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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I was born near, hiked, camped and fished in the Bitterroot National Forest and still live here. I have witnessed the steady decline in standing old-growth and forest health for more than 50 years.

The Forest Service is proposing this amendment in answer to President Biden's executive order to protect old-growth and mature forests nationwide but actually undermines it by removing Standard 1 in the DEIS.

Please reinstate Standard 1 in the final version of NOGA. Standard 1 from the Notice of Intent mandated that agency activities "must not degrade or impair" old-growth forests. Without a strong standard to protect the integrity of old-growth forests, NOGA offers little protections for old-growth forests, the wildlife that rely on them to survive, the carbon sequestration, their positive impacts on watersheds, the production of genetically superior seeds for reproduction and many other benefits that are lost forever when they are removed.