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Comments: I am writing to provide feedback on the current Draft Amendments concerning the management of old-growth forests. While I support the vision of establishing a resilient system of old-growth, I have concerns that the current Draft Amendment may not fully achieve this vision.

Here are my key points and recommendations:

Desired Conditions: The Desired Conditions should explicitly include language about increasing the amount of old-growth forests across the National Forest System. Currently, there is a deficit of old-growth on the landscape, and this should be addressed in the plan.

Consideration of Alternatives: The current plan does not consider an alternative that emphasizes the conservation of mature forests, or even a portion of them. I believe the Final Environmental Impact Statement should include an alternative that focuses on conserving at least some portion of existing mature forests.

Stewardship Approaches: Proactive stewardship of all old-growth forest types may not be appropriate. The amendment language should be revised to acknowledge that certain old-growth forests, particularly those west of the Cascades, should be managed passively. In other words, these areas should be left undisturbed.

Standards and Exceptions: The standards outlined in the preferred alternative Standard 2c allow for too many exceptions that could lead to significant loss of old-growth forests. While exceptions for tribal use are justifiable, all other exceptions should be removed from the plan to prevent potential degradation.

Thank you for considering my feedback.

Jeff Hogg