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Comments: I have been following and been involved in the discussions of this issue from the beginning earlier this year. As the data has shown, harvesting is not the main loss of old-growth forest in the United States, wildfire and insects & disease are. Active management can, in the right circumstances, be a part of the solution in saving old-growth stands. It makes no sense for a moratorium on harvesting in these stands to let them die from wildfire or insects & disease when it can be prevented.

Locally, there has been a new finding of Emerald Ash Borer on Forest Service land. Action was delayed because of some of the infested areas being on the old-growth list. As a neighboring landowner, delays such as this are unacceptable as they increase the likelihood and speed for other, adjacent lands to become infested.

Conditions vary so much across the United States each National Forest needs to be able to tailor their forest plan to deal with the conditions locally in regards to old-growth. Please allow this and avoid a one size fits all plan.