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Comments: I am writing today to provide comment on the old growth amendment. While I understand the motivation to promote old growth forest, many forest dwelling species rely on a diverse range of forest for survival. One of the first species that comes to mind is the ruffed grouse. The ruffed grouse is a ground nesting bird that relies heavily on young growth forest for survival. Young growth forests provide cover and forage for these birds, neither of which are readily available in exclusively old growth forests. Ruffed grouse are also great indicators of the overall health of a forest, as other animals such as deer also rely on the same food sources as ruffed grouse. Exclusively old growth forest prevent sunlight from reaching the forest floor, which is a necessity for the plants that these animals use for food and cover. Please continue to science based forestry management practices to maintain healthy forests in the United States. While it may not be pleasant to many to see an old growth forest thinned or managed, perhaps the best way forward is to provide education regarding the importance of diverse forest growth.