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Organization:

Title:

Comments: This is submitted as public comment to the DEIS Old Growth Amendment to National Forest Land Management Plans.

Support: That President Biden put forth attention and responsibility to old growth forests.

Support: That Secretary Vilsack and his agency staff have collected data and developed the DEIS, including past management practices, veg management, fire exclusion, extreme weather, increasing wildfire, insects and disease, Tribal Inclusion, and more.

Support: That the Preferred Alternative was Modified and further Alternatives were added from Scoping public input.

Support: That the Modified Preferred Alternative expands desired conditions, including ecosystem services, carbon sequestration, ecological integrity, other successional stages, and more.

Support: The brief explanation for Alt 3 that includes: "...it is recognized that the removal of commercial timber harvest as a management tool could impact the ability to use other tools. For example, prescribed fire may be precluded if there was not an ability to thin and remove larger vegetation".

Support: The brief explanation for Alt 4 that "Alternative 4 responds to recommendations to allow timber production to be a primary driver for vegetation management in old-growth forests". And that Alt 4 wasn't preferred.

Support: That Old Growth Forests stimulate local economies not just with timber products, but with recreation, hiking, camping, sight-seeing, nature watching, hunting, fishing, and more. This is a large part of our local economy in the area I live in R6.

Support: From DEIS Summary: Introduction: The United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service proposes to amend Land Management Plans throughout the National Forest System to develop a consistent management framework for conserving, stewarding, recruiting and monitoring old-growth forests. The intent of

this amendment is to foster the long-term resilience of old-growth forests and their contributions to ecological integrity across the National Forest System.

Support: The recognition in the Amendment that there is no single management prescription or definition that applies to all of the forest types across the National Forest System. As a resident of the Pacific NW Region 6 administrative region, I recognize that although this Amendment is a National Forest Amendment that there are significant differences and distinctions among the multiple National Forests.

Support: Inclusion of Monitoring, and emphasis on monitoring requirements and consistency.

Concern: That although it is noted that the majority of wood consumed in the United States originates from state and private lands and imports, and that only 3 percent of national timber consumption originated from Forest Service lands, and that areas of old-growth where tree cutting occurred was only 4.7 percent of the total tree cutting across all Forest Service lands from 2000 to 2020, that it isn't wanted for old growth logging on Forest Service lands to be dispensed with as a drop in the bucket, so not to worry about. Rather for the focus to be on the much decreased and much limited old growth at all. And to remain focused on long term forest health and sustainability.

Concern: Although I have generally been in support of thin and burn for many years, there are different kinds of thinning, and I have concern that okaying thinning will be seen by some to include the more extreme thinning that isn't focused on forest health and resilience.

Concern: That the scientific data, for all aspects of old growth management, for fire related tree loss, and more, has some controversies, isn't 100%, that data continues to become available, that conclusions can continue to change, and that making set-in-stone decisions on current conclusions would benefit from including that the decisions are based on the current conclusions at this time.

Concern: That the talk of the Old Growth Amendment planning must become the walk.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service proposes to amend Land Management

Plans throughout the National Forest System to develop a consistent management framework for

conserving, stewarding, recruiting and monitoring old-growth forests. The intent of this amendment is to foster the long-term resilience of old-growth forests and their contributions to ecological integrity across the National Forest System.

Thank you for the opportunity to make public comment on important issues of public concern.