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Comments: Dear Forest Service,

Mature and old-growth forests provide many ecosystem services to humans, including carbon sequestration on a level too often unacknowledged. President Biden signed his Executive Order in recognition of these facts. I appreciate the work undertaken in response to that Order, and have been hopeful that it would result in a National Old Growth Amendment that would truly protect our mature and old growth forests and our future on this planet.

The USFS's preferred Alternative 2, however, is disappointing in that it allows for continued commercial logging of old growth forests and fails to identify any targets for the identification and protection of mature forests. I would like to see modifications such as:

1- explicitly identify (and greatly limit) the circumstances under which an old-growth tree would be cut, and explicitly prohibit commercial logging or exchange of any old growth tree. If an old-growth tree must be cut, then it should be left on the forest floor. No lumber from old growth.

2-remove the ambiguous term "proactive stewardship" and reconsider the suggestion that an old-growth forest needs human intervention to thrive. Old growth forests need human intervention in only one sense - protection from the humans who wish to cut them down for profit.

3-include measurable targets for the identification and protection of mature stands that will be allowed to evolve into old-growth forests - and enumerate the practices that will be used to "manage" them so that they do so - and include strict limitations on cutting these trees.

Thank you.