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Comments: Department of Agriculture; Forest service Old Growth Amendment

Thank you for the extensive work done by the department to capture the necessity of managing the variety of Old Growth Forests across the US. I live in the NorthEast where the forests have been logged for hundreds of years. I have lived in the woods of NH.

My first concern is the necessity of shifting the paradigm from logging for money to logging for forest health. This view of forests most closely resembles that of Indigenous people. The suit the SELC has brought to define reliance on board feet to be harvested from all forests including Old Growth will help highlight this questionable measure.

The reliance of Indigenous People on a forest for sustenance and all materials for life required a different set of eyes for management. While we are not returning to forest management for the populations' existence, we can glean some wisdom from the original intentions of Indigenous peoples, or keeping the forest healthy for the trees and the fauna that live in the forest. This would suggest the wisdom of a multi-tiered strategy to manage for all life.

Developing an "adaptive strategy" for forest management may require a "framework" first to be completed with input from all the designated parties listed in the proposed amendment, within the two-year time span. I would suggest a framework be followed by a period in which to implement the strategies obtained through those consultations as well as the scientific data it is assumed will be gathered. The term proactive management will suggest many areas of passive management, once all the input is gathered. A consistent review period is also a recommendation.

We are in a period of climate change. It is rather simple to see. Even though a timeline longer than two years seems excessive, one can assume that any data will include changes in temperature as well as concentrations of fauna or flora in a geographical area. I do not mean to suggest a relaxed approach, but an intensive gathering which can result in a specific plan.

Promoting and defending the forests as sources of climate mitigation through retention of purified water and resistance to forest fires are strategies for future health for all.