

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/4/2024 4:00:00 AM

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Comments: Hello:

As someone who lives in a state with many beautiful forests that are protected by the US government, I strongly support the Draft Amendments' vision of a system of resilient old-growth. Unfortunately, the current Draft Amendment would fail to achieve that vision. I believe the following issues in the draft need to be addressed before implementation:

1. The Desired Conditions should include language about increasing the amount of old-growth forests across the National Forest System since there is a deficit of old-growth currently on the landscape.

2. Currently the plan does not consider an alternative that would require conservation of mature forests, or a portion of mature forests. I believe the Final Environmental Impact Statement should include an alternative that looks at conserving at least some portion of existing mature forests.

3. Proactive stewardship of all old-growth forest types is inappropriate. The amendment language should be changed to acknowledge that some old-growth forests, like those west of the cascades, should be passively managed. In other words, leave old-growth west of the cascade crest alone. Too often I see old growth given over so that a space can be replanted again and again, but we know that those young trees do not provide nearly the carbon offset benefits or environmental benefits that old growth trees do.

4. The standards as currently written in the preferred alternative Standard 2c. allow for too many inappropriate exceptions that could lead to meaningful loss of old-growth forests. While exceptions for tribal use are appropriate, all of the others should be removed from the plan -- especially logging and recreation.

Once our old growth is gone, it won't return. Please please make thoughtful and necessary changes to ensure their protection for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Diana Wiener

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