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Comments: while old growth forests are an important component of healthy ecosystems, science shows wildlife need diverse forests to survive and thrive. These same forests clean the air, filter water and support local communities. Old forests are just one of several critical successional stages in healthy ecosystems.

Disproportionate emphasis on old growth - without respect to forest type and in a way that prioritizes them over other forest types - could hinder the Forest Service's ability to optimize wildlife habitat, carbon stewardship, resilience and biodiversity. Please follow the science and consider the needs of all wildlife in your forest management decisions.