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First name: Peggy

Last name: Printz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please accept my strong support for the proposed amendments to national forest management plans aimed at protecting and enhancing old-growth forests, in alignment with President Biden's Executive Order 14072.

I urge you to strengthen the proposal with the following critical improvements.

Prevent Degradation of Existing Old-Growth Forests: The proposal must include clear directives to protect and enhance current old-growth conditions. Management actions should be strictly beneficial, with a focus on preventing any degradation of these critical ecosystems.

Recognize the Value of Passive Stewardship: Many old-growth forests, particularly in regions like the Pacific Northwest and the eastern U.S., do not require active management to thrive. The policy should recognize the importance of passive stewardship-allowing nature to take its course-and incorporate it as a key strategy in preserving old-growth forests.

Establish Clear Standards for Stewardship: To restore and expand old-growth forests, the proposal should establish clear, enforceable standards and guidelines. This will ensure that sufficient mature forests are conserved and managed to achieve the broader goal of increasing old-growth distribution and abundance.

I urge you to adopt these improvements and make this policy as effective as possible in safeguarding our nation's forests for future generations.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peggy J. Printz

7729 57th Ave NE

Seattle WA 98115