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First name: Patrick

Last name: Jerome

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My name is Patrick Jerome, a lifelong enjoyer of state and national forests in the southeast. Not all of these forests contain old growth, but they must be given a chance, and the current preferred alternative does not do enough to protect this vital ecological resource.

I am in favor of more restrictive protections for our dwindling old growth forests. Not just the trees, which will also be improperly protected, but also the forests they belong to, the soil communities, hydrology, and wildlife.

Alternative 2 offers little protections for OGFs and the wildlife that rely on them. Old-growth areas must not be removed from old-growth status.

While forest management is a difficult balancing act, "Alternative 2" is entirely ineffective at protecting this vital resource, losing it for short-term gain.

I believe that alternative 3 comes closest to an optimal management of old growth and human interests, by conserving these ecosystems.