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First name: Ellen

Last name: Comiskey

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Honorable Randy Moore

Chief, USDA Forest Service

Jamie L. Whitten Building

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington DC, 20250

RE: desired NOGA improvements in the Eastern US

Dear Chief Moore:

As a member of The Sierra Club - Wisconsin Chapter (which is in US Forest Service region 9) I respectfully request improvements be made to the amendment in the following ways:

1. Halt cutting of mature and old-growth areas in national forests and stop the commercial exchange of old-growth trees. These trees have more value to the American people being left in situ than ending up at a mill.
2. End the cutting of old-growth trees in moist forest types and plan for climate mitigation in forestry management. The current amendment DEIS fails to adequately acknowledge the precipitation and flooding increases in the Eastern United States, instead focusing on drought conditions in the Western United States.
3. Expand protections of mature trees and forests, especially in region 9. Only 1.1% of forests in the Upper Midwest are old growth. To expand the amount of old growth forests, mature trees must be protected so that they are able to grow to old growth.
4. Protect whole mature and old-growth ecosystems, which are critical for promoting biodiversity. These areas include a range of plant ages and phases in the life cycle, all of which contribute to old-growth characteristics. Not only do individual trees need better protection and management, but full forests and ecosystems need these protections, too.
5. Provide for landscape scale protection of forest areas containing old-growth and mature forest, requiring passive management of these landscape scale areas to promote old-growth forest characteristics.

If these trees and forests are removed they will take many generations to replace. We cannot afford to be so penny-wise and pound foolish with our common resources.

Thank you for your consideration.