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Comments: As a citizen of the northeast US and a long admirer of and hiker in the eastern forests, I expect the Forest Service to preserve all areas of surviving old growth trees and work to extend them. Auction of logging contracts and licensing for logging or other extractive would not qualify as preserving. Even more alarming is the inevitable devolving to state forestry services licensing. Perhaps this is a chance to reclaim the US Forestry Service's tarnished reputation. The arguments that I have read for "managing" old growth areas are very unconvincing. I believe - and hope - that the avalanche of law suits arising already will motivate a reconsideration and transparency about motives and rationales. More publicity for plans and opposition to plans would allow concerned non-experts to intelligently formulate their own opinions - and to clarify which lawsuit filing organizations to support. Can't afford to contribute to them all.