have a more specific plan to conserve Mature Forests and Trees. I worry that the definition of "Old Growth" can be whittled away too narrowly.

Thank you for reading. And thank you for your hard work ensuring the next generation can enjoy this beautiful planet.