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Comments: I appreciate the Forest Service's effort to recognize old-growth forests as a step in the right direction, but it falls far short of ensuring meaningful change and protection for existing old-growth forests and maturing forests that could one day recover old-growth status.

I call on the Forest Service to strengthen its proposal by requiring protection of old growth areas (or older growth where designated old growth forest is absent) in states where these are rare, and forbidding all logging in them - including clearing for fire control or clean up after storms. Forested areas adjacent to older growth should also be protected, to allow for gradual expansion of these ecosystems which have provided the planet and us with abundant ecoservices when left intact.