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Comments: Having worked in the conservation and management field for over 30 years I've seen sound management practices ignored. I and many others treasure and see the value of Old-growth Forests, however anthropomorphic changes to natural environments over the course of time necessitates human intervention in mitigating harmful changes improved sustainable forests and forest related resources. Intervention in the form of a sound scientific approach is vital to proper management.

Trained resource managers should be the one developing and implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs). Others could be solicited to implement and monitor BMPs, but should not be the primary developers or have final approval of BMPs. This should be left to trained professionals.

We have strayed far from sound forest management practices for many decades and it is past time to return to them. Politics have no place in resource management. Please develop and return to solid, sound, proven forest management planning with scientific strategies aimed at fostering and maintaining a complete Old-growth Forest system. Strategies developed decades ago and proven over time have saved lives, property and valuable national natural resources, including our timber resources. Wildfires must be a consideration in the planning process and strategies. Forest thinning and responsible harvest, common and valid practices, need to be implemented whenever and as soon as deemed necessary to help maintain and protect our forests from catastrophic wildfire and disease outbreaks in all land classifications, including Wilderness designated lands. Conservation is what's needed, not always preservation. Preservation does not always lead to healthy, viable, and sustainable landscapes, ecosystems, or forests.

The American public deserves to have their lands managed through sound science, not knee-jerk reactions and emotions. There are already more than enough bureaucratic levels of government. Additional levels are not needed or beneficial in forest management. Responding to resource concerns and emergencies needs to be attainable quickly, efficiently, and without more bureaucratic red tape! I urge the return of sound scientific-based management practices and management to protect America's forests.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this subject.