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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Connectivity of old growth is my primary concern, and there are aspects of your proposed action that will not increase connectivity.

All of the exceptions should be deleted, except for those applying to Indian tribes, as they were here first and often know best what should be done. The exceptions as written give a lot of latitude for misuse and will not add to connectivity of old growth.

There are not enough protections for old growth. Management of old growth should always mean "leave it alone". In addition, older groves that are beginning to have old growth characteristics should be managed only to enhance those qualities, especially if they will increase connectivity with existing old growth forests, to help wildlife and botanical life maintain viable populations by increasing the size of effective gene pools.

Thank you for welcoming my comments and thank you for considering my requests, as a member of the public and as a US Forest Service employee for 26 years. I want to be proud of the end result of your efforts.