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First name: Mark

Last name: Ristow

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Regarding the Draft EIS to amend National Forest Management Plans, I wish to comment on the Land Management Plan Direction for Old-Growth Forest Conditions Across the National Forest System. My comments are: Although I frequently disagree with him, I fully support President Biden's Executive Order 14072 which as I understand it has directed our land managers to protect our old growth and mature forests. Looking at the DEIS, it seems that Options 1 and 2 are basically the same old cut and burn policies the Executive Order is trying to eliminate. I support Option 3 which excludes both logging and burning in our mature and old-growth forests on our public lands.

Logging is exactly what destroyed the old growth in the first place which is why very little is left. Fire, at least here in Indiana, dries the forest out and in this age of more extreme temperatures, can only lead to more and hotter unplanned fires.

Please choose Alternative 3 and let our older forests grow in peace. They needed no "management" from humans for thousands of years and don't need any now. As a taxpayer I can say these forests are much more valuable to me intact for climate moderation, cleaning air and water, and for recreational opportunities than they are for their timber.

Please implement Option 3.

Thank you for taking care of our few remaining old growth forests.

Mark Ristow