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Comments: This decision is a landmark decision for the United States and at it's core it is essentially a yes or no referendum on whether or not we should stop logging old growth trees. The fact that logging on National Forests only contributes approximately 5% of the board footage used for timber in the United States, and of that, a small fraction is currently coming from actual old growth trees, makes any discussion about balancing domestic lumber needs with conservation, a moot point.

There is no cogent argument to refute the simple fact that remaining old growth trees are a tiny and dwindling cultural resource that will not be accessible to the American public of the next few generations if we continue cutting them. Period. We must protect old growth now, and approach management from a conservation and recreation perspective going forward. We must generate revenue from those uses in these areas, rather than from timber harvests.

Please vote for Alternative #3.