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Comments: While conserving older forests is important, the proposed amendment will add unnecessary and counter-productive delays that hinder the URGENT forest health management treatments needed to combat wildfire, insect infestations and disease. As I understand it, these threats have already destroyed nearly 700,000 acres of old-growth forests on federal lands over the past 20 years.

Severe wildfires are a significant threat to our forests, wildlife and communities. Smoke from wildfires is extremely unhealthy and poses a threat to public health. We need policies that will accelerate forest thinning and fuel reduction, not impede those efforts. Rather than adding more red tape and litigation to the management of our federal forests, individual national forests should focus on implementing the Wildfire Crisis Strategy through their existing forest plans to achieve desired conditions on these landscapes. Action needs to be taken now!