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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear U.S. Forest Service,

I would like to voice my strong support for the proposed amendments to national forest management plans with the goal of protecting old-growth forests, in alignment with President Biden's Executive Order 14072.

I do believe this proposal is very valuable towards addressing climate change, wildfire resilience, and preserving the ecological, cultural, and biodiversity values of old-growth forests.

However, in my opinion, the proposal should be strengthened with the following improvements:

1.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.

2.Recognize the Value of Passive Stewardship: The policy should recognize the importance of passive stewardship and incorporate it as a key strategy in preserving old-growth forests.

This is because many old-growth forests, particularly in regions like the Pacific Northwest and the eastern U.S., do not require active management to thrive.

3.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.

Thank you for your consideration and for your efforts to protect our invaluable old-growth forests.

Sincerely,

Aldrin Teganeanu