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Comments: I am a 70 year old resident of Southeast Alaska, living in a small community within the Tongass National Forest. I spent my career as a wildlife research biologist for the Forest Service (2 years) and Department of Fish and Game (23 years) studying old growth forest ecology and wildlife habitat. My main species of interest were Sitka black-tailed deer and Marbled Murrelets- both of which are heavily dependent on old-growth forest habitat. I have seen first hand the devastation that industrial scale clearcutting, and the dense second growth that succeeds cutting, does to the land. There is no place for it in the modern day and age. The biggest and the best stands are long gone, even in the Tongass. It is time to stop all clearcutting and retain what is left, not only for its climate change benefits (as a rich carbon sink) but more importantly, as a faint reminder of the type of forest that once blanketed the Pacific Northwest and is no more. It is past time to have a comprehensive strategy for managing and conserving old growth in the United States. I commend the USFS for undertaking this initiative, and urge adoption of the most conservation-minded alternative available. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.