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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

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