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Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Forest Service National Old-Growth Forest Plan Amendment Draft and Environmental Impact Statement. There is a fine line to walk between maintaining a healthy old-growth forest and supporting the economic livelihood of local forest communities.

Having lived through two massive wildfires in the last five years, one being stopped immediately around the perimeter of our town, we are well aware of the resulting devastation and hardship. We understand that well managed old-growth forests with minimal varied undergrowth are fire resistant and most likely to offer good habitat for wildlife.

To this end, we urge that the Plan Amendment Draft address the maintenance and protection of old- growth forests in such a way as to allow the healthy coexistence of adjacent, dependent communities. For example, careful selective harvest as opposed to clear cutting, the judicious application of controlled burns, improved public education as to the compatibility of managed forest use (both recreation and harvest) and improved forest health. The answer to long term public benefit and ecological diversity is not simply a complete cessation of harvest.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Lee & Paul Callaghan