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Comments: President Biden's Executive Order was intended to protect old growth forests.

Unfortunately the FS Amendment is filled with loopholes to allow commercial logging and management that will degrade our old growth forests so they will no longer be old growth!

These forests make up only 10% of our public lands. We cannot afford to lose them - especially in this age of climate warming and biodiversity loss. Our old growth forests are havens of biodiversity, they protect wildlife, water supplies, and are huge carbon sinks. They take centuries to develop. They are keys to mental and physical health for the hundreds of thousands of us who are lucky enough to visit them.

We ask you to please reinstate Standard 1 in the NOGA. Why was it removed from the draft EIS? That goes against the intent of NOGA and will offer only minimal protection for our old growth forests.

There should be no commercial logging allowed. Period.

Old growth areas must not be removed from old growth status. Managers must preserve old growth conditions and not use 'proactive stewardship' as an excuse to degrade these forests. Old growth trees must not be used for timber output requirements on our public lands. For too long, unsustainable timber mandates have been obliterating our mature and old growth forests.

Finally, please include strong protections for mature forests. The executive order called for their protection, but they are not even mentioned in your draft EIS. Large trees are the most fire resistant and sequester the most carbon. Their forests are also essential habitat for wildlife.

Thank you